

# Student Mentoring Program ~Teacher Survey

2008-2009 School Year

Please help improve the Student Mentoring Program by answering the following questions. Your answers will remain confidential. Please answer all the questions as completely and as honestly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation

## 1. Please enter your First Name.

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**RESPONDING 22**

## 2. Please enter your Last Name.

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**RESPONDING 22**

## 3. Please select your Team name

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**Num HS Teams 13 Out of 19 68 %**

**Num MS Teams 9 Out of 13 69 %**

**RESPONDING 22 Out of 32**

## 4. Will you be participating next year?

Yes (18)

No (0)

Don't Know (4)

**RESPONDING 22**

## 5. Will your school be participating next year?

Yes (19)

No (0)

Don't Know (3)

**RESPONDING 22**

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## 6. The following questions pertain to the students on your team. Please answer them to the best of your ability.

How many plan to attend college?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	2	N/A
	18	189+
<b>RESPONDING</b>	20	

How many plan to attend the University of Nebraska?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	(3)	don't know
	(2)	N/A
	(11)	39+
<b>RESPONDING</b>	16	

How many plan to enter the Engineering/Architectural fields

	Num Teams	Num Students
	2	N/A
	15	56+
<b>RESPONDING</b>	17	

How many plan to attend The Peter Kiewit Institute?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	2	don't know
	2	N/A
	9	16+
<b>RESPONDING</b>	13	

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**7. The following questions pertain to previous year SMP students.  
Please answer them to the best of your ability.**

How many attended college?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	1	don't know
	5	N/A
	10	<b>293+</b>
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>16</b>	

How many entered the Engineering/Architectural fields?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	2	don't know
	3	N/A
	9	<b>115+</b>
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>14</b>	

How many became Engineers or Architects?

	Num Teams	Num Students
	4	don't know
	3	N/A
	4	<b>57+</b>
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>11</b>	

How many years have you participated?

	Num Teachers	Num Years
	(2)	N/A
	(1)	01
	(2)	02
	(1)	03
	(1)	07
	(1)	10
	(1)	11
	(1)	14
	(2)	15
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>12</b>	

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<b>8. Did you sponsor more than one team this year?</b>	
No	(12)
Yes	(9)
Other: If yes, how Many? 2	(5)
<b>9. Did you attend the Orientation this year</b>	
No	(16)
Yes	(5)
I started after date of Orientation	(0)
<b>10. Did you receive the Hand Book for the SMP?</b>	
No	(1)
Yes	(20)
<b>11. Was the Orientation process</b>	
Clear	(13)
Incomplete	(0)
Confusing	(0)
Not Useful	(2)
<b>12. Did you attend the workshop this year</b>	
Yes	(10)
No	(9)
Did not know about it	(0)
If you could not attend, please let us know why. <b>Conflict with other Gifted events</b>	(1)
If you could not attend, please let us know why. <b>Family Commitment</b>	(1)
If you could not attend, please let us know why. <b>it is tough to get kids there on a saturday with their numerous other comittments</b>	(1)
If you could not attend, please let us know why. <b>too many comittments will not take a saturday to do more</b>	(1)
If you could not attend, please let us know why. <b>Previous engagement</b>	(1)
<b>13. Did you have any problems receiving our emails via our dedicated email service</b>	
Yes	(1)
No	(20)
Did not know about it	(0)

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**14. Were you instructed on how to access all our Program Information etc via our web site?**

Yes (21)

No (0)

**15. Were you given enough information to perform your duties and where to find that information on the web site?**

Yes (21)

No (0)

**16. Was the information:**

Clear (21)

Incomplete (0)

Confusing (0)

Not Useful (0)

**17. Did you check and verify your team's web site information after each submittal?  
(Names, titles, employers, synopses, logos, logo links, etc)?**

Yes (18)

No (1)

Did not know about team web site (0)

Did not know I was supposed to  
check team web site information (2)

