

Personal Growth and the Geoscientist

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Geoscience is a life-style rather than a career. It begins early in life when we begin to wonder where and when the landscape and its components came into being and the forces that shaped it. It ends when life itself ends. Our early interests are fed by reading and observing primarily, with understanding best promoted by people who have experienced the things that interest us. Those people are our mentors, coaches and teachers.

Mentoring is the art of active listening. Coaching is the science of skill enhancement and success motivation. Teaching involves transferring knowledge and promoting critical thinking – the educational process. Training is the art of refining competence. These activities tend to blend together in an organic fashion at the core of professional development of a geoscientist. APEGA has a formal mentoring program for those practitioners who wish to advance their mentoring skills or seek a mentor.

Program and project planning is deficient if that activity doesn't include the care and feeding of the working team through thoughtful application of the arts and sciences of mentoring, coaching and training.