



# Shop Talk Beauty News



## Business Mentoring and Influences

By: Johnny Robinson

Inspiration comes in all forms and mostly when you don't expect it. Mentor: a wise and trusted teacher, guide, and friend; an elderly monitor or advisor.

Life by design not default gain greater ground with the aid of a Mentor. They can see that last bit of strength you thought you didn't have any more. Being a Mentor costs little or nothing, but not being one is a cost any business should never have to bear. The dividend paid can never be truly measured, but if a smile, a hug or just the simple nod of the head, after hearing "well done" were counted in dollars, we would have just solved the national deficit.

Over the last two years I have spent numerous hours in Beauty Schools. I have been bringing true industry perspectives to those who will one day stand side by side with the industry professionals. I have found true inspiration and a renewed faith to know, if we shepherd those new to our industry, our amazing industry will be in good hands. The good news is that most of these knew what a Mentor was when asked. It's the industries professionals who went the extra mile or a family member you can always rely on - no matter what. I used modern examples, most can identify with, "Where is Kobe Bryant without Mike Brown? Where is Lebron James without Pat Riley? Or where is Michael Vick without Andy Reed? Even the most notable and powerful, know the power of a true mentor. They are truly life's coaches.

Mentors are always there for us and know the true potential we often don't see in ourselves. They will not only catch us when we fall but, help us get back up and assure us that we can move forward without failure. There is never a louder applause than that from a mentor at our success and victory party. They do not say, "I didn't think you could do it." No, but they are always affirming they knew you could do it all the time.

I have had many inspiring moments in my working career. Three men in my business life have been especially inspirational for me. Let me tell you about them:

**Mr. Augie Hoffmann:** when Mr. Hoffman talked with you, he would make you feel like you were the most important person in the world. He had a way of making you feel like you had just completed



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a therapeutic session and all was well. "We inspire our employees every hour by making them feel good about themselves. We touch them physically with our hands and exchange energy and we touch them emotionally with conversation. Inspiration comes from the heart and we know they have a good heart."

**Mr. S.B. Fuller:** It will be hard to forget the years spend in Chicago, Ill. under the teachings of Mr. Fuller. I found myself in awe many days, with the Message of The Day. His knowledge was only surpassed by his willingness to share it and raise the level of consciousness of those around him. He was known as one of the fathers of modern day black businesses and a giant in the world of black hair care and beauty aids. One of the many daily principles shared by Mr. Fuller was, "Every person is born with a spark of divinity, but it's up to the individual to fan that spark."

**Dr. Joe L. Dudley, Sr.:** I reach out to Mr. Dudley, who inspires me every time I meet with him. He's never stops learning and growing as an educator and friend. I have learned so much from him

over the years and plan to continue learning for many more. One of his favorite quotations, "In our time, in our space, and with the grace of God, you and I can make a difference." I've heard him say many times, "If you want to make a difference in the world; start right now from where you are, because today is the first day of the rest of your life." Mr. Dudley Says, that he's most inspired by Mr. S.B. Fuller. Get a copy of Mr. Dudley's book [(I AM, I CAN, & I WILL) WALKING BY FAITH] and see how he credits Mr. Fuller for his success.

This article is mainly concerned with business mentoring and influences, but the rules are the same for schools, homes, churches, organized activities and you're free to name many more. Now the question become; when was the last time you asked yourself, why do I do what I do? Being a part of business for many years, have connected me with some of the most colorful, creative and passionate people on earth. They are unique in the way they have dedicated themselves to helping make a difference in people's lives, whether they know it or not. Recently the opportunity to get a haircut [A new barber(at least new to me) Thanks Jason], reminded me of the unique position to change lives and lift spirits of the communities, states and the entire nation based on services render.

**I need your help:** what am I looking for? **THE HUNT:** Believe it or not, it's hard to find you. As this challenging year makes that last turn and head for the finish line, get ready. We are looking forward with anticipation and the courage for a grand finale. How can you help? I am glad you asked. To help get into the thankful mindset, we are asking you to share with us some mentoring or inspirational stories that you have experience (50 words or less). These are to appear in the next issue of the Fayetteville Press Newspaper. Thank you in advance.

**Send stories to contact information:**

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