

# **WELCOME TO THE FACC PROFESSIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM!**

## **2026**

An aerial photograph of Chicago, Illinois, showing the city skyline with numerous skyscrapers, a large green park area with baseball fields, a highway with traffic, and the Lake Michigan coastline with a sandy beach and a breakwater. The sky is blue with light clouds. A red triangle is visible in the bottom-left corner of the image.

Looking for a job or a career change can be a challenging experience, especially in a new country or region. The French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago's Professional Mentoring Program helps candidates articulate and implement a job search strategy when they have recently relocated to the U.S. or when they navigate their first job search in the U.S. after a pause in their career.

## WHO ARE WE?



We are a network of volunteer mentors connected with the FACC Midwest Chicago community. We have varied cultural, social, and professional backgrounds and offer support and guidance to candidates as they think through their career advancement and identify professional opportunities.

# HOW DOES IT WORK?



Once you join the program, you are assigned to a mentor. If possible, we try to match you with someone who has a background or a professional network that can help you navigate your search.

Your mentor will be your main point of contact within the Program, but you should feel free to reach out the rest of our volunteers. We are a support system and are happy to help.

To make this a successful experience, before you meet with your mentor, it is very important that you:

- read our **U.S. Job Search Guide**: it provides important information on the specifics of the U.S. job market and will give you methods and tips that will help you be efficient and successful in your search.
- understand what you can expect from the program; and
- understand what we are expecting from you.

# WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM?

A volunteer mentor will be assigned to you for up to 6 months to help you with:

- Networking opportunities in the U.S.
- Resumé and interview preparation
- Understanding cross-cultural differences in the job market
- Understanding compensation and benefits negotiation in the U.S.
- Specific industry information, if possible.





# WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM

Your mentor is not a magician or a replacement for a personal career coach who might be needed by some candidates to define their working/career objectives more precisely.

# WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM YOU?

- Clarity about your career objectives
  - Sufficient time commitment to your job search
  - Commitment to attend regularly scheduled conversations
  - Commitment to follow-up on leads and contacts
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- Willingness to ask for help, to explore different paths and perspectives and to be receptive to learning and trying new ideas. Ability to seek and accept feedback—even the “constructive” kind— and act upon it
  - Implement action steps between sessions and expand on themes discussed with your mentor during your meetings.



## GETTING STARTED

Once a mentor is assigned to you, an in-person or video meeting will be scheduled to: Get to know each other.

Clarify expectations regarding what the mentoring relationship can/ can't accomplish.

Define your objectives and discuss a job search strategy and timeline. Set up a meeting schedule



## DURING THE PROGRAM

- Regular one-on-one video or conference calls with your mentor. Occasional in-person meetings if possible for both.
- Monthly 30 minutes group video or conference calls with other mentees and mentors to broaden your network and discuss specific issues as a group
- Network of other mentors available to provide additional support for connections to a specific person or company.

# CO-CHAIR

Myriam Le Cannellier

# CURRENT MENTORS 2023

Myriam Le Cannellier

Philippe Carlier

Bob Tweedie

Mat Lignel

Cliff Rusnak



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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