

# Student Mentoring Program ~Mentor Survey

2008-2009 School Year

Please help improve the Student Mentoring Program by answering the following questions. Your answers will remain confidential and your identification will only be used for your PDH certificate. Please answer all the questions as completely and as honestly as possible. We are particularly interested in any comments about program strengths and/or weaknesses. Thank you for your cooperation.

**1. Please enter your First Name.**

**2. Please enter your Last Name.**

REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

RESPONDING 36 Out of 65

**3. Please Select Teacher's name**

REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

RESPONDING 36

**4. Please select Your Team Name**

RESPONDING 36 For 24 Teams 8 Teams not represented

**5. Did you attend the Orientation this year?**

Yes (14)

No (17)

I started after Orientation (5)

RESPONDING 36

**6. Did you receive the "Student Mentoring Program Hand Book"**

Yes (29)

No (6)

RESPONDING 35

**7. Was the Orientation process**

Clear (23)

Incomplete (2)

Confusing (1)

Not Useful (1)

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**8. Were you told how to access all of our Program Information and check on updates via our web site?**

Yes (32)

No (3)

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## 9. Were you able to provide assistance to the Teams on their Submittals? i.e. synopsis, schedule, etc

Yes	(30)
No	(1)
Not given opportunity by team	(4)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>35</b>

## 10. Did you have any trouble receiving emails via our dedicated email service?

Yes	(0)
No	(35)
Did not know about it	(1)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 11. Did you know you were to verify your team's web site information after each submittal? (i.e. Names, titles, employers, synopses, logos, logo link, etc)

Yes	(13)
No	(20)
Did not know about team's web site	(3)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 12. Did you attend the workshop this year?

Yes	(8)
No	(28)
Did not know about it	(0)
Other: If you did not attend, please let us know why. Busy	(1)
Other: If you did not attend, please let us know why. Had covered the topics in previous years, and other obligations at that time.	(1)
Other: If you did not attend, please let us know why. Partial attendance - had to leave early.	(1)
Other: If you did not attend, please let us know why. Schedule conflict	(2)
Other: If you did not attend, please let us know why. Scheduling conflict	(2)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

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## 13. APPRECIATION EVENT FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Very few attended this year's event.

Please give us your suggestions on how to improve attendance.

#	Response
1	Put forth a greater effort notifying the teachers and getting commitments from them. Encourage the mentors to talk to the teachers about the event. Send the teachers a survey of likely places that would be of interest.
1	Better key-note speakers ???
1	don't know what else you could do...it was great!!!
1	Have a small special session for only the mentors. Since this session would be only for the mentors, more may attend. Subjects for this session could be; problems being encountered, Assistance needed, others. Session could 1/2 to one hour long. <b>But we want to thank all our volunteers!</b>
1	I attended and liked it.
1	I attended.
1	I think a few more ice breakers would be okay. In general, the only time I see these folks (many for the first time) is at this get together. And while we shouldn't dwell on it TOO much, it might be worthwhile to at least discuss as a group the "things that are working, and things that are not..." :) <b>Good ideas!</b>
1	I thought it was a great event. I just think that this year was exceptionally busy for everyone and didn't leave a lot of time for extra events.
1	I thought the simple social this was good. Maybe others thought based on last year they needed to be there precisely on time and needed to stay the entire time.
1	I wanted to attend but my personal schedule did not allow it.
1	I was out of town on business this year. After work events are usually pretty difficult for my schedule. I don't think I have any good suggestions.
1	I was unable to make the Appreciation Event due to some conflicts that came up at the last second. Otherwise I would have been able to attend; I thought the time, location, etc was desirable.
1	I was unaware of the event.
1	I would have attended, but an airline stranded me away from it.
1	I would like to have attended. My work schedule did not permit my attendance.
1	Make immediately before, same day, or immediately following the Competitions/Awards Ceremony so that it is advertised and supported well and is timely.
1	No suggestion. I was out of town that weekend and could not change plans.
1	No suggestion. I was unable to attend due to work conflicts.
1	No suggestions. I have already spent a lot of time to visit with my team and didn't want to attend something else.
1	Provide a better summary/description of the event beforehand. ??
1	Sorry guys, it is just a time thing. Too much stuff trying to fit into too little of it. - but I do feel appreciated.
1	Would love to attend...just falls on a bad day. Perhaps hold it in conjunction (i.e. after) the awards presentations...

