



Mentor Match Night or “Speed Dating”



6pm – Pizza & Networking. Everybody wears a nametag.

6:30pm – Welcome: Mentor Manager welcomes everybody and shares the night’s agenda with the goal that before the night is over, each Mentee will be assigned a Mentor who makes a 6 month commitment to help the business be successful. Prior to the event, Mentors have reviewed the LaunchRALEIGH Graduation program that includes a photo and brief biography of each Mentee in the room.

6:30 – 7:15pm Each Mentor gets 2-3 minutes to share with the group their business background, maybe some strengths and weaknesses and how they think they might help a mentee. (This went really well and all mentors sounded impressive and generous.)

7:15 – 8:00pm This next step is like Speed Dating! Each Mentor goes to a separate section of the room with a couple chairs. The Mentor Manager rings a bell and Mentees scatter to go speak with a Mentor they just heard who they think they’d like to work with. They discuss business plans and get to know personality. *The goal for Mentees is to get their favorite Mentor to select them as their Mentor later in the evening.*

After 8 minutes, the Mentor Manager rings the bell again and each Mentee moves to find another Mentor and they repeat the process.

After 2-3 rotations the Mentor Manager tells the Mentees “the next Rotation is your last so if there is a Mentor you would really like to be paired with that you have not yet spoken to, this is your last chance so when I ring the bell go meet with that Mentor even if somebody else is already sitting there. Remember your goal is to have your preferred mentor select you at the end of the evening!”

8:00 – 8:50pm Next we will split up. Mentees go to another room to hear a presentation/discussion on something. The Mentors identify the top 3 mentees they can help the most based on tonight’s discussions. They write their name under the mentees photo on a

poster board located at the front of the room. *Important: for their first choice they add a check by their name.* Some Mentees will have multiple Mentors preferring to work with them while others may have no interest from Mentors. If a Mentor has indicated with their First Choice check mark they'd like to work with a particular Mentee, those assignments are easy. But eventually the Mentor Manager says "OK. We now have 4 Mentees left and 4 Mentors unassigned so I need your help!" and the haggling begins. (Note: Mentor Manager has earlier made this poster board by cutting and pasting photos and biography of each Mentee found in the Graduation Program.)

9:00 – 9:10pm We reassemble everyone in one room and announce the matches with great applause! They share contact information and together set the date, time and location for their first meeting. In subsequent meetings they set the date for their next meeting.

Tips: Mentors are asked to bring to their first meeting a copy of the Mentor Match Agreement. They are also reminded to complete every 4-6 weeks a Mentor Feedback form found on the LaunchRALEIGH website. Mentees are reminded to bring a \$75 refundable check payable to North Raleigh Rotary Foundation and show up at the first meeting with 3-4 key topics you want to work on with your mentor.