

**Lindsay Banner - Mentor**  
**MuniCap, Inc.**



**Why did you get involved in the CUmentor program?**

There are multitude of reasons as to why I got involved. First and foremost, I really love interacting with people. I love understanding what motivates people, what makes people tick, and what concerns people have and how I can share my experiences, both good and bad to help others better themselves and achieve their goals. Thinking back to my undergraduate experience, there are so many things I simply didn't know that I didn't know. The area of business and finance were so generic to me and I had no idea what I wanted to pursue. *I joined the program in an effort to be someone who listens and tries to help make students think about things differently and provides them with possibilities that they didn't know existed.*

Second, I wanted to continue to understand college age students who are entering the job force. As an individual responsible for interviewing and hiring, I want to understand the talent level, concerns, and desires of those students who will soon be seeking employment.

Third, I wanted to be a lynchpin to a network of people that could be of assistance to my mentee. Having gone through the job search experience at the end of undergrad, it was daunting to know where to start and who to turn to. Similarly, while I found that my education was strong and allowed me to compete with students from larger institutions such as Penn State and University of Pittsburgh, the reality is Clarion University is simply a smaller, lesser known school and does not have nearly the network of those larger institutions. I wanted to be a resource to those students who are hungry for employment after their college experience.

Finally, I simply love Clarion. I was born and raised there. I understand that it is the main economic driver of the area. I love each of the individuals that comprised the village that raised me – both in the town and the University. Similarly, the individuals that have remained most prevalent in my life are those that attended Clarion with me. Allowing to remain connected and grow the alumni base that remained in touch with the University was really important to me. An institution of learning is a living, breathing, self-created atmosphere and I wanted to continue to be a part of that because you can't forget where you came from to know where you are going.

**What did you enjoy about the program?**

Once my mentee and I have gone through the initial process of getting to know one another, his or her goals of the experience, and what they would like to gain from me, I love the informal interactions that occur. My most recent mentee would call and ask for a mock phone interview or share her fears of an upcoming group-style networking interview. Similarly, we would exchange texts during a rough week of tests or during the anxiety that is created through the waiting process of an internship offer. The absolute best interactions have been random emails acting as an open journal entry to me about her internship experience. My ability to pick up on

differing items in which I can relate to or provide feedback has been both fulfilling and what I believe to be helpful to her personal and career growth. It certainly helps that my latest mentee has been completely open with me so that I can provide feedback on topics that I'm sure she wasn't even looking for my feedback. Most importantly, she is someone that I hope will stay in touch and vice versa so that we can help grow that social network that existing students can remain in touch with when they are seeking employment or internships.

**Why should students consider participating in the program?**

The CUmentor program provides students access to information, knowledge and wisdom that they simply will not gain in the classroom. It is a one-on-one interaction that, provided the student is willing to open up and put himself or herself out there, has nothing but personal and career growth to gain. Like anything, you reap what you sow. Provided the mentee continues to engage with his or her mentor, the possibilities are limitless as to what the mentee and mentor, for that matter, can gain from the relationship.