

COES Mentors:

I hope that Winter Quarter is off to a great start! I also hope that you have had some good interactions with your Mentee 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. Encourage your Mentee to apply to serve as a reviewer for NSF proposals, for example. Agencies like NSF are always interested in including new, younger faculty in the review process. It is also a good idea if you are an experienced research 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. Share your own experiences in this area and strategies that you have found useful in increasing your own grant-writing success.

***Mentoring Graduate Students.** Hopefully your Mentee has several graduate students. If your Mentee is new or is looking for new students, share your tips on recruiting good students. As challenging as it can be to find good students, finding time to mentor those students can also be a hard for your Mentee. 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 frustrating for them. 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. Encourage your Mentee to send any or all of their graduate students. The Seminar will be from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Biomed Building Room 157. If your Mentee has other topic ideas that would help their graduate students, have them 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 great summary of the changes [here](#). If your Mentee is 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. Help your Mentee understand these changes and suggest people they 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. Encourage your Mentee to take advantage of some of these opportunities. 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 for lunch at the Ropp or 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 Mentee about teaching. But do more than ask, "how is it going"? Ask 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?* Encourage your Mentee to think of one or two new teaching strategies that they would like to try. If they can't think of any, suggest that they read about teaching innovations. The [Teaching Professor](#) has a monthly newsletter on teaching to which they can subscribe. [Classroom Assessment Techniques](#) by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross is a book with some time-honored ideas that I use often. Joining the [American Society for Engineering Education](#) (ASEE) is another great way to access ideas on teaching and learning. Or share your strategies for continuing to improve and enhance your teaching.

Questions? Contact the OWISE Office at 257-2101 or advance@latech.edu.