

Academic Research

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TO: Faculty

FROM: Dorota Huizinga, Ph.D.  
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Director, Office of Student Research  
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RE: Research Linx: Interdisciplinary Tenured to Pre-tenured Faculty Mentoring Program – Spring and Summer, 2022

Mentor Stipend: **\$1,500**Deadline for Applications: **midnight, February 11, 2022**Application Form: [Research Linx](#)Program Contact: Dr. Ryan Keating @ [RKeating@csusb.edu](mailto:RKeating@csusb.edu).

We are pleased to announce the call for tenured faculty mentor applications for the second iteration of *Research Linx: Interdisciplinary Tenured to Pre-tenured Faculty Mentorship Program*. Sponsored by the Academic Research and the NIH grant CSUSB ASPIRE, the goal of this program is to support pre-tenured faculty on their research journey to tenure. In this program, mentors will build cross-campus connections with pre-tenured faculty through conversations about research/creative activities, career advancement, the role of research in mentees' RPT process, balancing research, teaching and life priorities, and academic life at CSUSB. The program will start in March 2022 and continue through the summer.

**The overarching goal of the Research Linx program is to support faculty – both mentees and mentors – in their academic, professional, and personal growth.**

Creating an interdepartmental support network focusing on faculty development is designed to fulfill multiple needs not currently available on our campus.

1. Leverage the expertise of senior faculty to support junior faculty members as they develop their research agendas and apply for external funding.
2. Support junior faculty as they develop their post-doctoral research agenda.
3. Cultivate a collaborative campus environment with a focus on research development and interdisciplinary workspaces that can ultimately contribute to the intellectual life on campus.
4. Provide support networks for faculty outside of their immediate department in an effort to allow for the advancement of research agendas and share ideas and thoughts that otherwise may be downplayed out of concern for retention, promotion, and tenure.

The impetus for the interdisciplinary nature of Research Linx is based on the following findings: "The formation of a mentoring dyad or groups among faculty members from different departments, or inter-departmental or multi-disciplinary mentoring, at times can be more successful than mentoring dyads within departments, according to Wasburn and LaLopa (2003). Boice (1992) suggested mentoring works best through inter-departmental pairings because protégés feel more comfortable expressing concerns and weaknesses and asking questions than they do within their own department. Boice (1992) argued that mentoring is much more about relationships than about providing help in teaching or research in a specific discipline. Non-departmental mentors also can provide objective perspectives not influenced by departmental issues and politics and facilitate networking through meetings on campus with a diversity of faculty."

In Lumpkin (2011) "A model for Mentoring University Faculty" is available: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.832.5012&rep=rep1&type=pdf>)

Studies show that mentors serve in a host of roles, though traditionally fit into two complementary categories: "technical or instrumental career functions" and "psychosocial or expressive career functions" (Zellers et al., 2008; Chao, Waltz, & Gardner, 1992; Ibarra, 1993; Mott, 2002). Columbia University's *Guide to Best Practices in Faculty Mentoring* (<https://provost.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/MentoringBestPractices.pdf>) delineates, more clearly, those roles as they pertain to the actual act of mentoring:

#### **Technical or Instrumental Career Functions**

- Advisor for overall professional goals and career choices
- Advisor for the development of academic scholarship
- Facilitator of professional networking within and outside of the institution
- Sponsor who provides specific strategic opportunities with career relevance
- Advisor for the development of teaching skills

#### **Psychosocial or Expressive Career Functions**

- Promoter of scholarly values and professional integrity
- Advocate
- Role model
- Coach
- Intellectual challenger
- Colleague
- Supporter

The implementation of an interdisciplinary faculty mentorship at CSUSB, supported by the Office of Academic Research, and the NIH grant CSUSB ASPIRE, is designed to contribute to the development of faculty, creation of an institutional-wide support and training network, and replicate, on our campus, activities currently being undertaken at larger R1 universities to promote and support faculty research, grant activity, and publication at the highest level.

## **The Research Linx Program**

The Research Linx program will recruit up to 8 faculty members who are interested in: a) mentoring pre-tenured faculty, b) focused on deepening their mentoring skills c) willing to mentor faculty from outside of their disciplines, d) committing to advancing mentee's research/creative activities agenda, e) working collaboratively with the Office of Research Development to assist mentees in securing resources and funding for research. Mentors are willing to mentor one, or two pre-tenured faculty.

### **Faculty Mentors**

**In order to receive a \$1,500 stipend selected faculty mentors:**

1. Will participate in online training. The topics to be addressed in training include the role of the mentors and faculty-faculty mentoring relationships, best practices for mentorship, networking, culturally responsive and inclusive mentoring practices, and the particular challenges faced by underrepresented pre-tenured faculty, and research development resources.
2. Will participate in a mentor/mentee mixer.
3. Will mentor one or two mentees in the Spring and Summer of 2022.
4. Will work with mentees to develop broad goals for the mentorship period for each mentor/mentee pair.
5. Will meet with mentees once per month over the course of the mentorship period and reflect on these meetings and mentee needs.
6. Will be available to mentees over the phone, email, and Zoom.
7. Agree to have my name and campus contact publicized as a member of the Research Linx program.
8. Will submit the required CSUSB form to receive additional pay by April 2021.
9. Will complete a short pre- and post-evaluation survey.

The Research Linx program will identify junior faculty who might be interested in and benefit from this mentorship program.

### **Faculty Mentees**

1. Will participate in the mentor/mentee mixer.
2. Share with the mentor their research development goals and plan.
3. Will work with the mentor to develop broad goals for the mentorship period.
4. Will participate in relevant workshops to complement their mentorship (research planning, research development, grant writing, etc.).
5. Agree to have their names and campus contact publicized as members of the Research Linx program.
6. Will complete a short pre- and post-evaluation survey.

The Office of Academic Research will promote a healthy and productive work environment between mentors and mentees.

Questions about Research Linx and the application process should be directed to the Research Linx program coordinator, Dr. Ryan Keating at [RKeating@csusb.edu](mailto:RKeating@csusb.edu).