

Impact of Cheryl-Lee Howard Mentor Me Program
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I am happy to continue my participation in the Mentor Me Program as a way to give back to a program that helped me. For me, the program provided leadership and support at a point in my career where I transitioned from departmental research administrator at an Academic Medical Center to director at a PUI. Prior to this I had no experience in a PUI setting. This transition was made easier through guided mentorship provided through the Mentor Me Program. I found the monthly conference calls a benefit as we explored topics such as leadership, listening, organization, and organizational structure as it applies to research. Not only were the topics of interest but so is learning to effectively communicate and present over the phone. In addition to the practical skills developed, I was also able to bounce ideas off my mentor as we worked to develop a project. During my time in the program I was able to develop and implement a faculty professional grant development fellowship that aims to encourage and support faculty seeking external support. This program benefitted from NCURA resources and we have seen increased participation from faculty. My mentor and I presented on this and related topics at the Region II Spring Meeting in April 2015.

Mentorship continues to play an important role in my professional life. The collaboration that started with the Cheryl-Lee Howard Mentor Me Program was a key factor in a successful NIH Biomedical/ Biobehavioral Research Administration Award (HD085544, Harman PI). In addition to presenting and expanding my network I am also the Region II Secretary and a member of the Professional Development Faculty. Opportunities such as these benefit me by opening doors and providing connections so that I can be more effective in my role.