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Mentoring vs. Coaching Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Mentoring and coaching are often confused as similar interactions with developmental intent, yet their scope, purpose, and utility in developing undergraduate and graduate students are distinct. The purpose of this presentation is to distinguish the developmental utility between mentoring and coaching, identify best practices in mentoring and coaching, and apply interpersonal skills commensurate with effective coaches and mentors.

Dr. Lindsay Hastings serves as the Clifton Professor in Mentoring Research and the Director of Nebraska Human Resources Institute, a leadership development organization at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln that pairs outstanding college student leaders with outstanding K–12 student leaders in one-to-one leadership mentoring relationships. Her research interests include generative leadership and social responsibility, examining what factors influence a leader’s ability to promote and establish the well-being of future generations. Hastings is a three-time graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (B.S. Secondary Math Education, 2004; M.S. Leadership Education, 2007; Ph.D. Education Leadership in Higher Education, 2012). She is a resident of Seward, Nebraska, where she lives with her husband, Matt, and two daughters, Lilly and Anna.