



Connecticut College Alumni Mentoring Program

Overview

Bridges, the alumni mentoring program, seeks to build substantive, sustainable relationships between students and alumni. Through these relationships, alumni can share advice and guidance based on their own career and life experiences – linking the college experience with potential academic and professional pursuits.

Student and alumni matches will be made through collaboration between the Alumni Relations office, the Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS) office, and the mentoring subcommittee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The full program goals include:

For students: to develop connections for both life and career mentoring with an alumna/us who has similar interests, who works in a field that student plans to pursue, and/or who pursued post-graduate education that the student may be considering.

For alumni mentors: to engage them in the life of the College and with current students, to leverage their career and life experiences in a manner that can inform and benefit students, and to foster a stronger alumni community.

Pilot Program Phase II

The initial phase of the Bridges alumni mentoring program was conducted as a pilot during the 2006-2007 academic year. Through this pilot, the program matched approximately 8 to 12 juniors or seniors with an equal number of alumni. The pool of alumni for the pilot was sourced through the Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as alumni members of the College's Board of Trustees.

The second phase of the pilot is taking place during the 2008-2009 academic year, when between 50 and 100 juniors and seniors will be matched with alumni mentors.

CELS will help to identify potential students for participation. Students and mentors will communicate approximately two to four times per academic year. During the pilot program, students and mentors will participate in feedback sessions so that the final program guidelines can be based on their experiences.

Post pilot, applications for the first year of the program will be sent out to students during the second semester of their sophomore year. Alumni mentors will be recruited through multiple media outlets, including the Connecticut College Alumni Magazine, e-newsletter, online community, student outreach, and alumni networking.

Guidelines

Alumni Mentors – Full Program Guidelines

- Meets/interacts with student approximately two to four times per academic year until student graduates
- Shares career and life experiences in order to provide perspective to students on post Connecticut College opportunities including graduate education and career development guidance
- Considers hosting student, preferably at his/her place of work, once or twice during the academic year
- Considers student for summer internship (post junior or senior year)
- Completes feedback form at the end of each academic year in order to provide input for continuous improvement of the program
- Communicates to student and alumni office if unable to continue as a mentor
- Participate in up to two teleconferences with other alumni mentors and the Alumni Association Subcommittee in order to provide feedback on design of final guidelines for the BRIDGES alumni mentoring program

Student – Full Program Guidelines

- Completes application by stated due date (during second half of sophomore year) indicating declaration of major/field(s) of interest, and important information that will facilitate the matching of the student with an appropriate mentor

- **Initiates** dialogue with mentor through phone or e-mail communication within two weeks of match
- Respects mentor's time through preparation of questions/topics for discussion before meeting or calling and thanks mentor for time and guidance
- Actively engages mentor approximately two to four times per academic year
- Participates in two focus groups with other students involved in pilot to provide feedback on design of final guidelines for the ultimate BRIDGES alumni mentoring program

Interested?

If you would like to mentor a current student and provide advice about career paths, grad school and other choices, send an e-mail explaining your interest to alumni@conncoll.edu.

For more information, you may also contact Beth Poole at beth.poole@conncoll.edu or 860-439-2301.