



# A Chat with

Butler Center  
Mentor

*Ann Weil*

## WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

One of the most important qualities of mentorship is just listening - sometimes without acting or feeling the need to fix anything. I try hard to not feel like I need to fix something unless I'm specifically asked. Often, in seeking mentorship, I am really looking for empathy and validation, so that is what I try to provide. I see mentorship as an opportunity to meet people across campus, people I wouldn't normally interact with. This brings a broader sense of community and connectedness. That sense of connection is really helpful in today's world and I see no downside to being more connected with people.

I also think of mentorship as very confidential, but what I will say is I was really surprised and amazed that things I said, that I didn't feel were particularly insightful, actually had tremendous impact on people and were of tremendous help. I don't think I realized that when I first started the process of mentoring. I used to think my words didn't have much impact, but sometimes it was exactly what someone needed to hear.

I've had many different mentors over the years and I think our mentorship needs change over time. That's a normal part of the process. It's important not to take things too personally as a mentor and recognize that people's needs change. It's okay if a mentor isn't the best fit and you find someone who is a better fit for you.

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A MENTOR?

I had been unofficially mentoring many people in my own department for a long time and then Mangala Subramaniam (Butler Center Director, 2017 - 2022) reached out and asked me to participate in the mentoring program at the Butler Center. That was a really positive experience for all of us initial mentors. She brought in a lot of speakers and there was a lot of support for mentors and mentees. so I've been working for the Butler Center ever since that time.

### Clinical Professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Dr. Ann Weil is Clinical Professor of Veterinary Anesthesiology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She has been on the faculty at Purdue since 2001. Her research interests include equine anesthetic recovery and injectable anesthetics. Along with her faculty position, she currently serves as the Assistant Department Head of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, with an emphasis on instruction and curriculum coordination. Past responsibilities have included Small animal hospital Chief of Staff and interim Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Board certified by the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia, she has served as a past President of the Board of Directors as well as a past member of the Board of Directors of the North American Veterinary Anesthesia Society.