

Symposium to be held at the Spring 2010 American Chemical Society Meeting in San Francisco, March 21-25 2010

Successful Mentoring Strategies to Facilitate the Advancement of Women Faculty

Compelling evidence exists to support the hypothesis that both formal and informal mentoring practices that provide access to information and resources are effective in promoting career advancement, especially for women. Such associations provide opportunities to improve the status, effectiveness, and visibility of a faculty member via introductions to new colleagues, knowledge of information about the organizational system, and awareness of innovative projects and new challenges. This symposium will feature an array of successful mechanisms for enhancing the leadership, visibility, and recognition of faculty members using various mentoring strategies. In particular, the organizers will share the results of their NSF-ADVANCE-PAID project that focuses on the distinctive environments of undergraduate liberal arts institutions and tests a “horizontal mentoring strategy” involving the formation of five-member alliances of senior women faculty members in chemistry and in physics at different institutions. Alliance members participate in discussions, workshops, and activities focused on career and leadership development through periodic gatherings of alliance members and the use of various collaboration and communication mechanisms.

Symposium Co-Organizers: Kerry Karukstis (Harvey Mudd College), Bridget Gourley (DePauw University), Miriam Rossi (Vassar College), and Laura Wright (Furman University)
Co-sponsored by the Division of Chemical Education, the Women Chemists Committee, and the Younger Chemists Committee

At the Spring 2009 American Chemical Society meeting in Salt Lake City, members of the project gathered for a reception and dinner.



Back row (L to R): Janis Lochner (Lewis & Clark College), Jill Granger (Sweet Briar College), Miriam Rossi (Vassar College), Darlene Loprete (Rhodes College), Leslie Lyons (Grinnell College), Laura Wright (Furman University), Carol Ann Miderski (Catawba College), Nancy Mills (Trinity University)
Front row (L to R): Ruth Beeston (Davidson College), Sunhee Choi (Middlebury College), Kerry Karukstis (Harvey Mudd College), Bridget Gourley (DePauw University)