© 2026 The UNM Mentoring Institute
The Chronicle of Mentoring & Coaching,
2026, Vol. 10, No. 1 doi.org/10.62935/b6909r

The Chronicle of Mentoring & Coaching

Book Review

Who Believed in You? How Purposeful Mentorship Changes the World By Dina Powell McCormick and David McCormick

Mary Barbara Trube

University of New Mexico

Authors Dina Powell McCormick and David McCormick present the concept of transformative mentorship with examples from an array of successful people. Stories are shared by mentors who illustrate the essential elements that lead to transformation. The transformative power of "mutual trust, shared values, meaningful commitment, and the importance of instilling confidence" are confirmed by mentors and mentees who were impacted by transformative mentoring in their own lives. The individuals who were interviewed or whose stories were told, were highly successful and several had household names. If their names were not known, the companies or organizations they worked for or created were well known. This book is written in three parts.

Part I: The four pillars of transformative mentoring include chapters on trustworthiness, values, commitment, and confidence.

Part II: Transformative mentoring in practice includes chapters that address: (1) where good mentoring begins, (2) the indispensability of school, (3) the deeper meaning of work, (4) mentoring across genders, and (5) unlikely mentors. A section titled "Spotlight on Mentoring" provides examples of mentoring practices related to the chapter content with the exception of "Unlikely mentors."

Part III: Transformative Mentoring for true change, includes two chapters titled "Mentors as Uniters" and "A call to Mentoring."

The MCCormicks promote their belief that transformative mentoring can make a difference to new generations, who are the leaders of tomorrow, which is part of the book's appeal.

The stories of individuals who had been impacted by transformative mentorship were told in part as they responded to a series of interview questions. Six illustrative questions asked by the authors are listed here:

1. In your early years, how did your parents mentor you or teach you about life and values?
2. Describe a few teachers or coaches who mentored you or made a big impact during your formal years of education.
3. Did anyone mentor you early in your career, or give you powerful advice at the start?
4. Describe a time when someone influenced you significantly in your adulthood years.
5. Describe how you are mentoring people today.
6. Tell us about your earliest years. Who influenced you the most when you were young?

The book is engaging for people who feel inspired by reading stories about how mentoring impacted the lives of successful people. The writing uplifts and entertains. In my view, one of the values of *Who Believed in You? How Purposeful Mentorship Changes the World* is the authors' commitment to affirming the value of mentorship as a purposeful and sustainable practice, which should be afforded all individuals from their early years onward. Then the cycle of mentorship has the chance of repeating itself for generations.

Who Believed in You? How Purposeful Mentorship Changes the World is not a scholarly work. It does not inform practice with the depth of a research-based work. The book was reviewed because of its popularity and the message that mentoring can be transformative and its importance in promoting key values highlighted in the book for people who have not been informed about mentoring previously. There are several YouTube videos by the McCormicks that may encourage someone who is contemplating whether or not to become involved in mentoring others.