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.

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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

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

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

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
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

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

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

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

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

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!
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

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

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

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

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Contact information – Other Mentoring Options
- Mentor Up – https://atementorup.org/
  Karen Wosczyna-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
NSF ATE GRANT MENTORING:
https://www.mentor-connect.org/get-a-mentor

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