

COES Mentors,

Winter Quarter is almost gone! Things really get hectic this time of year, with advising, the end of the quarter, annual evaluations coming up in April, and more. I hope that you have been meeting with your Mentee at least once a month to help them stay on track and make sure that they are getting things done! *Research shows that mentoring helps your Mentee focus on what is important!* As always, the goal of our **monthly e-newsletters** are to provide information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest designed to help you be more effective.

***Make Time for Mentoring.** The time you spend on your mentoring relationship can pay for itself many times over! As a Mentor, *you* benefit from the enthusiasm and different viewpoint of your Mentee. Research also shows that mentoring provides you with opportunities to partner with your Mentee on papers or grants in areas of common interest (I have done both!). Take responsibility for making sure that you meet with your Mentee at least once a month - even if you have to bug them more than one time. **EMAIL YOUR MENTEE NOW** and set up your next meeting. Take advantage of the warm weather this week and walk over to the Ropp for Lunch!

***Quarter Break.** We are fortunate to have a long quarter break coming up (with Mardi Gras break folded in!), so encourage your Mentee to plan now so that they can use this time wisely. It's a great time to work on papers, grant proposals, run experiments, etc., that take a longer period of time than they can afford during the quarter. Don't forget to remind them to include some non-work plans, too - do something fun with their family and friends. Research shows that when we recharge, it pays big dividends in productivity later!

***Save the Date - Tuesday, April 1.** We are extremely fortunate to be able to bring to you and your Mentee one of the top leadership experts in the nation (or world!), **Dr. Sandra Shullman**. She will be here to do two half-day workshops on **Tuesday, April 1 (8 - 12 noon and again from 1 - 5 PM)**. Tell your Mentee to save the date and find a sub, reschedule meetings, do whatever it takes to attend one of these two workshops on leadership. Our NSF ADVANCE grant will end soon - and with it our ability to bring world-class experts to your doorstep, for free!

***Mardi Gras.** Mardi Gras is a Louisiana tradition! In addition to the famous parades in New Orleans, there are parades in north Louisiana, as well, including the [Krewe of Centaur](#) in Shreveport this Saturday, Feb. 22. They do have enormous crowds and a great website to help attendees plan appropriately. The parades turn out to be more fun than one would expect - and it's easy to find yourself yelling "Throw me something!" too. If your Mentee doesn't want to catch a parade, remind them that they can find beads and king cake at several places in town for their own celebration!

Mentoring Tip for February:

*** Improving Student Learning.** There are numerous articles and studies that talk about

ways to improve student learning - emphasizing mastery over performance, how to generate intrinsic motivation versus extrinsic, increasing students' metacognition, effective course design, and more. But what you may not know is that there is a study suggesting that all of these best teaching practices are also linked to reductions in student dishonesty and cheating. Author James R. Lang in his book, "[Cheating Lessons: Learning From Academic Dishonesty](#)," argues that effective instructional strategies reduce cheating and dishonesty. Why? When students are more engaged in the course and when they find understanding/retaining the content easier, they have less motivation to cheat. He goes on to assert that "Cheating is an inappropriate response to a learning environment that's not working for the student." (Golden, S., "[Cheating Lessons](#)," Inside Higher Ed, September 11, 2013). Check out the Inside Higher Ed article for more on this interesting take on student dishonesty.

Questions? Contact the OWISE Office at 257-2101 or advance@latech.edu.