PROUDLY P.GEO.

HOW MENTORSHIP HELPED ME NAVIGATE CAREER TRANSITIONS AND CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION

Meet Evelio Martinez Del Pino, M.Sc., P.Geo., CESA, DPT - a PGO volunteer and current chair of the PGO's Geophysics Subcommittee. In this article, Evelio reflects on his journey as a geophysicist and the role that mentorship has played in shaping his professional growth. This written reflection is part of PGO's initiative to advance the Virtual Mentoring Program, underscoring the many ways mentoring relationships can influence careers.

For Evelio, mentorship has not only provided technical guidance but also encouragement, direction and confidence at key points in his career. His story highlights how mentorship can make a lasting difference in one's professional development.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND MEETING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Mentorship has been a defining influence in my career as a geophysicist, guiding me toward registration with Professional Geoscientists Ontario (PGO). Moving from academia to applied geophysics and mineral exploration, I quickly recognized that technical knowledge alone was not enough. Mentors helped me transform the theoretical foundation I built during my studies in Russia, Cuba, and the Netherlands into practical expertise, while also helping me meet Canadian standards of competency, ethics, and practice.

CHOOSING A SPECIALIZATION AND NAVIGATING EARLY CHALLENGES

Early in my career, I faced the challenge of choosing a specialization within a diverse field. My options included TITAN Resistivity, Induced Polarization & Magnetotelluric (2D and 3D), Ground Magnetics, Transient Electromagnetics, Borehole Logging, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Multichannel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW), Electromagnetic (EM) mapping, Electric Resistivity Tomography (ERT), and Induced Polarization (IP). Mentors provided insights on industry trends, project requirements, and multi-parameter data interpretation. Their guidance helped me focus my skill development, align with PGO expectations, and document my professional experience in preparation for registration.

APPLYING MENTORSHIP TO COMPLEX TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Mentorship was particularly valuable when navigating technical challenges with emerging technologies such as TITAN 2D and 3D DCIP-MT. Data inconsistencies, high-noise environments, and complex geological conditions required advanced processing and interpretation strategies. Mentors shared techniques and case studies that improved my results.

BROADENING SKILLS FOR CAREER TRANSITIONS

As my career evolved, mentorship proved just as valuable during career transitions as it had in my early technical training. Guidance from mentors helped me move from mineral exploration into projects that required collaboration with other disciplines, where broader knowledge of geoscientific integration, regulatory compliance, and effective client communication were essential. Mentors and clients guided me in developing leadership, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement skills while navigating proposals, bidding, and professional obligations.

BEYOND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE: PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

Beyond technical guidance, mentorship fostered a strong professional identity and purpose, helping me see how the professional practice of geophysics safeguards public safety. I learned to see geophysics as a tool for safer infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and sustainable resource development, with projects ranging from bridge inspections and subsurface utility investigations to geotechnical studies.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Reflecting on my journey, mentorship supported my development, helping me adapt to change, pursue innovation, and maintain PGO's ethical and professional standards. I am committed to paying it forward, mentoring emerging geophysicists, guiding them toward registration, and preparing future leaders for a rapidly evolving industry.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER

Inspired by Evelio's story? Mentorship can be a powerful tool for your career too. The PGO is preparing to launch its new Virtual Mentoring Program, which will connect aspiring geoscientists with experienced professionals. If you're interested in being part of this new initiative and helping to shape its future, stay tuned for updates and information on how you can get involved.

ABOUT EVELIO MARTINEZ DEL PINO, M.SC, P.GEO., CESA, DPT

Evelio Martinez del Pino is a geophysicist with over 20 years of experience in geophysical exploration and project management in Canada and internationally. He holds a Master of Science in Applied Geophysics from Delft International Institute of Earth Sciences.

Evelio's expertise includes techniques such as Induced Polarization, Resistivity, and Ground Penetrating Radar. His project experience covers environmental assessments, waste contamination imaging, road structure analysis, and mineral exploration. A professional geoscientist registered with PGO, he manages projects from fieldwork and data processing to interpretation and final reporting.

DISCLAIMER:

This article is intended to share personal experiences and reflections on the value of mentorship in a professional geoscience career. It should not be interpreted as regulatory advice, a definitive guide to P.Geo. registration, or an endorsement of any specific career path or technical method.

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