**18. Appreciation Event for all Volunteers:**

**Very few attended this year's event.**

**Please give us your suggestions on how to improve attendance.**

- 1 as a teacher there are already so many things to do, this year's event was during our parent teacher conferences
- 1 Difficult to say because people have schedules that are just too busy. Possibly have it earlier in the year not so close to the competition. Maybe have a training meeting taught by some of the award winning team instructors who can give suggestions to new teacher leaders and mentors. History Day competition did that one fall and had some of the state winners (there is a national competition) give helpful suggestions to newer teacher sponsors.
- 1 I was unable to attend this year, but loved it last year. I will plan to attend if it is held next year.
- 1 I would have attended except for a previous commitment at school.
- 1 I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN FIND A TIME THAT IS "GOOD" FOR EVERYONE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO MAIL AN INVITATION WITH AN RSVP POSTCARD.
- 1 It is important to provide the opportunity to attend the appreciation event. People may be too busy to attend.

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- 1 It was great. Main thing is to get the word out to all. Maybe give recognition ie "Please come so you and other mentors can be recognized for your work". Might motivate some.
- 1 My time is so limited. We are benefitting greatly from the program, but, need more help to be able to take advantage of all of the opportunities SAME provide for us.
- 1 Once again, there is so much going on.
- 1 prizes, bonus points for team????
- 1 The event was fine. Timing is always a difficult part for any event. I think you just need to establish a date and hope there are not too many conflicts. Normally, it is the busy people that add the SMP to an already full planner and make it work. Was this date preset from orientation. I don't remember. If it is then volunteers could add it the social to their planner early.
- 1 Unfortunately, it came on a day I had a prior committment. Hopefully next year I can go.
- 1 Very difficult for me to make evening activities because I work two nights and have family commitments.
- 1 Work nights

14 RESPONDING

**Committee Response to above:  
We thank you for your comments and will include them as applicable.**

## 19. Please select Mentor One's name

REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY	(0)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>22</b>

## 20. What was Mentor One's total time involvement with the team

0 – 10 Hrs	(2)
11 – 20 Hrs	(8)
21 – 30 Hrs	(11)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>22</b>

## 21. Please enter Mentor Two's name (If applicable)

REMOVED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY	(0)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>22</b>

## 22. What was Mentor Two's total time involvement with the team (If applicable)

0 – 10 Hrs	(4)
11 – 20 Hrs	(7)
21 – 30 Hrs	(8)
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<b>22</b>

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<b>23. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being excellent, how do you rate your mentor(s)?</b>	
	Average rank
Mentor One, Check one	1.5
(If applicable) Mentor Two, Check one	1.7
<b>24. If you needed more help than provided by your mentor, who did you contact?</b>	
Did not need extra help	(5)
Asked mentor to find someone	(8)
Contacted the Program Administrator	(3)
Other: ActivateOmaha	(1)
Other: found them myself	(1)
Other: Industry Engineers	(1)
Other: Other Industry Engineers	(1)
Other: Used a UNO professor	(1)
Other: used other outside sources applicable to our project	(1)
Other: We asked for help from other sources.	(1)
<b>25. Student Mentoring Program</b>	
	Average rank
On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being excellent, how do you rate the overall program?	1.3
<b>26. Please give us any other suggestions, comments, criticisms. Thank you</b>	
<p>1 All submittals should be due 2nd semester.  <b>Anyone having problems should consult the Administrator</b></p> <p>1 great program, but would like better feedback on how to actually improve our work  <b>We will do a better job of impressing this onto the judges</b></p> <p>1 Great program.</p> <p>1 I submitted two surveys, 1 for each team.</p> <p>1 I think it is a wonderful program but we are having scheduling trouble in my school. In my opinion, the competition has become increasingly more competitive over the past four years - which can be a good thing. However, as a school that does not offer the competition within a class period, I don't think we can keep up with the schools that can dedicate more time to the prep. Our mentors have been terrific but I doubt that all will be willing to return next year because of their professional workloads. I would highly recommend any of the mentors I have worked with the past two years. All are very good with students, upbeat, natural teachers, flexible, and would be assets if and when they have time to participate. I am also jobs next year and don't know if my replacement will be willing to put in all the extra hours it takes to coordinate unless we can find a solution to the scheduling problem. Students found the presentation experience memorable and we felt they did a very good job handling the questions. I think that made them feel that it had been worth the sacrifice of time and energy. To say they were discouraged at times would be realistic. It was a struggle for them to stay with the team and we dropped from 22 to 16 students because they were carrying this responsibility on top of their regular classes, sports, clubs, and community involvement. I hate to see us lose the program but the increased rigor of the competition is discouraging to</p>	

