2001

2001 Women's Mentoring Program Documents

Commission for Women

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February 9, 2001

Dear Women of the University Community,

The words of several UT Spring 2000 graduates are important:

A group of UT women seniors have come to the realization, as we prepare to graduate, that there exists on our campus the "glass ceiling" we have studied and discussed. We are interested in leaving behind as a legacy an organization that will begin to knit women students into closer contact with women who can mentor them through the college maturation process, including both academic and extracurricular life.

In an effort to implement these young women's ideas, we invite you to attend the opening event of a pilot mentoring program sponsored by the UT Commission for Women. The primary goal of this program encompasses both the establishment of mentoring partnerships and informal mentoring through attendance together at meetings and discussions. We also ask you to share this letter with persons who might be interested in either being active participants (by mentoring or being mentored) or in learning about the program.

The first of three events planned for Spring 2001 will be held on Thursday, February 22, in the University Center Crest Room from 4-6 p.m. At this informal drop-in meeting, an optional program enrollment form will be distributed, plans for the program will be outlined, and dessert will be served. Our goal is to establish 75-100 partnerships during the spring pilot program. Future sessions will be offered for all interested persons whether or not they are participating actively as mentors or mentees.

We hope that other campus organizations will join with us to build this necessary program. More individuals will benefit if many groups come together to encourage participation. All women should make their interest in the establishment of a mentoring program at UT known by attending one or all of the events.

The enclosed brochure outlines the goals of the program and dates and topics for spring events. We invite all persons within the University community to participate.

Contact either Jo Lynch (jolynch@utk.edu) or student member English Rockholt (erockhol@utk.edu) should you have any questions or comments. We look forward to seeing you on February 22!

Sincerely,

Jo Lynch
Convener, Mentoring Committee
Coordinator SAIS (formerly CTEP)

Kimberly Gwinn
Chair, Commission for Women
Associate Professor, Entomology
and Plant Pathology
Women Helping Women Succeed

WOMEN'S MENTORING PROGRAM

All UT Students, Faculty, and Staff are invited to a drop-in dessert meeting to learn about a pilot Women's Mentoring Program

February 22, 2001, 4-6 p.m.

UC Crest Room

Sponsored by the UT Commission for Women. For more information, contact English Rockholt at erockhol@utk.edu or Jo Lynch at jolynch@utk.edu.
REGISTRATION FORM, PAGE 2

To assist in assigning mentoring partners, please attach a short paragraph or list detailing your academic and extra-curricular activities.

If you have an interest in being paired with either a specific individual or someone in a particular discipline or administrative office, please write that information below. We will attempt to honor such requests.

Please return this form to: Women's Mentoring Program, c/o Jo Lynch, 208 UT Conference Center Bldg., CAMPUS 4122 or by fax at 974-1428.

Sponsored by the UT Commission for Women
GOALS OF THE PROGRAM
Mentoring encompasses aspects of building a mutually beneficial relationship between the mentor and mentee which would include the following:

- Promoting the advancement of the status of all women at the University of Tennessee
- Encouraging personal and professional development
- Building a supportive relationship where trust and exchange of ideas will occur

Partners could meet for lunch, attend a campus event, exercise, or volunteer to serve on a community or campus committee to foster the mentoring relationship. Mentors and mentees should meet at least once a month.

THE PILOT PROGRAM
PHASE I
The CFW Women's Mentoring Program will match students with volunteer mentors from faculty and staff. Plans call for the mentoring program to be offered in Fall 2001 following a review of this semester's programs. All persons involved will have the opportunity to be partnered with a new mentor or mentee. Once Phase I - student mentoring - is established, the CFW will consider implementing faculty and staff programs.

SPRING SEMESTER 2001
Note: Persons attending any of the following sessions are not required to be registered participants in the mentoring program.

INTRODUCTORY MEETING
Date: February 22, 2001
Place: University Center Crest Room
Time: 4-6 p.m.

During this informal drop-in meeting, we will outline the plans for the semester and provide an opportunity for registration for the mentor/mentee placements.

PANEL DISCUSSION
Date: March 29, 2001
Place: University Center Shiloh Room
Time: 4-6 p.m.

Panelists, including Anne Mayhew and Norma Cook, will discuss the history of Feminism both in the U.S. and on this campus.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS
Date: April 19, 2001
Place: University Center Shiloh Room
Time: 4-6 p.m.

Small groups will discuss topics such as the following: understanding the basic rights of women both in the classroom and the workplace, helping your references write good letters of recommendation for you, and applying to professional and graduate schools.