



URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING, 0517
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Dear Colleague,

We are preparing for another great year of civically-engaged research at UCSD. We are delighted you are interested in our program. This letter (including an information sheet) describes our mentorship program. We eagerly invite you to participate as a mentor of one our student-mentor research teams. The teams are not formed yet. That will happen beginning Sept 24, 2009 when the students get together for the first time. Students work with their mentors to define a team focus. There is a lot of flexibility.

The best research in a field like Urban Studies and Planning is civically-engaged research - that is, research that helps join the university to the needs of our larger community. We have come to rely upon a broad network of mentors and experts (on and off campus) to make this possible. The mentorship program has been crafted to avoid making it burdensome.

The following page of this file spells out the role of a mentor –including benefits and expectations. Let us know if you would like more info, we would be delighted to work with you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keith Pezzoli".

Keith Pezzoli
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BACKGROUND

Our web site is currently undergoing a major redesign. But you can view the site from last year. You should find these links particularly helpful:

- Senior Sequence Research Practicum: <http://seniorsequence.net/>
- Grand Challenges database and Student-mentor Research Teams: http://seniorsequence.net/sr/gcrt/gc_all.php
- Student-Mentor Research Team Aims and FAQs: http://seniorsequence.net/?page_id=13
- Mentor Guide: http://seniorsequence.net/?page_id=46

Mentors provide two kinds of expertise that we find difficult to offer the students on our own:

1. Cutting-edge knowledge about what research questions are most worth asking in the student's area of concentration, especially in the San Diego region.
2. Knowledge about the national and global debates and controversies within that field.

Mentor input helps us create and continually improve what we call 'Grand Challenges' --a database of research frontiers and topics designed to inspire students as they embark on independent research (individually and as a member of a student-mentor research team). We list mentors in this database according to their areas of expertise (e.g, affordable housing, urban and regional planning, public health). Contact between the mentor and students is channeled through one elected student leader to minimize the demand on mentors.

Mentors are expected to:

1. Provide us with ideas for student-mentor research teams.
2. Provide us with a brief bio that we can enter into our password protected mentor profile page.
3. Meet with your student-mentor research team at least three times over the six-month senior sequence (October, January and March).
4. Occasionally respond to student questions via email (each team has a student leader to minimize the demand on you—all correspondence will be coordinated and to the point).
5. Help write a brief synopsis of your teams research (a two-page narrative that will be published in our Sustainable City Region Reader). Students write most of this narrative. Mentors provide an expert hand.

What do you get in return for all this effort?

1. Research results. If all goes as planned, your student-mentor research team should provide you and your organization some very useful information about a subject you deem important and worthy of extended investigation.
2. Workforce development. You may benefit from this as an investment in students who can work for your organization after they graduate. Or at least take comfort in the fact that you are helping nurture a new cadre of smart, dedicated worker-scholars trying to make our region and world a better place.
3. Acknowledgement on our poster, which will be displayed at our well attended, annual Urban Expo (Price Center Theatre, UCSD, March 11, 2010).