

Mentoring program offers 'Magic' touch

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WMJX's Candy O'Terry shows Boston College student the ropes

The lives of an assistant program director and college junior couldn't be more disparate: while one enjoys the benefits from hard work and paying one's dues, the other worries about starting a career in a troubled economy. Wouldn't it be great if the APD could share her knowledge and life experiences with the college student? Boston College thought so when it brought Magic 106.7 Assistant Program Director Candy O'Terry together with BC junior Jessie Whitford in January 2002.

Founded in 1999, BC Connections: A Mentoring Program of the Task Force on Women and Boston College matches female BC alumnae and college juniors for a three-year stint.

"The BC mentoring program tries to promote an environment where the professional and personal development of women can be realized," Jessie says. "I believe that BC really tries to inspire its students by showing them successful women."

Candy, a BC graduate with a degree in English and communications, says she was actively recruited by the college, but didn't know what to expect.

"You go into the match blind," she explains. "We didn't know too much about one another."



Magic 106.7's Assistant Program Director Candy O'Terry (l) and Jessie Whitford, a Boston College senior, hit it off right from the start of their mentoring program.

Jessie and Candy met for the first time at the convocation for the mentoring program in January 2002. Candy delivered the convocation address. After a series of ice breakers and "getting to know you" exercises that involved understanding career goals, passions, as well as each other's 10 most influential events and people, Candy says she sensed a connection with Jessie. "I felt we were in each other's head at the end of the convocation. We made plans to meet for dinner a week later. I can honestly say that being Jessie's mentor and friend has never been an effort."

Jessie, now a senior and a human development and communications major with a 3.8 GPA, admits she almost didn't

participate in the program. "I didn't think I needed a mentor—I was doing just fine! After learning a little more, I found out that the program was quite an honor. Out of a class of 2,200 students, only a handful were selected. Meeting Candy proves that everything happens for a reason; as I would find out shortly after meeting her, I needed her far more than I ever would have thought."

Jessie's interest in communications and excellent grades did not go unnoticed by Candy. Jessie became involved as an intern with the fifth annual Exceptional Women Awards. The much-lauded "Exceptional Women" program was created by Candy.

"Working on Candy's

'Exceptional Women' program has been a great experience for me because it has given me a chance to put my knowledge to action, yet also find out how much I still need to learn," Jessie says. "With such a great mentor, it has been easy for me to ask questions and develop my skills."

Candy comments, "Jessie is the most competent young woman that I know. I can throw her into any situation, and she handles it. I show her how to do something once, and it's done flawlessly. That's one of the reasons why we made her the PSA director for Magic last fall."

Candy adds that she hopes her relationship with Jessie is a lasting one. "I call Jessie the icing on my cake. I hope that she is in my life forever, and that I can be one of the people she calls when she lands that big job or gets engaged or has a baby."

Jessie has similar sentiments. "Our most precious time is when we are sharing something about ourselves and we find out that we have a lot more in common than we thought — not a day goes by when I don't think about her and how she has affected my life. When Candy came into my life, my personal philosophy rang true — everything truly does happen for a reason."

— By Robyn Bradley