

# Mentee Experiences with Mentoring Programs from WPA-GO: Maria Conti



Speaking with Maria Conti, graduate student and mentee from the M@Cs event, 2017

What did you like best about participating in this year's mentoring event?

*I loved one-on-one time with my mentor because I was given the opportunity to ask questions that were specifically tailored to my professional trajectory. Because of this, I focused a lot of my questions on my mentor's recent experience of the academic job market. I learned so much about strategies for the application process and things that I can do now to prepare.*

How was working with a mentor from another institution different than professional development opportunities on your campus?

*Because my mentor isn't affiliated with my university, I didn't feel that I had to limit myself. I was able to ask questions without worrying about whether I would be judged, etc. Also, my mentor provided me a wider perspective than just faculty members and other graduate students in my department on key job market issues.*

Has Breakfast Buddies affected you long-term? If so, in what ways?

*Yes, it has most definitely affected me in the long term! My mentor offered to send me resource documents she had compiled for a previous presentation about imagining and presenting an online professional identity. The thorough list of action items she created is invaluable! It's already on my to-do list for the last*

*summer before the job market. My mentor also offered to provide feedback on job application materials in the future, which I plan on following through with!*

Has your participation in the program impacted your willingness to one day serve as a mentor with the program?

*Because I gained so much from the mentoring events offered at CCCC (and CWPA) from WPA-GO, I know how important it is to make myself available in the future to others as a mentor. I definitely plan on getting involved in this way after I graduate. I very much appreciate the WPA-GO's commitment to mentorship!*

What would you say to someone who is on the fence about participating in Breakfast Buddies?

*Definitely do it! It really only takes 1 hour of your time, and your mentors will be able to be flexible and tailor that hour to whatever you need. I plan on signing up for mentoring events at every major conference for my next two years as a graduate student!*