

Introduction

The Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme matches aspirational women aged 18 to 29 with experienced mentors, who provides support and guidance to help develop their careers. More than 50 mentors and mentees were matched through the scheme from among more than 700 applications. This phase of the project is a six-month pilot which targets the Caribbean and the Americas, but also includes a small number of mentees from Africa, Europe, Australia and the Pacific. It is open to Commonwealth citizens between 18 and 29 who have demonstrated leadership in their careers or in community projects. The regional launch was held in Guyana on 21 July at the residence of the British High Commissioner.

Meet the Mentee

Shivanie Rampersaud is a young woman from Georgetown, Guyana in the field of communications. She has several years of experience working as a Communications Officer with the Government Information Agency in Guyana, but has excelled in several other academic areas including Business Management, Marketing, Hospitality Management and Entrepreneurship among others.

However, her passion lies in charitable work and hospitality towards the less fortunate. Her love for this has lead to her founding Young Pioneers in 2013, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that focuses on Youth Development and Charitable work.

Meet the Mentor

Joan Posivy is a Canadian Rotarian. She is the author of an Amazon International bestseller, *The Way Success Works: How to Decide, Believe & Begin to Live Your Best Life*. She is also a successful entrepreneur and is the founder of Global Youth Project. Joan believes that everyone has deep reservoirs of talent, abilities and potential within them and she is passionate about bringing these to the surface and helping others live their best life.

She also believes that "you can have, do, or be anything you deeply desire." At the age of 22 she was the youngest person in Canada to ever be appointed head of Financial Institution.

Experience thus far

My experience during the first three months of the scheme was beyond my expectations. My Mentor and I have developed a wonderful relationship. She is very understanding and has helped me to achieve some of the goals I have had lingering on my list for quite some time. Our sessions are scheduled once every two weeks because of our time differences. However, each one has been very successful thus far. This program and my mentor has opened up my mind and thinking to broader perspectives and the power of mentoring. She has helped me to understand that simple things like planning and preparing can be a game changer on a busy schedule, because the time that you have in five minutes break can be enough for you to get something done, that you may have had sitting on your list for a long time.

Expectations for the rest of the program

I'm very optimistic about the remaining three months of the scheme. I'm sure there are big things in store for me and my Mentor and I do hope I have been able to positively impact her even quarter as much as she has impacted me.