Advising philosophy

Lindsay Hoffman, assistant professor, Departments of Communication and of Political Science and International Relations, and coordinator of research in politics and technology, Center for Political Communication, University of Delaware

My philosophy of advising focuses on mentoring students through the research process. It's easy for scholars to become entrenched in a specific discipline's discourse, and undergraduates can often open our eyes to new ways of examining both old and new issues. A commitment to open dialogue produces not only a one-time learning experience, but potentially ground-breaking research. Undergraduate students give me a fresh perspective on my own research and because I encourage them to ask questions, sometimes their insightful comments and questions redirect my own research. It's a win-win deal! I take great pride in providing my students with one-on-one mentoring about research as well as career goals. I also enable them to work in research teams, which enables peer feedback and brainstorming. Mentoring exceptional students has become extremely important to me since my arrival at UD, because I have discovered that this type of mentoring has lasting effects on students who have the skills, the drive and the eagerness to pursue their goals.