Abstract

A new mentoring program is set to begin next year pairing children from Kindergarten through 12th grade with college students as their mentors. Keeping track of the mentor information, mentee information, pairings, stipend disbursements, interview question results, events, and final assessments by hand would be extremely difficult, therefore, a database would be a great asset to the program.

Creating a database in Microsoft Access allows a user to have all this information in one convenient location, therefore, ensuring there is a good user interface is a key component to this project. Using Perach’s “Guide to the Perplexed” as the base information for the program, the database is modeled to include the necessary interview results and post-mentoring assessments outlined in the guide. Furthermore, the type of program includes mentor stipends and encourages other events to be held besides strictly one-on-one mentoring time which needs to be kept track of well. Designing these forms and tables requires the information to be easily recordable and accessible. After every milestone or significant revision, the database was reviewed with the client to ensure her satisfaction since she will likely be the sole or co-user.

Ultimately, the database was a success by being straightforward, user-friendly, and including all necessary capabilities. Naturally, there are concerns of the durability of the database over time and Access only being designed for one user, but this can be assessed over time and use of the database after a round of the mentoring program has been completed.