

COES Mentees: I hope that Winter Quarter is off to a great start! I also hope that you have had some good interactions with your Mentor this fall. *Research shows that mentoring provides you with opportunities for new research and scholarly collaborations.* As always, the goal of our **monthly e-newsletters** are to provide information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest designed to help you be more effective.

***Volunteer to Serve as a Reviewer.** One of the best ways to improve one's ability to write and secure grants is to review for the agency from which you want to receive funding. Consider applying to serve as a reviewer for NSF proposals, for example. Agencies like NSF are always interested in including new faculty in the review process. It is also a good idea if you are an experienced researcher who wants to change directions or apply for funding from a different NSF directorate or agency. Talking with the relevant Program Director can also be helpful when considering a proposal submission. Ask your Mentor about their experiences in this area and strategies that they have found useful in increasing their own grant-writing success.

***Mentoring Graduate Students.** If you are a new faculty member or are looking for new graduate students, ask your Mentor for tips on recruiting good students. As difficult as it can be to find good students, finding time to mentor those students can also be a challenge. On December 18, the COES Graduate Seminar will feature Guest Lecturer Bryant Hollins on "How to Do a Literature Review". It is a topic that is frequently mentioned by new graduate students as a topic of interest. He will look at why literature reviews are necessary, how to find the literature, tools available on campus (interlibrary loan, Scopus, and more) to help with putting together a review, how to use scientific databases, registering and using library services, and a handout that walks students through a hands-on activity. Send any or all of your graduate students! The Seminar will be from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Biomed Building Room 157. If you have other topic ideas for the COES Graduate Seminar that would help your graduate students, forward them to me at jenna@latech.edu.

***Changes in NSF's Broader Impacts Criterion.** Starting in January 2013, NSF has made some major changes to the "broader impacts" review criteria. Thanks to Dr. Ramachandran for forwarding a link with a great summary of the changes [here](#). If you are planning to participate in any NSF proposals, it is worth a read, since broader impacts is one of the two review criteria used for every proposal submitted to NSF. One of the recommendations is to link broader impacts activities to existing programs on campus. We have a number of K-12 outreach activities (through our ISERC Research Center), as well as initiatives that focus on women (through our OWISE Office or SWE). We have had a great deal of success in the past with faculty who have teamed up with these initiatives as part of their outreach component. Ask your Mentor to help you understand these changes and suggest people you can talk with about developing such broader impacts initiatives for proposals.

***Take Advantage of Local Events!** There are a number of unique events in the area during this time of year. Take advantage of some of these opportunities with friends and

family! They include things like the annual Poinsettia Sale (yes, there are still poinsettias left at the Tech Farm Sales Room off Highway 80 West) - proceeds go to support student scholarships. The COES Christmas Party will be Thursday, Dec. 20 from 2 - 4 p.m. in Bogard Hall. Or make your own holiday event by meeting your Mentor for lunch at the Ropp Center or for coffee at Starbucks!

Mentoring Tip for December: *Do a Spot Check on Teaching. With Winter Quarter underway, take a few minutes at your next meeting to talk with your Mentor about your teaching. But do more than talk about "how it is going". Talk about some probing questions: *Of all the things you do as instructor, what brings the most value to your students? If you could change one thing about your teaching, what would it be? If you could spend class time on anything you wanted, what would you have students do?* Think of one or two new teaching strategies that you would like to try. If they can't think of any, there are some great sources of teaching innovations. The [Teaching Professor](#) has a monthly newsletter to which you can subscribe. [Classroom Assessment Techniques](#) by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross is a book with some time-honored ideas that I use often to improve my teaching. Joining the [American Society for Engineering Education](#) (ASEE) is another great way to access ideas on teaching and learning. Or ask your Mentor to share their strategies for continuing to improve and enhance teaching. Questions? Contact the OWISE Office at 257-2101 or advance@latech.edu.