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**Committee Response to above:**

**We thank you for your comments and we will incorporate them as applicable.**

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## 14. Did you attend the Competitions this year?

Yes	(23)
No	(13)
Did not know I was invited	(0)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 15. Did you attend the Awards Ceremony this year?

Yes	(13)
No	(23)
Did not know I was invited	(0)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 16. Other mentor?

<b>On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being excellent, how would you rate him/her?</b>	Average rank
<b>32 RESPONDING</b>	3.3

## 17. Teacher?

<b>On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being excellent, how would you rate him/her?</b>	Average rank
<b>36 RESPONDING</b>	3.2

## 18. Hours volunteered this school year as mentor for Professional Development Hours certificate (30 hrs max granted) We will send you a certificate validating these hours

Not Interested	(6)
1-5 hrs	(2)
6-10 hrs	(2)
11-15 hrs	(2)
16-20 hrs	(5)
21-25 hrs	(5)
26-30 hrs	(14)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 19. Will you be able to mentor next year?

Yes	(22)
No	(5)
Please call me	(7)
Other: Please use me as an expert resource in the area of see below in comments (in 2 yrs)	(1)
Other: Please use me as an expert resource in the area of software	(1)
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## 20. Would you mentor at this school again?

Yes	(30)
No	(5)
Other: Give School name where you wish to mentor *****	(1)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>36</b>

## 21. Please give us any other suggestions, comments, criticisms. Thank You

#	Response
1	Being new to the program, it was very vague as far as guidelines and role I was to take in the process. <b>We will provide a list of duties on our web site defining the duties of mentors and teachers.</b>
1	I appreciate the "gold/silver" designations... they help! We might provide guidelines for "if you do this, you are Silver, do THIS and you are Gold", etc. At a lot of times during the year there is the "breadth vs. depth" issue... which is preferred? Limited but broad exposure? Deep exposer but limited in depth? Obviously some teams/projects will help guide this, but overall it is often a judgement call that mentor's and teacher's make... in part to help "impress the judges". Also some guidelines of minimal expectations (creating the document and giving the presentation are the minimum) would be helpful! Do we expect that students should have some basic "status reporting skills"? Project management skills (e.g. be able to read a Gantt chart)? Estimation skills beyond a "price per square foot"? The technology is also fun... but helping the kids see that they need to be able to both evaluate and present ideas is also important! :) And guidance from the group would be helpful! <b>We strive to provide this information at the Orientation and Workshop events. Any information on how to improve these events would be welcomed.</b>
1	I do not do well with middle schoolers; they lack the focus that is necessary for me to deal well with them. <b>Please let the Administrator know your preferences for a High School team.</b>
1	I felt some of the judges questions were beyond the scope of the program. These projects are suppose to be architectural or engineering proposals. Typically, in my experience, that means a client asks us, as engineers or architects, to develop a schematic plan for a purpose they have already identified. Half of the questions posed by the judges had more to do with the business model of the development than the engineering and architectural aspects of the project. If the judges are going to ask questions such as, "What will you charge for admission?" and "How do plan to interest people in coming to your building?", perhaps we need to have accountants and marketing professionals as mentors. <b>We will bring this to the attention of the judges at their Orientation session.</b>
1	I have attended Awards presentations in past years and they are a very good event. I was out of town on this day as well, or would have attended the presentations too. This is a great program for introducing students to engineering and design professions. Keep up the good work.
1	I think the teachers should consistently make students aware ... ..that Mentors can usefully provide access to expert resources; ...Mentors are looking for ways to assist during their visits so students should be prepared to ask relevant questions during visits; ...some home work building on what was discussed at prior meetings maybe needed to make best use of Mentors time during visits; and Mentors can not only can assist with their project but also provide them ways to learn about all the disciplines required to complete a real-world architecture or engineering project. Thus, providing students useful information

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to make future career choices.

