

# Supplemental Material

*CBE—Life Sciences Education*

Prunuske *et al.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

### Questions for mentee focus group

1. Could you tell me about why you applied to the Bridges or Pathways programs?
2. Please describe what you see as the role of a **mentor in this program**. What specific skills does your laboratory mentor help you to develop?
3. What do you see as the benefits for students enrolled in this program?
4. What are the benefits for your laboratory mentors?
5. What factors influenced your decision of which lab you chose to work in?
7. What kinds of traits would you say are most valued or advantageous for a faculty member involved as a laboratory mentor in this program to possess?
8. What is your plan after graduation and has your laboratory mentor encouraged you to obtain a PhD to garner an academic position?
9. As you may know, a goal of the Bridges and Pathways programs is to recruit and train students from underrepresented groups in higher education.
  - a. From this context, what does the term “underrepresented” mean to you?
  - b. How, if at all, does this sense of diversity enhance or complicate the mentee/mentor relationships?

10. Outside of the Bridges and Pathways programs, what kind of experiences have you had working with a mentor?
11. How does your role in the Pathways program differ, if at all, from other mentoring programs you have been involved with?
13. Overall, how would you define a successful mentor/mentee relationship/experience?
  - a. What sorts of evidence have you seen to indicate that mentorship has been effective? Ineffective?
  - b. What are the biggest factors contributing to why students stop coming to lab?
    - c. If you feel you are not getting appropriate guidance from your mentor how do you deal with this or what resources are available to help improve your relationship?
14. In closing, our goal for this project is to learn about the mentorship experience in general, but also, more particularly, in the Pathways and Bridges Programs. Given this, do you have any additional comments or information you would like to share?

**CONSENT FORM**  
**Narrative Data from Mentee: An Exploratory Study**

You are invited to be in a research study exploring undergraduates' perceptions of the mentorship experience. You were selected as a possible participant because of your involvement in the Bridges or Pathways Programs. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

**Background Information**

The purpose of this study is to explore undergraduates' perceptions of the mentorship experience including whether mentorship is perceived to be a positive or negative personal and professional experience.

**Procedures:**

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to participate in a brief demographic questionnaire and survey followed by a series of open-ended questions to be discussed as a focus group. Interviews are expected to last between 60 and 90 minutes and will be audio recorded.

**Confidentiality:**

The records of this study will be kept private. In any sort of report we might publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify you as a participant (i.e., area of specialty if uniquely identifying, name).

The digital audio-recordings used during this interview will be transcribed for analysis. On the transcriptions, your identifying information will be replaced with a generic identification number. Following transcription, we will delete all audio files from the digital recorder. Electronic transcriptions will be saved on a secure, password-protected computer only accessible by research staff.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota or the Bridges or Pathways Programs. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

**Risks and Benefits of being in the Study**

We do not anticipate any risks from this research. As a reminder, you are free to refuse to answer any questions you do not feel comfortable discussing.

Your participation in the study may not result in any direct benefit(s) for you. However, the information you share has the potential to improve mentorship support services and educational opportunities for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

**Compensation:**

You will receive a meal but no additional compensation for your participation.

**Contacts and Questions:**

The lead researcher conducting this study is Amy Prunuske. You may ask any questions now. If you have questions later, you are encouraged to contact her at 321SMed 1035 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812, or by phone (218-726-6748) or email (aprunusk@d.umn.edu).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher(s), **you are encouraged** to contact the Research Subjects' Advocate Line, D528 Mayo, 420 Delaware St. Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455; (612) 625-1650.

*You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.*

**Statement of Consent:**

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_