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As a faculty member at a research-intensive university, it’s clear that the social work PhD program at the University of Iowa launched my academic career. The high-quality, interdisciplinary curriculum was intellectually stimulating and provided a sound education. Its flexibility allowed me to pursue an area of specialization which became my current, federally-funded program of research. There were also opportunities to learn from brilliant instructors. To this day, I try to incorporate teaching strategies used by the passionate social work educators that I had at Iowa. But the most transformative element of the program was the mentorship I received through research opportunities. Faculty members generously offered their time, resources, and expertise. My dissertation chair, in particular, provided invaluable support and modeled the virtues of a dedicated, accomplished scholar. For these reasons and more, I am grateful for my doctoral education from the University of Iowa.