Preparing Faculty for Culturally Responsive Graduate Student Mentoring

Textile Engineering, Chemistry, and Science

NC State's Department of Textile Engineering, Chemistry and Science participated in the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) Entering Mentoring Workshop this month. Twenty-three faculty and three staff members completed the training, which was organized by Jeff Joines, AGEP-NC faculty fellow and department head. The workshop was facilitated by Yvette Huet, AGEP-NC PI for UNC Charlotte, and Andrea Dulin, assistant director for the UNC Charlotte ADVANCE Faculty Affairs and Diversity Office.

In the new graduate cultural document at NC State, there are requirements for individual development plans and annual reviews of all graduate students. Therefore, I decided that the CIMER training would be a great resource for our faculty and get everybody on a similar page. I chose the pieces that were directly related to that goal, and the faculty as a whole really embraced the ideas. Our faculty were very engaged in the activities and had very positive things to say about the training, especially our junior faculty. Many of the tenured faculty wish they had this training earlier in their careers but will implement some of the things.

-- Jeff Joines

College of Sciences

Reza Ghiladi, AGEP-NC faculty fellow and director of graduate programs in Chemistry at NC State, arranged for a team of faculty to participate in Facilitator Training for the CIMER Entering Mentoring Workshops. This two-day workshop trains facilitators who then bring back those skills to train other mentors. We now have the capacity to hold Entering Mentoring workshops in the NC State College of Sciences (and possibly beyond). Five faculty from the College of Sciences completed the facilitator training in August: Shu Yang, Statistics; Antonio Planchart, Biological Sciences; Walt Robinson, Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; Reza Ghiladi, Chemistry; and Phoebe Glazer, Chemistry. The COS team plans on implementing Entering Mentoring workshops in the College of Sciences starting in early Spring '24. The 8-hour training curriculum will be spread across four weekly sessions, with up to 12 faculty for each workshop series. At the conclusion of the Spring '24 semester, up to 24 faculty will have received Entering Mentoring training, with additional workshops planned for the Summer and Fall.

Welcome to New Members of the AGEP-NC Team!

Hannah Estes has just joined the AGEP-NC team as an undergraduate intern in website administration. She is a senior at NC State majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Cognitive Science and Global Leadership. Within the NC State community, she is a Computer Science Ambassador, Pack Abroad Ambassador, and WICS (Women in Computer Science) member. Hannah is interested in understanding why people do what they do and how to approach STEM-related problems with a user-centered perspective.

We are pleased to welcome Dilara Yaya-Bryson, Ph.D., as a new AGEP-NC postdoctoral fellow at UNC Charlotte. She holds Ph.D.s in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of North Carolina Greensboro (with a Minor in Educational Research Methodology) and in Early Childhood Education from Hacettepe University, Turkey. Dilara's research centers on improving the quality of education services. "Quality" is an umbrella term for her research, which covers a range of parameters and policy considerations, including classroom environment, workforce qualifications and professional development, administrative quality, and equitable and inclusive settings.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. 1820536, 1820538, and 1820582. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.