

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
PARENTS AND FAMILY PROGRAMS
PARENTS AND FAMILY ASSOCIATION GRANT PROPOSAL**

PROGRAM TITLE

CONNECTING ARIZONA ASSURANCE SCHOLARS TO FACULTY MENTORS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

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ACCOUNT #

OVERVIEW OF THE ARIZONA ASSURANCE FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM

What is Arizona Assurance?

The Arizona Assurance Scholars Program offers students from low-income families the opportunity to attend The University of Arizona and graduate with little or no debt.

Program Outcomes

- Increase the retention of a diverse group of low-income students.
- Promote academic success (for instance higher gpas, increased research and career path opportunities) for a diverse group of low-income students.
- Enhance communication between students and faculty.
- Encourage collaboration between students and the university community involved in the Arizona Assurance program.

Introduction to the Arizona Assurance Faculty Mentor Program

The goal of the mentorship component of Arizona Assurance is to connect faculty and students by supporting meaningful interactions in a non-classroom setting. These subsequent relationships will lead to a smooth transition from high school to university, more effective decision making, an ever-deepening love of learning and, ultimately, graduation from the University.

To help ensure a successful transition to college, Arizona Assurance provides a retention program that includes pairing faculty members with scholars. Faculty mentors meet with their students throughout the semester and are encouraged to invite students to contact them with concerns.

Evidence of Successful Faculty/Scholar Interactions

Linguistics professor Mike Hammond met with his two mentees from the class of 2008 during the fall semester and had the following to say, "I've been REALLY pleased with the interactions and the chance to work with April and Gladysfaith. They are both wonderful intelligent young women and I feel like our interactions have been useful to them, that I've been able to share some stuff about the university and my own experiences as a student that seems to have help them. This is fun and productive and I'm happy to be included."

Professor Parker Antin from the department of cell biology and anatomy has had long conversations with his mentee Marisela over lunch. They met recently to work out the details of Marisela investigating the development of the cardiovascular system, in his research lab next summer.

Arizona Assurance Scholar Elisa Meza shared positive comments about her mentor and the value of mentoring in the Arizona Assurance monthly newsletter. "I was fortunate enough to visit with the high school students themselves. Huddled up with them I can, I can feel the power of my words in their eyes...they showed me the value of a mentor, from which I learned as well from my voluntary mentor in the Assurance Program at school. There's no better feeling than having someone being there on the sidelines of your interests, to root for you, and to assist you at all times, because they want to."

ARIZONA ASSURANCE FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Benefits of Faculty Mentoring for Students and Faculty

Research shows that it is not enough to provide access to college for low-income students. Due to lack of academic preparation (Chen, 2005; Venezia et al., 2005) and lack of knowledge about various aspects of college culture among first-generation students (Laden, 2004; Rendon, 1996; Twigg, 2005), low-income students are particularly in need of a variety of support services. In addition, informal interaction with faculty outside of the classroom impacts student grades, leads to enhanced intellectual development and can have impacts that extend beyond graduation (Cox & Orehovec, 2007). As a result, the *Arizona Assurance Faculty Mentors Program* is essential to the academic and social support program success.

Faculty Mentor Responsibilities

- Receive training materials intended to increase faculty knowledge about the characteristics of this particular set of students
- Attend Meet Your Mentor event early in the fall semester
- Four times per year (twice first semester and twice second semester) – meet with mentee, take out to lunch, coffee, etc.

Mentee Responsibilities

- Meet Arizona Assurance staff at conference session at New Student Orientation
- Attend pre-enrollment program where scholar responsibilities are explained, including the value of faculty mentor interactions
- Attend Meet Your Mentor event
- Meet with Mentor twice per semester
- Attend workshops

STATEMENT OF NEED

The funding request for \$24,000 will directly support the Faculty Mentor and Scholar relationship by contributing to the initial event where the Mentor will be introduced to their Scholar Mentees for the very first time. This will be a significant program improvement from the first cohort of Arizona Assurance Scholars. Additionally the funding for one on one meetings with the scholars for lunch or over coffee will contribute to a relaxed out of classroom setting for the mentor relationship to develop. This request will benefit all of the Faculty Members who donate their time to this important program and likewise the Scholars who will have the opportunity to meet their mentor in a comfortable yet official and formalized setting – the Meet Your Mentor Event, which will be attended by President and Adrian Shelton, Wanda Howell, the scholars and the mentors.

Projected Budget

ITEM	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST
200 Arizona Assurance Faculty Mentors – funds for meetings with mentees	100	20,000
Meet Your Mentor Event		8,000
Training Materials		400
Funds for training and materials for each new mentor	5	1,000
Faculty Recognition	5	1,000
Total		30,400
Total funds requested		\$24,000

OUTCOME ASSESSMENT

The success of the Arizona Assurance Faculty Mentor Program will be demonstrated by improved retention rates for this cohort of students measured over their enrollment at the university. Faculty members and scholars will be surveyed once per semester and will be asked to provide evaluations of their meetings. Faculty mentors will keep track of the number of times they meet with their mentees and how often they communicate with them. The faculty members will be asked to provide information about internship opportunities that they have offered the Scholars.

RECOGNITION FOR PARENTS ASSOCIATION/PARENTS AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

If this proposal is accepted, the Student Affairs Office will ensure acknowledgement of the Parent and Family Association at Arizona Assurance activities including workshops at New Student Orientation and at the Meet Your Mentor Event in August. Sponsorship recognition will be provided on the Arizona Assurance website. Parent and Family materials will be available at the New Student Orientation workshops for parents and families that attend the sessions.