

Using Peer Mentoring to Promote Academic Success, Professional Development, and a Supportive Intellectual Community in a Scholarship Program



Workshop Facilitator: **Dr. Julian Davis**



Student Panel:

Anthony Cooper

Natalie De La Cerdá

Victoria Doan

Marcela Gutierrez

Sara Ibarra

Amber Martinez

Outline

- Group Discussion 1: Peer Mentoring Advantages
- Cardinal Chemistry Scholars (C₂S) Program
 - Seminar Courses
 - Peer Mentoring Approach
 - Examples: 1) Orientation and 2) Advising
- Student Panel
- Group Discussion 2: Program Development
- Conclusion



Group Discussion 1

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Benefits of Peer Mentoring
- 3) Goals for your program



Cardinal Chemistry Scholars (C₂S) Program

- Funded by National Science Foundation S-STEM Grant
- Benefits:
 - Up to \$5,000 per semester in scholarship support (\$10,000 per year)
 - Academic and mentoring support for success in coursework
 - Reserved registration for select chemistry courses
 - Personalized mentoring from peers and faculty
 - Preparation to improve competitiveness for employment and admission to postbaccalaureate programs
 - Travel to scientific conferences (especially when presenting research)
 - Assistance obtaining research opportunities, admission to graduate programs, and employment
- Administered through a seminar course students take each semester



C₂S Seminar Courses

One Credit Hour (Graded) Every Semester

First Year: Lower Division
Subsequent Years: Upper Division



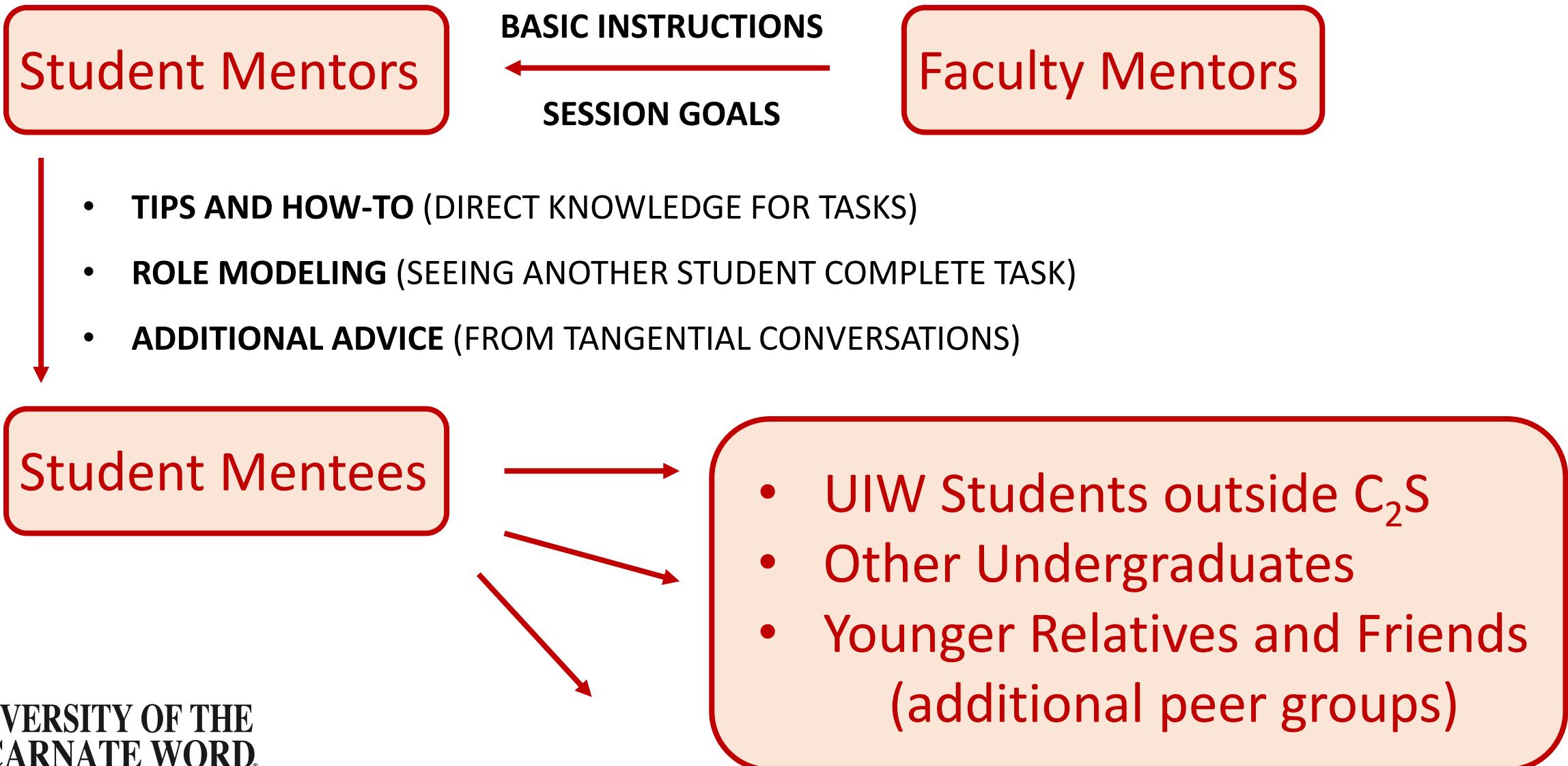
Meeting Time Secured!!! (Fri. am.)

