

A Mentorship Story

Being a Mentee

One of my first memories of a mentor was short lived but truly inspirational. It was in my third year of my university career when I met my first female educator of African descent. Michele Johnson is currently an associate professor at York University in the Department of History. When I attended York, I was enrolled in her African-Canadian History course where I was mesmerized by her passion, enthusiasm, and knowledge of the content she taught. She affirmed that for women of African descent, there are no limits or boundaries to what we can do. Michele motivated me and in turn, referred me to the Master's of Education program at York University. It through this experience that I learned the power of mentorship and how positive psychological can have an impact on both the mentee and the mentor.

Growth to a Mentor

Currently at George Harvey C.I., myself and two other educators have begun a mentorship group called, Ladies First! Ladies First! is a group designed to empower young women by discussing current issues that affect woman both locally and globally. As educators, we aim to facilitate discussion but also have the young women come up with their own ideas, topics, and questions in order to foster leadership and independence amongst themselves. This year we have received a great response as we have 30 ladies in the program. We have attended various leadership conferences that tackle critical areas such as anti-racism, anti-sexism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. These women have shown vast improvements in their thinking and we have seen action within their communities and schools. It is truly amazing to observe the impact that we as educators can have outside of the classroom.