Building On-Campus Mentoring Partners

An assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering who had jump-started an impressive research program chose to focus his grant on increasing his limited experience in teaching. His goal was to strengthen his pedagogical skills and build a network of support from senior faculty. In doing so, he discovered that many of his most productive mentoring relationships were close to home. As part of his grant, the assistant professor asked his department chair to co-teach an undergraduate course with him, followed by one-on-one mentoring on teaching practices after each class. He also arranged regular pedagogical meetings with his chair and two other noted teachers in his college. Finally, he attended a career development preconference institute at his professional association’s annual conference. There, he met a small cohort of early-career faculty in his disciplinary area with whom to share syllabi, teaching activities, assignments, and assessments.