

COES Mentees,

I hope that your fall is off to a good start! I know that September has been a busy month, but I do want to encourage you to make some time before September ends to meet with your Mentor. This is a busy time for research grants, teaching new classes, and more, so you may have some good questions for your Mentor! *Research shows that mentoring really does help you gain valuable insights on defining and achieving career goals.* As always, the goal of our **monthly e-newsletters** is to provide information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest designed to help you be more effective.

***Come enjoy some Coffee and Treats while you meet with your Mentor.** You have asked for a dedicated time to talk with your Mentor, so here it is! **Our first Mentee Mentor Coffee will be Tuesday, October 2 from 9 - 11 a.m. in Bogard Hall 301.** It is come and go - email your Mentor right now, agree on a 30-minute window where the two of you can come over, enjoy coffee and cake and talk about a couple of important issues!

***Do a spot check on classes.** With a couple of weeks of the quarter under our belts, it is a good time to chat with your Mentor about how your classes are going this fall. Are you teaching a new class? Do you have an issue that has bugged you for a while that you'd like to resolve? Ask your Mentor to share with you their top three teaching tips. Ask them what they do to encourage student engagement, learning, motivation, etc.

***It's Board of Regents time.** Fall quarter means Board of Regents Support Fund grant application time. Be sure to talk with your Mentor about applying for this great program. Enhancement, Research Competitiveness and Industrial Ties Research Programs are open to junior faculty. While not every discipline is eligible every year, pretty much any project can be crafted to fit within the guidelines any year. Make sure you talk with Dr. Ramu for some great tips. Ask your Mentor to review your proposal. You can find out more about the BoRSF Programs at <http://web.laregents.org/programs/borsf-programs/>.

***You Only Get to Wear Jeans to Work Twice a Year,** so take advantage of it! That's right, our fall COES social event is almost here. **Gumbofest will be next Thursday, September 27 starting at 5 p.m. at the Argent Pavilion at the football stadium.** Your ticket is a t-shirt (\$10, high quality, catchy design), which you can buy in Bogard Hall (swing by Dr. Hegab's Office). Stop by to pick up your shirt and wear it to work next Thursday with your jeans. Family members are welcome, too. Ask your Mentor to meet you there! In addition to great gumbo, all of the student organizations will have booths, so it's a great opportunity to talk with students and find out more about the outstanding things our student organizations are doing. The OWISE Office will also have the red chair there so you can "sit to take a stand" and share why you think its important to have more women in STEM fields!

Mentoring Tip for September: *Too often, teaching is a lot like a one-way street. As faculty, we find ourselves shoveling information at students as fast as we can (even faster

on the quarter system!), trying to cram it all in before the next test, rarely having enough class time for information to flow back from them to us. There is a great tool, however, that can help you keep track of how things are going, what's confusing, whether or not they are swamped, and more. It is called a **Minute Paper**. It takes about a minute (hence the name) at the end of class and consists of just two questions: 1) State the most important/useful thing that we discussed today (from your viewpoint) and 2) State the question(s) that remain uppermost in your mind at the end of class about today's material. Students respond on a sheet of paper and turn in before they walk out the door. You can read over them, answer the questions, and use the information to do a quick review at the beginning of the next class. I have been doing these for at least a decade. It works no matter what class I am teaching and I can read 40 of these in 15 minutes or less. Students consistently tell me that the quick review at the beginning of class based on their Minute Papers is the most helpful thing we do all quarter. It lets you figure out that they are all lost on topic X *before* they all flunk the related question on the test. It also lets you clear it up the next class day, before their confusion gets compounded by the new material that builds on what they don't understand. Check out the attachment for a copy of the questions, as well as some suggestions on how to implement it in a class. You can find even more great ideas in the classic book, [Classroom Assessment Techniques by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross](#).

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