



A Chat with

Butler Center
Mentor

Chenell Loudermill

WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Mentorship is a powerful tool that has the ability to impact one's life in numerous ways. It's a mutual beneficial learning relationship that is built on trust, respect, and commitment. It creates paths to build community, create legacy, and advance society. Without mentorship, it is difficult for one to reach their full potential. It is important for us to acknowledge none of us have gotten to where we are today without the assistance and support of someone else who has been willing to share their life experiences, expertise, influence and open doors.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A MENTOR?

I decided to become a mentor because when I took a moment to reflect on my personal and professional journey and realized throughout the various stages-ups and downs, twists and turns- there was always someone to help me get through those times, encourage me and congratulate me on my successes. I also acknowledge that I have been on the receiving end of some very good mentorship and some mentorship that was less helpful. Nevertheless, I learned something at each stage and through each encounter. I quickly learned the power of good mentorship, formal or informal, and I wanted to share that with others.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MENTORSHIP STORY?

I would have to share a story as a mentee because being on the receiving end of good mentorship always stays with you. I am also sharing this story because it has happened within the last eight years and I hope this example reminds people that mentorship should be ongoing especially in your professional career. One of the most important ingredients of an effective mentoring relationship is trust. I recall one mentor going the extra mile to ensure that we were able to build trust in our mentoring relationship. Once we reached a certain level of trust, everything else seemed to fall in place. I was able to ask questions and get constructive feedback on just about anything. The mentoring relationship became mutually beneficial and is still ongoing. My favorite memory in serving as a mentor, is being connected with a person that I may not have otherwise engaged with outside of a formal mentoring process. Our relationship blossomed and we share ideas, support each other and collaborate on projects. Through the mentoring process we were able to develop a friendship that I will cherish forever.

Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Education in Speech-Language Pathology

Chenell Loudermill, PhD, CCC-SLP, is a Clinical Professor and Director of Clinical Education in Speech-Language Pathology in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) where she oversees and provides clinical education in speech-language pathology. She serves and the SLHS Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Health and Human Sciences Dean's Fellow for Faculty Success and Empowerment. Her interests include leadership, administration and supervision in speech-language pathology, culturally responsive practices/pedagogy and interprofessional education/practice. Chenell teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in clinical practice and literacy. She also co-leads the Purdue Literacy Education and Practice Project (Purdue-LEaPP) and is the Project Director for an Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) personnel development program grant. Chenell is also a member of several professional organizations such as the National Black Association for Speech, Language and Hearing (NBALSH) and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).