**You should mention this to the teacher and the students. A good time to do this is doing the first team meetings. We do emphasize to the teachers that the role of the mentor is as a resource which includes office and construction field trips, but maybe it needs repeating.**

- 1 I will be moving away from Omaha for at least a year and therefore I'd love to mentor when I come back (2010-2011 school year)
- 1 I've enjoyed working with this school for a few years, but every year I get a different teacher. This year the teacher cancelled most sessions early on and then stopped responding to my E-mails. I'm not sure if he was dissatisfied with me, if he had enough support from the other mentor, or if he did it all on his own. I was surprised to see they participated at all. I'd be curious to know how well prepared they were. All in all, I'd prefer a different assignment.  
**Please, if you have any problems, contact the Administrator.**
- 1 Teachers rarely respond to emails.
- 1 The teacher at \*\*\* thought that the entire year was a lot to expect from middle school students. I agree in part...but those schools that have added the program as a class definitely have an edge. For \*\*\*, it was a "club" activity.  
**The problem of scheduling the program as extracurricular or part of the curriculum is a recurring comment after each year's competition. We tend to view this as "the grass is greener". However we are open to suggestions and the Administrator has posed this as a topic for discussion on our "LinkedIn" Group, "SAME Student Mentoring Program".**
- 1 This continues to be an outstanding program thanks to the great leadership that SAME is willing to provide. I was encouraged when the Judges questioned the kids on the impact this program had or was having on their future plans. Maybe this is a stock question that the Judges are now asking, if not maybe it would be advisable to include it.
- 1 This is such a great program. Thanks for all that the program staff do!
- 1 Try to have more military presence...it is supposed to be Society of American Military Engineers... Perhaps add just a few minutes during the awards ceremony describing what engineers (and related trades) are, what they do, and where there are opportunities... Something to inspire the students.  
**Noted.**
- 1 Unfortunately my work load increased to the point that it was difficult to put the time in that this project requires. In particular, the months of September to March are our busiest. As a result, I will not try to participate next year. It just isn't fair to the students to have a partially committed mentor. The school that I worked with is great and I have no issues, other than the lack of time, with working there again. Should my work load lighten enough to feel like I could be able to fully commit again in the future, I will let you know. It has been a great and rewarding experience to be a part of this program and I wish it continued success.

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- 1 Unsure if I will be able to be a mentor for next year, it will all depend on my work schedule and class schedule. Looking to take a course or two in the fall and sprint semesetes.
- 1 While I enjoyed the speaker at this year's awards ceremony, I'm not sure he really understood the SMP and tried very hard to tie it in with his message. You have been very lucky to have some great speakers in the last few years and they really hit home the idea of taking a look at architecture/engineering/math/science and seeing if there was a future in one of those fields. Keeping their interest in these fields and excited about the possibilities of where a career in architecture or engineering could take them is key to the whole program and what has been exciting about a lot of the past speakers. Overall I was very happy with the SMP this year. It seems like some students are maybe dropping interest because of the increased emphasis a few other schools are putting into the program. I'm not sure how to level the playing field fairly, but hopefully we can continue to get more students involved.  
**Our primary goal when seeking a keynote speaker is one who will motivate them to be their very best.**  
**There are a lot of activities competing for the students' time. All we need to do is plant the seed.**

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**Thank you all for volunteering your talents, your time, and your responses to this survey. Your efforts do make a difference to the students and to the future of our country.**