

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Opening Doors for Success: A Graduate Mentoring Program

Sponsored by the Graduate School

Deadline: August 31, 2009

The Opening Doors for Success Mentoring program is sponsored by the UA Graduate School as part of the Opening the School House Door Initiative. This initiative is funded through the Council of Graduate Schools/Peterson's Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community. The Graduate School was the 2008 recipient of this national award. **The Graduate School is currently seeking doctoral students in their first or second year of graduate study, students pursuing a terminal degree (e.g., MFA) or master's students with aspirations to complete doctoral study to participate in the program.** Participants in the program will be assigned a mentoring team comprised of a graduate student peer, a faculty member, and a community member (as appropriate).

Program Goals: The primary aim of the mentoring program is to help graduate students acquire the personal and professional skills needed for success in their future careers. Through a comprehensive approach, the Opening Doors for Success program addresses the academic and social needs imperative for success in a graduate program and beyond.

Eligibility for Program: Students must be in the first two years of a graduate program and meet one of the following: a) be a member of an under-represented minority (i.e., African American, Hispanic, Native American, or female in a STEM discipline, meaning science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) and/or b) be a first-generation college student. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a doctoral program and to masters students who intend to pursue a PhD.

Program Application: Interested students should complete the attached application and submit to Dr. Natalie Adams, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School (102 Rose Administration Building, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0118; nadams@ua.edu) by August 31, 2009. An orientation will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 12 p.m. (Lunch provided).

Program Activities: Students will participate in a variety of formal mentoring activities, including seminars on various topics, monthly brown-bag luncheons, writing workshops, special departmental activities, and social events. Some of the activities will be for program participants only; some will be for the mentoring team; and other activities will be open to all graduate students. Through the relationships cultivated through the program, students will also have the opportunity to participate in many informal mentoring activities.

Mentoring Team Assignments: Students will be assigned to a mentoring team based on the information on the Application Sheet. Students may specify a faculty mentor if they wish. Students may specify race and gender preference on their application. Every effort will be made to fulfill student requests, but not guaranteed.

Incentives for Participation: In addition to the professional benefits one will accrue by participating in this program, students will also receive a travel and research grant (up to \$300) they may use for professional development activities.

Opening Doors for Success: A Graduate Mentoring Program
Application (due August 31, 2009)

Name: _____ CWID: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Local Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Degree: _____ Major: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

Are you a first-generation college student: _____

Institutions previously attended: _____

To help us create the best mentoring team for you, please answer the following questions. Feel free to use additional paper if needed:

1. What experience have you had in conducting research?

2. What experience have you had in publishing or presenting academic research?

3. What kinds of activities have you been involved in before pursuing a graduate degree?

4. Have you ever participated in a formal mentoring program? If so, please describe.

5. What is the thing that most concerns you about being successful in your graduate program?

6. What are you hoping to gain from participating in this mentoring program?

7. How important is it to you that you are matched with a faculty member of the same race as you?

8. How important is it to you that you are matched with a faculty member of the same gender as you?

9. How important is it to you that you are matched with a faculty member in the same academic discipline as you?

10. If you already have a relationship with a faculty member whom you would like to serve as your mentor, please list his/her name.

11. Please include any other information about yourself that would be helpful to us in determining your eligibility for the program and for making the best assignments for your mentoring team.

Send to: Dr. Natalie Adams, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School (102 Rose Administration Building, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0118; nadams@ua.edu) by August 31, 2009. An orientation will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 12 p.m. (Lunch provided).