THE WiSE MENTORING PROGRAM: A Run-Down of Important Information

A. The Participants

**Mentees:** First-year students who declare a science, engineering, or math major receive information about the program when they are admitted to the university. Interested students complete application/confirmation forms and pay a fee. Some funding for mentee participation comes from a ‘grant’ from corporate sponsors. Mentees are expected to return mentors’ calls and emails, attend workshops, and participate in team meetings.

**Mentors:** Faculty, advisors, and current mentors nominate potential mentors who are then interviewed by WiSE staff. All mentors participate in mentor training during the week before or the first week of classes. You donate valuable time from busy schedules but are still expected to take the initiative to set up activities. We are relying on you to reach out to your mentee and lead your team! Thanks for your interest in Iowa’s first-year students!

B. Why WiSE Mentoring?

The Mentoring Program is designed to provide academic and social support to first-year students interested in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines. It is a ‘retention program’ that helps to retain women in STEM fields from the time they enter college, through graduation, and into the workforce.

- Refer to ‘Why is mentoring for women necessary...’ in your folder.
- Mentors, illustrate some of the points with their own experiences and/or experiences of others you know (ex: good students often don’t always earn straight A’s – it’s okay!)

C. The Role and Limits of Mentors

**Mentors as guides to campus resources:** Mentors serve as resources, but they are not tutors and they’re not counselors in a crisis situation. They can suggest some resources on campus that provide tutoring or counseling. The WiSE staff is also available to assist – please utilize us.

- Refer to the ‘Resources’ sheet and talk about what each resource offers. Mentors, describe any resources you have used. Explain the Math Lab and how it works.

**Mentors as guides to academics:** During the year, mentors can share their insights about study strategies, places to study, course selection, professors, time management, academic support resources, etc.

- Refer to ‘Study Tips from a Very WiSE Mentor.’ What courses are the mentees taking? Are there questions/concerns? Mentors, do you have any advice to share?

**Mentors as guides for Team Meetings:** Mentors’ experiences are invaluable!

- Refer to ‘Team Meetings Activities & Topics.’ Brainstorm a list of potential activities. Have fun!

D. Calendar of Events

- Refer to the green sheet for the calendar of events. (Do you have a planner yet? Use it!)
- Participants must attend at least ONE team meeting or event in addition to the Welcome Party before November 1 or they may be dropped from the program and replaced by a student on the wait-list.

**Events:** The WiSE Mentoring Program will put on a series of educational and social events each semester. Mentors and mentees are required to attend two mentoring events together each semester. At least one of these events needs to be an educational event; the other event can be an educational or social event.

**Educational Events (Workshops and Seminars):** Review dates of workshops and seminars for the fall semester. Mentors and mentees are expected to attend at least one educational event per semester and are welcome to attend more. To earn credit for the event you simply need to attend the event and complete an online feedback survey within a few weeks of the event (a link will be sent to you if you attend). You do not have to attend educational events with your mentor/mentee to earn credit. Please remember you are responsible for ensuring you get credit for the events you attend by signing the sign-in sheet!

**Social Events:** In response to feedback from students, three social events will be offered each semester. Social events will provide an opportunity for mentoring students to get to know each other better. Attending a social event with your mentor/mentee can count as one of your two required events for the semester. Earning credit for these is the same as for workshops. Please contact us at wise@uiowa.edu, if you cannot attend any of the social events with your mentoring partner.

**Team Meetings:** Teams plan their own time to meet. We realize that it is often difficult to get four people together. However, we would like teams to try during the fall semester so that the variety of experiences represented by four individuals can be shared. At a minimum, each mentor/mentee pair should meet every month. The Team Meeting link will always be available on the website – to receive credit, you must submit an evaluation for your team meeting. You may meet as many times as you’d like per month, but once per month is the minimum.