

Mini LAUNCH Mentoring Program

Overview:

Started by Lisa Miller in the fall of 2016 for new faculty in Human Development and Family Studies, the “mini-LAUNCH” mentoring program is a scaled-down version of the UC Davis LAUNCH program (see links below). The mini-LAUNCH program centers around a set of quarterly committee meetings where the mentee asks his/her most pressing questions and mentors offer guidance. The committee consists of the HDFS unit chair, a “content” (someone with similar research interests) mentor in HDFS, and a senior faculty mentor from outside the department to provide additional expertise and greater breadth of mentoring. Johnna Swartz was the first mentee in fall 2016 with committee members of L Miller (unit chair), A Guyer (unit content mentor), and C Carter (external senior mentor).

Process:

Unit chair and mentee work together identify mentors. Unit chair sends invitations to possible unit and senior mentors till commitments are made for academic year (3 mtgs), or an alternative is agreed up (e.g., rotating senior mentors). Alternatively, this can be done in steps where the content mentor is selected first and then he/she works with unit chair and mentee to identify possible senior mentor(s).

The mentee then works with content mentor to identify possible meeting times for the quarter, and then sets up a doodle poll with a list of times. Scheduling should be done as early in the quarter as possible. Mentee develops a list of questions (sample questions provided by unit chair through link posted on the LAUNCH website as well as former mentees) and works with content mentor to refine and prioritize list of topics. Questions that can be answered by content mentor should be answered on a rolling basis, with input from unit chair as needed, prior to quarterly meetings. (List of questions should not include those that are unit specific and would not be a good use of the senior mentor’s time.)

Mentee sends the list of questions to committee 2 days in advance of the meeting, with a reminder of place and time of meeting.

http://ucd-advance.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2015.04.21_uc_davis_launch_program_summary_2.pdf

http://ucd-advance.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2016.06.31_advance_launch_committee_questions.pdf

2016-2017 Mini LAUNCH Committee

Sample invitation email to senior mentor:

Dear Dr. XXXX,

As vice chair of the Human Ecology Department, and unit chair of the Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) unit, I’m writing to ask whether you would consider being a member of our mentoring committee for one of our newest faculty members, Dr. XXXX. XXX, who just started in July, [[brief description of area or program]].

The mentoring program is called “mini-LAUNCH” as it is a scaled-down version of the UC Davis LAUNCH program. The mini-LAUNCH committee consists of the HDFS unit chair, a “content” (someone with similar research interests) mentor in HDFS, and a senior faculty mentor from outside the department to provide additional expertise and greater breadth of mentoring. Your background is a perfect fit. Our goal is to meet once per quarter to provide mentoring to XXXX, however, we would be honored if you could attend even one meeting this year, due to your extraordinary service load.

I’ve attached a brief overview of the LAUNCH program as well as XXXX’s CV. Please let me know if you’d like any other information before you make your decision. Many thanks for considering our request!

-Lisa Miller

More on LAUNCH is available here:

<http://ucd-advance.ucdavis.edu/post/launch-committee-member-info>