

To: SSSP 2022 Board of Directors
From: Bhoomi K. Thakore, Chair, SSSP Mentoring Program Committee (MPC)
Date: June 22, 2022

2021-2022 Mentoring Program Committee Report

The new Mentoring Program matched its first participants in Summer 2021. Participant feedback was solicited in the 2021 after meeting survey, and in January 2022, with generally positive results. All feedback was incorporated into the documents made available to program participants, and in the 2022 application forms. I hope that with continued refinement of the application forms, the Committee will have the information needed to make the most effective pairings.

At the time of writing, the MPC has not yet matched participants for the 2022-2023 cycle. This information will be shared at the Board Meeting.

I wish to thank Michele Koontz and the SSSP staff for their technical assistance with gathering documents and contacting program participants. SSSP is better because of them.

In closing, this is my last year as Chair of the Mentoring Program Committee. I wish to thank the Board for their confidence in my ability to revise the Program. I hope that the Program will continue under the guise of the Board of Directors, so that the Board can have a role in strategizing about the Program's role in recruitment and retention of SSSP members, and in creating targeted sessions at upcoming conferences. Lauren Eastwood will now serve as Chair, and I am confident in her abilities to continue this important work.

Action Item

- The MPC asks that the Board approve a revised composition of the Mentoring Program committee, removing the two graduate student Board representatives. This would change the committee makeup to two appointment members from the Board of Directors, with one serving a two-year term as Chair.

Rationale

- In the original motion to create this committee, the graduate student Board representatives were included as a way to tap into the needs of graduate student mentees. However, as the Mentoring Program now focuses on mentees at all career stages, there is no need for input at this specific level. Additionally, program participants have regular opportunities to provide feedback on their experiences with the program. Finally, the Committee is sensitive to the many responsibilities the graduate student Board representatives have beyond this required appointment.

Respectfully submitted,
Bhoomi K. Thakore