

Memo: Personal Mentoring Program
Submitted by: Adia Harvey Wingfield

Description of Program:

The Personal Mentoring Program is a new program launched by the Program Committee for the 2008 annual meetings. Mentees were able to choose from several areas in which they wanted assistance (e.g., manuscript preparation, dissertation support, job hunting), and were matched with mentors who shared their general research and teaching interests, and could help in the area selected. Mentors and mentees could be matched for three months, six months, or a year. Once matched, they were free to determine the length and specifics of their partnerships, as well as whether they would attempt to meet at the annual meeting in Boston.

Assessment:

At this point, I've matched all the participants in the program, but have not yet distributed the evaluation form. So far, the program has gone successfully. We initially received applications from 20 mentees and 9 mentors, and had to do another call for mentors. This call sought mentors in the specialty areas that would match the mentees who were unmatched.

Other than having fewer mentees than mentors, no real problems occurred in orchestrating the Personal Mentoring Program. The additional call for mentors provided several additional volunteers, and 3 mentors agreed to be matched with two mentees. Should the 2009 Program Committee plan to continue this program, they may want to plan to do two calls for mentors to ensure that enough people participate. One person can satisfactorily coordinate the program. With Michele Koontz's capable help in setting up online applications, I was able to review the applications and match mentors to mentees without a great deal of difficulty. Overall, it is a feasible project for one person to complete.

I have yet to distribute the evaluation forms to mentors and mentees, though blank copies of these are also attached to this memo. Please contact me in the fall if you are interested in a brief summary of the responses generated from these forms.

**PERSONAL MENTORING PROGRAM
SSSP MENTEES**

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Position:

Work address, telephone number, and email:

Research Interests:

Teaching Interests:

Please indicate the area(s) below in which you would like mentoring:

Job Hunting

job skills

interviewing

writing a vitae

Manuscript Preparation

developing an idea

revising a manuscript

Dissertation Support

developing a topic

turning dissertation into publication

Tenure and Promotion Review

preparing the dossier

Career Development

Other

Do you plan to attend the annual SSSP meeting in Boston (July 31-August 2)?

Yes

No

Maybe

Desired length of mentoring relationship

3 months

6 months

1 year

Please describe a brief description of the project for which you would like mentoring:

**PERSONAL MENTORING PROGRAM
SSSP MENTORS**

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Position:

Work address, telephone number, and email:

Research Interests:

Teaching Interests:

Please indicate the area(s) below in which you would like to mentor:

Job Hunting

--job skills

--interviewing

--writing a vitae

Manuscript Preparation

--developing an idea

--revising a manuscript

Dissertation Support

--developing a topic

--turning dissertation into publication

Tenure and Promotion Review

--preparing the dossier

Career Development

Other

Do you plan to attend the annual SSSP meeting in Boston (July 31-August 2)?

Yes

No

Maybe

Desired length of mentoring relationship

3 months

6 months

1 year

Personal Mentoring Program Evaluation Form

Mentees:

Was it easy to contact your mentor?

yes

no

Was it easy to remain in contact with your mentor?

yes

no

How long did your mentorship last?

3 months

6 months

9 months

1 year

Did you get what you wanted out of this mentorship?

yes

no

Would you recommend this mentor matching program?

yes

no

What would you recommend that we change about the program?

What should remain the same?

Personal Mentoring Program Evaluation Form

Mentors:

Did your mentee contact you in a reasonable amount of time?

yes

no

Was it easy to remain in contact with your mentee?

yes

no

How long did your mentorship last?

3 months

6 months

9 months

1 year

Did you get what you wanted out of this mentorship?

yes

no

Would you recommend this mentor matching program?

yes

no

What would you recommend that we change about the program?

What should remain the same?