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schools running this as a club or just a weekly activity. We are looking at alternate scheduling possibilities but I am not certain if we will hit on a satisfactory solution. I think right now, the report becomes so time consuming when you have such limited time that most of the kids may look at this as primarily report writing not the kind of hands-on experience most of them probably envisioned at the onset of signing up for the project. As one student said to me for every hour we tried to meet as a group, he had put in another hour or two working on research and writing. I truly believe it is good for them but if it were a class and graded it would seem "more legitimate" to them. Keep up the great work. Most of what I see is "growing pains." However, I would hate to see you lose more schools and in the past four years, it seems as if the number of school districts participating have stagnated or dropped slightly.

**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 ON EVALUATION THE STUDENTS NOTICED THEY DID NOT HAVE THEIR SUBMITTAL SCORES. JUDGES REALLY NEED TO ATTEND TRAINING IF THEY HAVE NOT ATTENDED IN THE PAST. JUDGES DID A NICE JOB COMMENTING.  
**Scores are only presented to the teams on the Summary Score Sheets.  
We will make attendance at the Judges Orientation mandatory for new judges.**
- 1 Thank you to all that make this program available to us. It has helped many students each year to grow and that includes students that do not major in engineering.
- 1 Thanks for all the time and hard work that you put into this program!
- 1 The aspect I have really enjoyed is watching my students grow. Last year they were shy, introverted young people. But with lots of practice speaking in front of a variety of "volunteers" they blossomed into confident young men and women. They have also been encouraged by our mentors and myself to go into the engineering field. With the mentors help and guidance, many questions and concerns have been answered. As a group we have worked very hard, but had fun at the same time. Thank you for doing this for the kids!
- 1 This is a great program. This is only my second year. I am anxious to learn the route to getting the gold. It seems that the feedback is always super positive but it does not yield top scores. Comments to improve and excel would be helpful.  
**Please continue to participate. We do not believe that the winners are limited to those who take home the prizes. The program is to give the students knowledge of the "Real World" and the advantages of a higher education, be it an engineer or not. In this light, we believe all the participants are winners.**
- 1 This year was great. Speaker and award ceremony was smooth. Workshop was updated and well organized. Perhaps with a new PKI director we can expand to a national level. That would be cool.
- 1 We seem to have a problem with the written part of the program. Could the jr. high part of the written be simplified somehow???  
**Since we have two divisions, the students in each division are competing with their peers. There should be no disparity.**
- 1 While I believe this program to be very organized, and well put together, there is little flexibility to suit the needs of the different schools. I understand that it may be possible for some schools, even middle schools to have a class where students work on this project, however that is not possible for my school. I'd like to see some flexibility with submittals because submittals in October are not very usable, and even the December one was nothing but a check-up. I'd like to see a shortened timeline for schools that would like

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to use it. I have trouble getting 7th graders to commit to a project all year long when there are other/more exciting programs offered by my school. That may be just an issue for my school, but I feel I could better convince students to be committed if it wasn't all year for a middle-schooler. Thanks so much for a fun program, and giving us a chance to participate.

**Curricular vs Club, see above comment and/or our LinkedIn Group**

**You are 100% correct in that the submittals are nothing but check-ups on the teams. That is the purpose of submittals in the real world and in the SMP world. Anyone having problems with any of the Program please consult the Administrator for waivers or clarification of requirements.**

**13 RESPONDING**

**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.**