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Meet a Mentoring Champion: [Catherine Hodgson](#) (YPO Cape Town)

Catherine Hodgson (YPO Cape Town) is a woman determined to give back in a way that cultivates positive experiences and long-term growth through valuable relationships. Now serving as the mentoring lead for the International Networks Committee and the regional mentoring officer for the Africa region, Hodgson has been actively promoting mentoring within YPO-WPO for several years. "I am absolutely passionate about this," she said of the YPO-WPO Mentoring Program. "It is really one of the most exciting and challenging experiences that I've ever had. It is exciting to be part of this whole process where we can create something new for YPO-WPO that is dynamic and really meaningful to people."

The great value for Hodgson is that it produces meaningful results. "Mentors and mentees give me feedback, saying what a huge difference it has made in their lives and in their business," she said. "I get a lot of joy hearing from members in the program." She has also found the process of spearheading mentoring within YPO-WPO rewarding for herself. "In mentoring, giving back means you actually receive so much as well," she explained. "This has really pushed me to grow in terms of leadership skill, managing, communicating and working with diverse people on all different levels across the world."



Hodgson is co-CEO and co-founder of the Hodgson Group, an importing business where they supply retail chains primarily in South Africa in the areas of kitchenware, dining, homeware, gifting and beauty. "My husband and I started the business 20 years ago," she said. "A lot of people ask how on earth I can work with my husband, but we have managed it by each having separate areas of specialization and responsibility as well as good communication. My husband and I decided we would share the parenting and the working 50/50. We've both been able to achieve success and be satisfied, both with careers and being involved with the family."

In addition to benefiting from tremendous support at home, Hodgson has also seen firsthand the kind of unique assistance WIN members offer each other. "I got together the women who belong to the YPO Cape Town Chapter for a breakfast, and it was such an amazing, forum-type experience," she said. "Some of these women hadn't met each other, so it was incredible how open everyone was. Even though we had such diverse businesses, there were so many touch points that we could relate to. With the huge amount of juggling that we all have to do, balancing family, business, partners, children and YPO — there was support and understanding. We were all in the same boat."

You are sure to find that kind of encouragement through WIN and the mentoring that Hodgson is so passionate about, thanks to dedicated members like her. Take advantage of hard-working peers like Hodgson and see what WIN and mentoring can do for you!

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