- Course Schedule Planning
- Career & Writing Center Workshops
- Peer Review of Resume, etc...
- Study Sessions (STEM Courses)
- Conference Planning
- Guest Speakers (Research & Career)
- Library Training
- Laboratory Safety Training
- Research Opportunities



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Peer Mentoring in the C₂S Program



Peer Mentoring Guidance and Initial Meeting

Start of Fall Semester Mentoring Session:
2 Experienced Scholars (Facilitators) met with 2-3 New Scholars

Goals: Students get to know each other
Provide resources and information to new students

Guidance and Preparation for Facilitators

- Peer Mentoring Handbook (<https://www.mentoringpittsburgh.org/>)
(The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania)
- Meeting with Faculty Mentors
- Sample Questions to guide facilitators

Peer Mentoring Guidance and Initial Meeting 2

Sample Questions to guide facilitators:

Note: *Facilitators let others give their thoughts and opinions first!*

After 1-2 of the sample questions, facilitators should ask mentees if they have questions.

1. Why did you choose UIW?
2. Are you living in San Antonio or out of town?
3. How many other UIW students do you know?
4. Tell me what campus resources you are aware of?
 - a. Tutoring center
 - b. Writing center
 - c. Career center
 - d. Advising center
 - e. Help desk
5. What course are you most concerned about and why?
6. When you need help with a homework problem, what's your first source of contact?
7. How do you prepare for an exam?



Peer Mentoring with Departmental Group Advising

Three weeks prior to registration:

Scholars in small groups (mix of classes)

- Develop schedules for **next semester** and **every semester through graduation**
- Experienced scholars provide mentoring and role modeling

