



SC ATE Center of Excellence
Florence-Darlington Technical College
SiMT Room 257 ● P.O. Box 100548
2715 W. Lucas Street, Florence, SC 29501-0548
mentorconnect@fdtc.edu | www.mentor-connect.org

Mentor-Connect to receive HI-TEC 2016 Innovative Program Award in Pittsburgh

Florence, S.C. (May, 2016) – Mentor-Connect, headquartered at Florence-Darlington Technical College and funded by the National Science Foundation under grant numbers 1204463 and 1501183 will be presented the HI-TEC Innovative Program Award at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown (Pennsylvania) Hotel.

The award recognizes teams of advanced technological education (ATE) professionals that have designed and implemented significant innovations leading to a positive impact on student enrollment, retention, and/or advanced technology education.

This year, Mentor-Connect was nominated by Pamela Silvers, an administrator from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in North Carolina because according to Silvers, “Mentor-Connect is improving and supporting advanced technological education by implementing a regenerative program, a program that facilitates knowledge transfer and leadership development, by connecting new-to ATE teams with Mentors; step-by-step instructions; resources specifically to guide the grant development, submission, and funding processes; and a just-in-time help desk, thus launching a new cadre of technician education practitioners who are learning from and contributing to the work of the ATE Program. ”

Elaine Craft, Director of the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education (SC ATE) Center of Excellence and the Mentor-Connect project Principal Investigator, will be accompanied by other members of the Mentor-Connect Leadership Team in accepting the award. When notified of the award, Craft said, “Being recognized by our peers at an event that focuses on the most innovative work being done nationally to expand excellence in technician education is truly an honor of a lifetime. Mentor-Connect is a rewarding project that is unleashing the potential of STEM faculty at community colleges nationally in new and exciting ways and enabling them to make significant contributions to the preparation of highly skilled technicians in advanced technologies that drive the American economy.”

About Mentor-Connect:

Mentor-Connect: A Leadership Development and Outreach Initiative for ATE is an initiative of the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence (SC ATE) at Florence-Darlington Technical College designed to actively engage more two-year technical and community colleges in the improvement of technician education. Mentor-Connect works in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to help STEM faculty teams from participating institutions apply for grant funding from the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Program

(NSF ATE). Potential grantees are assisted in developing grant writing skills and leadership skills. Mentoring is used for knowledge transfer. Those with many years of experience with NSF ATE funded projects serve as mentors to those who are new to the program. The project itself is also funded through work supported by the NSF under grant numbers 1204463 and 1501183.

About the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference:

The High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (www.highimpact-tec.org) is produced by a consortium of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education centers and projects and is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and contributions from corporate and industry partners.

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