



Mentoring Options

There are multiple ways in which you can provide mentoring assistance to Mentor-Connect project participants. It is a great way to 'give something back' to help insure the vitality and success of the ATE community as we meet the challenge of preparing 21st century technicians.

Individual, 1-1 Mentoring (approx. 36 hours/yr. over a 10-month period)

The Mentor-Connect project provides mentoring support for those planning to submit a proposal for the *Small Grants for Those New to ATE* funding category. Community colleges that have not received NSF ATE funding in the past 10 years are eligible for these funds. Mentors interested in helping eligible colleges develop quality proposals will work with teams of two STEM faculty members (and possibly a grant writer or other supporting college administrator). Faculty teams are selected from different disciplines and colleges across the country. Mentors will be expected to:

- attend a preliminary meeting (usually at the ATE PI Conference in October)
- participate in orientation, training, and/or workshop preparation webinars (1-2) prior to the January workshop
- work closely with their mentees at the January workshop and provide approximately 36 hours of mentoring support thereafter to the team members as they prepare their proposals
- maintain communication with their team members via e-mail, phone, or other forms of communication after the January workshop through the October submission date
- provide timely formative feedback to the Mentor-Connect project (requested 4-5 times/year).

Mentor-Connect cannot provide travel funds to support face-to-face meetings with mentee team members; however, the project provides a modest stipend for a Mentor's time as well as travel reimbursement to support Mentor participation at the January workshop.

Mentors may join the project for less than 1 year to mentor potential grantees only through proposal submission, or a Mentor may opt for a longer-term mentoring relationship by mentoring potential grantees through proposal submission and thereafter, if funded, to support project success and leadership development.

"Ask A Mentor" Technical Assistance (1-36 hours/year)

Aspiring grantees and existing Centers and Projects often need targeted, 1-on-1 assistance with preparing an ATE proposal, implementing their grant activities or managing various aspects of their grant. Experienced Mentors will identify their areas of strengths and expertise and then be matched with a mentee to provide e-mail or telephone assistance to help address situation-specific technical assistance requests. Experienced ATE community members interested in this option are expected to donate their expertise and time to help insure their colleagues' success.

Mentoring Resource Development

For those interested in less intensive involvement, you can also help by collaborating with Mentor-Connect to contribute documents, short video lessons, and similar support materials on targeted technical assistance topics. You can also participate in Mentor-Connect webinars to provide advice and technical assistance to potential and funded grantees.