Learning Agility: Find a Mentor

What you need to learn is easier to identify than how you need to learn it. A mentor can help you by sharing experiences along with expertise. But a mentor isn’t limited only to those issues. What’s your purpose in having a mentor? What do you hope to learn from a mentor? Create a list of questions and interview several potential mentors to find the best match. Your questions might include:

- What key experiences led you to your current position?
- Who or what had the most significant impact on your choice of this career?
- How did you learn all that you know?
- How did you gain learning agility?
- How would you advise someone like me to prepare for your job? What knowledge? What experiences?
- What are the rewards of reaching your position? What are the disappointments?
- What mindset is required to reach your position?
- If you had it to do over, what would you do differently?
- What are the work-life balance issues and how do you deal with them?
- What experiences have you had that best prepared you for your position?
- What trends or challenges do you see for people in your position in the future?
- Whom do you most admire and why?
- Whom else should I talk with?
- Would you consider being my mentor? If yes, what’s the next step? What could we each gain from a mentoring relationship?
- What should I have asked you about but didn’t?