

## **Tri State Sculptors Mentorship Program**

The founders of the Tri State Sculptors Association included education and the exchange of ideas as core components of the organization's mission. The organization's members include many professionals, educators, and students seeking to expand their passion and knowledge for sculpture with others. The exchange of skills, ideas, and information is vital in helping our members continue to develop as artists, and the organization places an emphasis in supporting students and new artists in their development as professionals.

The TSS association is interested in beginning a new mentorship initiative to better accomplish a support structure for students and improve networking and learning opportunities for its members. Our goal is to match "seekers of guidance" with members who obtain experience in the sought-after knowledge. This could take the form of sharing information (both technical and conceptual), critiques, studio visits, specifics concerning individual works and ideas (i.e. advice about material choices or finishing techniques), etc. We feel that it is important for the mentee to be able to choose which member(s) they would like to be paired with; therefore, we will need to create an index of members who are interested in providing this mentoring opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor, please fill out this [form](#). Your name will be added to a list of available mentors and will be published on our website.

Although we encourage all to participate, we don't want this program to place a burden on anyone so mentorships will only be established with members who show interest. Interested members also need to be clear about their availability, expectations, and how many mentorships they are willing to support.

We have an online form for students to complete when looking for a mentor [here](#). Someone on the board of TSS will screen these forms and reach out to both parties to make the initial connections.

TSS acknowledges the great impact that art education has had on each of us and on future generations of artists. We hope that this new initiative will provide a way for our organization to better hand down knowledge from generation to generation, as well as build stronger relationships within the community.

Let us know, at [tssculptors@gmail.com](mailto:tssculptors@gmail.com), if you have questions or additional ideas about how to make this effort more successful