Faculty Mentoring Networks: Community Professional Development for the Digital Age

Deborah L. Rook,1,2 Sam Donovan2,3, Carrie Diaz-Eaton2,4, Kristin P. Jenkins2,5 Jeremy M. Wojdak2,6, Nicole Chodkowski2,7, Elia Crisucci2,3, Gabriela Hamerlinck2,8, Elizabeth Hamman2,9, Adam P. Fagen1,2, Hayley Orndorf2,3

1. BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium; 2. Quantitative Undergraduate Biology and Synthesis (QUBES); 3. Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; 4. Digital and Computational Studies, Bates College; 5. Dept. of Biology, College of William and Mary; 6. Dept. of Biology, Radford University; 7. School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University; 8. Dept. of Geography, University of Florida

What is a Faculty Mentoring Network?
Faculty mentoring networks (FMNs) are a novel twist on faculty professional development that connect participants across geographic, institutional, and disciplinary boundaries to collaborate on improving instruction. FMNs are sustained, immersive, and community-based opportunities guided by mentor experts. Participants work together during a semester to plan and implement educational reforms in the classroom. FMNs are created by individuals or partnering projects that have expertise to share, and are hosted digitally on QUBESHub.

Faculty Mentoring Network Definitions
- Community: faculty members working together
- Professional Development: focused to help faculty create/modify teaching materials they can use immediately, with support throughout implementation
- Digital: online community and resources built on the QUBESHub platform

Benefits of Participation
- Interact with a community of colleagues
- Work with content and pedagogical experts
- Discover new teaching materials and pedagogical techniques
- Increase your confidence and comfort with quantitative content

A Typical FMN Semester
- Kick-Off Meeting (online or in person)
- Biweekly synchronous online meetings
- Share created or adapted materials with the community
- Continuous asynchronous support from peers and mentors

Benefits of running an FMN
- Share and test materials created by you or your project
- Create a community around your materials
- Meet new motivated and interested participants

Interested?
Check out qubeshub.org/fmns or contact Deb Rook (deb.rook@bioquest.org)