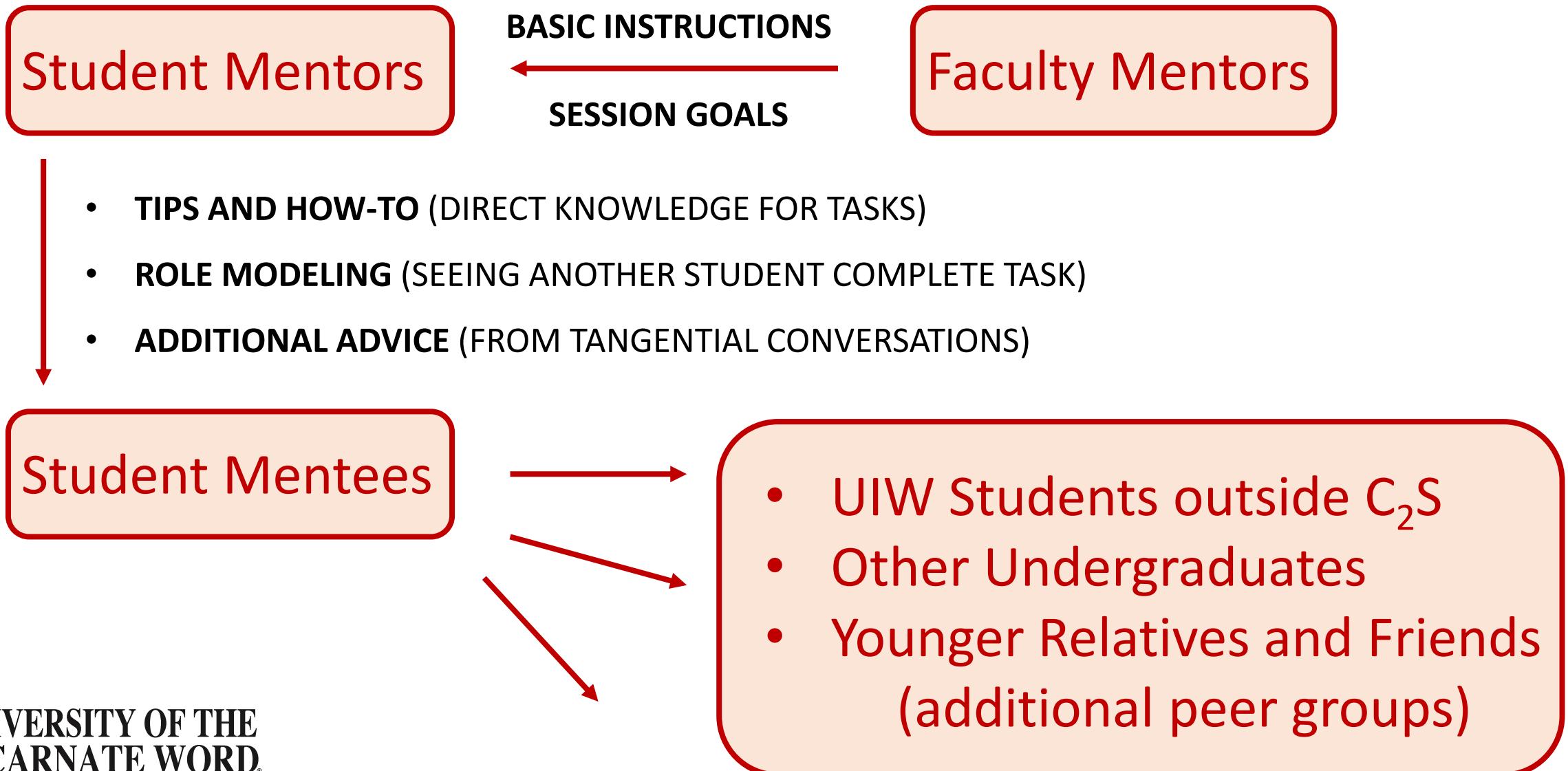
Two weeks prior to registration:

Advising Breakfast (all Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors)

- Develop schedules for **next semester** and **every semester through graduation**
- C₂S Students (all classes) assist other majors (mentoring and role modeling)



Peer Mentoring in the C₂S Program Revisited



Student Panelists

Anthony Cooper (Sr)

Natalie De La Cerda (Fr)

Victoria Doan (Jr)

Marcela Gutierrez (Fr)

Sara Ibarra (Jr)

Amber Martinez (Fr)



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Student Panel



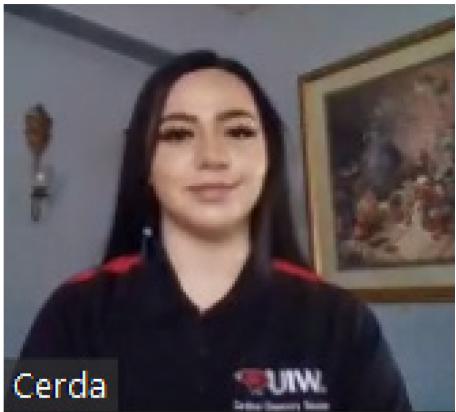
Anthony Cooper (Sr)



Victoria Doan (Jr)



Sara Ibarra (Jr)



Natalie De La Cerdá



Marcela Gutierrez
(Freshmen)



Amber Martinez



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Group Discussion 2

Application Discussion

- How this model could be applied to your program
 - Who is the core group (mentors / mentees)
 - Structured activities for mentoring?
 - Who else might they interact with (secondary mentoring)
- Challenges in program development / implementation
- How to address program challenges



Conclusions

Highlights / Ideas From Discussions:



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C₂S Students Past and Present:



Questions?

Parting Thought: Do you feel you have given or received mentoring support in these discussions?

SURVEY: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N39W7SS>
(Clickable link in chat)

Program Evolution

First Students: Fall 2018

Critical lesson from previous school grant: **LOCK IN TIME** (seminar course)

Subsequent lessons for seminar course:

- Make each session count!
- Prioritize punctuality and participation, not just attendance
- Set clear goals and expectations for each meeting and activity
- Networking platform outside email (GroupMe)

Pandemic adaptations:

- Translation of in-person activities to virtual
- Seminar as a forum for addressing challenges
- Tracking student progress and well-being especially important

