










**Increase Your Funding Success
with No-Cost Mentoring
for Prospective NSF ATE Grantees**

The information provided is extracted from NSF publications or comes from presenters' knowledge and experience as ATE PIs. It does not speak for the National Science Foundation.



1

Elaine Craft, Principal Investigator
Mentor-Connect: Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE
Florence-Darlington Technical College, SCATE Center of Excellence
Email: Elaine.craft@fdtc.edu

Ellen Hause, Co-Principal Investigator
Mentor-Connect: Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE
American Association of Community Colleges, Program Director, Academic and Student Success
Email: ehause@aaccc.nche.edu



2

Goals

- Describe the benefits of engaging in a mentoring program for your NSF ATE Proposal or other Program Improvement
- Provide information and guidance you need to connect with a mentoring service and benefits

3

Why mentoring?

- Proven strategy used by the ATE Program to advance technician education
- Became formalized with the launch of MentorLinks in 2002 and Mentor-Connect in 2012
- Data show that those who work with a mentor and participate in available workshops are far more likely to be successful



4




What is mentoring? Mentors...

- Are peers with experience and success who help you succeed with what you are trying to accomplish
- Facilitate knowledge transfer from more experienced to less experienced
- Provide one-on-one help with developing or improving a program of study or preparing a competitive grant proposal

5

The ATE Program funds projects that

- Offer mentoring for specific purposes
- Provide mentoring at no cost to participants
- Support participant travel and may also include seed money for program development or stipends for participation



6



Types

- Program Improvement – MentorLinks provides mentoring for program development or improvement in technician education
- Proposal Development – Mentor-Connect and several newer initiatives provide mentoring specifically to help educators become proficient in developing NSF ATE grant proposals


7

MentorLinks Purpose

- Assist colleges in developing or strengthening technician training programs in STEM fields through mentoring, professional development opportunities, and technical assistance
- Establish connections for colleges to identify new ideas and relationships through networking opportunities at program meetings and Advanced Technological Education (ATE) National Conferences
- Help colleges gain insight about support for building and sustaining new programs and strengthening existing programs

8




MentorLinks Participation

- AACC sponsors a national grant competition to select:
 - A Mentor Team
 - MentorLinks Colleges
- Colleges receive \$20,000 in seed money for two-year grant program plus travel support for project director to attend national project meetings and the annual ATE Conference



9




MentorLinks Participation (continued)

- Mentors are assigned to a college, conduct site visits, and provide guidance on program development
- Emphasis is on technical assistance, professional development & networking opportunities



10

MentorLinks Outcomes

- Curriculum and program development
- Recruitment and enrollment increases
- Internship and experiential learning opportunities created
- Industry partner engagement
- Faculty and professional development


11

MentorLinks Outcomes (continued)

- Increased recognition among college administrators
- Exposure to a breadth of programs and resources
- Achieve results faster
- Help colleges to be more competitive
- Leverage MentorLinks support into other state, federal funding opportunities—many go on to obtain an ATE grant!


12



Mentor-Connect Purpose

- Advances technician education by engaging diverse two-year colleges in the ATE Program
- Teaches STEM faculty teams to write competitive grant proposals and successfully navigate the NSF funding process
- Provides one-on-one mentoring for prospective grantees and extensive technical assistance with every phase of proposal development, submission, funding, and project implementation


13



Mentor-Connect Participation

- Customized support for those new to ATE
- Annual cohorts formed for grant writing workshops and technical assistance that extends from January-October
- Other prospective grantees mentored upon request to develop 2nd grants or to re-submit a proposal not initially funded
- Colleges collaborating with an ATE-funded Center provided with co-mentoring which pairs prospective grantees with a subject-matter-expert mentor and a grant-development specialist mentor


14



Mentor-Connect Other Offerings

- Mentor Fellows – Internship program provides training and a pathway for experienced ATE grantees to become mentors for Mentor-Connect and other mentoring initiatives
- Leadership Development – Professional development for prospective grantees and mentors


15



Other mentoring initiatives

- Mentor Up – Increases the number and quality of proposals submitted by providing a grant proposal development workshop and mentoring through proposal submission
- Project Vision – Helps colleges discover and match innovative ideas with NSF funding opportunities
- Building Pathways to Innovation – Mentors college teams to use BILT (Business and Industry Leadership Team) essential elements to build competitive proposals


16



Contact information - Presenters

- MentorLinks
Ellen Hause, PI ehause@aacc.nche.edu
- Mentor-Connect
Elaine Craft, PI Elaine.Craft@fdtc.edu

17



Contact information – Other Mentoring Options

- Mentor Up – <https://atementorup.org/>
Karen Wosczyrna-Birch, PI karenlee@snet.net
- Building Pathways to Innovation in Skilled Technological Workforce Education through Strategic Employer Engagement – www.PathwaysToInnovation.org
Ann Beheler, PI abeheler@gmail.com
- Broadening Institutional Participation in the NSF ATE Program (Project Vision) – www.Projectvis.org
Kevin Cooper, PI kcooper@irsc.edu

18



Mentor Connect logo and **AACC** logo

More Information


NSF ATE GRANT MENTORING:
<https://www.mentor-connect.org/get-a-mentor>

Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE
E-mail: Mentor-Connect@fdtc.edu

NSF DUE # 1501183 and #1940856
Elaine Craft, Principal Investigator
SC ATE Center of Excellence
Florence-Darlington Technical College - Florence, SC 29501
www.Mentor-Connect.org



19





Mentor Connect logo and **AACC** logo

More Information

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT MENTORING
www.aacc.nche.edu/MentorLinks

Develop or Strengthen STEM Technician Education Programs
E-mail: ehause@aacc.nche.edu or clarson@aacc.nche.edu

NSF DUE # 1838419
Ellen Hause, Principal Investigator
American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036
www.AACC.nche.edu



20