An experienced, skilled person (mentor) is paired with a lesser skilled or experienced person (protégé) with the goal of developing or strengthening of the protégé.

Mentor is the name of the person to whom Odysseus entrusted the care of his son, Telemachus, when he set out on those famous wanderings of his that we now call an "odyssey" and which took him, among other places, to the Trojan Wars. Mentor was Odysseus’ wise and trusted counselor as well as tutor to Telemachus. ...Mentor’s name -- with a lower-case "m" -- has passed into our language as a shorthand term for wise and trusted counselor and teacher.

Elements to start a Mentoring Program:

- Statement of Purpose and a Long Range Plan
- Recruitment Plan
- Orientation
- Eligibility Screening
- Readiness and Training Curriculum
- Matching Strategy
- Monitoring Process
- Support, Recognition and Retention Component
- Closure Steps
- Evaluation Process