***Student Multicultural Center Faculty-Student Connection Overview***

The SMC Faculty-Student Connection will include extended, semester or longer collaborations between a faculty mentor and an undergraduate student to work together to advance their field of study. The research project will implement the stages of the research process (i.e. Literature Review, Research Methodology, Research Writing, etc.) to produce new knowledge to be shared with internal and external KSU constituents. For example, student participants will be required to host one research presentation about their project in an SMC related-group, such as M.E.N. or Sister Circle, and to present the results of their project at an appropriate academic conference or performance venue (e.g. Celebration of Scholarship, Honors Week, Library Research Conference, or an external conference). Faculty and students will be required to provide an end of project report explaining how the work impacted them in their position at Kent State and their career objectives (e.g. presentation for inclusion in CV, data for grant development or publication, increased time management skills, greater appreciation for their major, higher GPA, etc.). Student-Faculty mentors will also be required to complete a webpage describing the outcome of their project to be displayed on the SMC website.

The key component of the program will be a $1,000 budget for each faculty-student pair. This funding resource will be used to purchase supplies, pay for travel to meetings or other non-salary project related expenses. Student applicants will write a brief proposal including a budget, explaining their project and its impact on their career development. The faculty mentor will provide a letter of support, assessing the feasibility of completing the project in no more than one calendar year (CY), and the impact the work is likely to have on their tenure plan. The proposal should explain how the funds will be used, and what the expected work output from the project will consist of (e.g. data report, presentation, performance, Senior Thesis, publication, etc.).

***Who can participate in the SMC Faculty-Student Connection?***

The Student Multicultural Center Faculty-Student Connection is an Undergraduate Research Program for African American, Latino, Native American and underserved students.This program seeks to bring together these (AALANA undergraduate) students and KSU faculty to work on a common research project within their major or field of study. The goal of this program is to enhance the knowledge creation produced by AALANA students, and thus supporting pre-tenure (TT) faculty and other KSU faculty to accomplish their academic goals. Most assuredly, this program will also aim to encourage all of its (student) participants to prepare for graduate and professional school. Additionally, the benefits for both faculty and students are outlined below.

***Expected benefits to the student:***

* Develop a richer content knowledge within their major
* Enhance their confidence in their academic abilities
* Provide motivation toward retention and graduation
* Aspire to apply and gain admission to graduate and professional programs
* Consistent with KSU Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) EAP Outcomes 6,7, 9, and 13 (KSU DEI EAP, pg. 3)

***Expected benefits to the faculty mentor:***

* Help them develop the mentoring skills needed to guide students toward completion of original research projects
* Provide assistance with their scholarship, research, or creative activities
* Provide motivation toward retention
* Consistent with KSU DEI EAP Outcomes 5, 6, 13, 16, 17 (KSU DEI EAP, pg. 3)

***Eligibility and Selection:*** Student participants must have a declared major and a cumulative GPA above a 3.0. Students with junior or senior standing will be preferentially paired with faculty who are prior to their three-year review or who have not yet mentored a student in the program, while students with first or second year standing will be preferentially paired with faculty who have completed their three-year review or have previously mentored a student in the program. Faculty members are eligible to receive funds to mentor only one student through this program per calendar year, but may have additional students they mentor through other programs or funding sources. Faculty and students may also continue participation in subsequent years. SMC faculty and staff will assist in pairing faculty and students and selecting which projects to fund. Projects will be evaluated on their creativity, significance, and feasibility. Some of the selection checkpoints may include the following items: Application, Faculty recommendations, Transcripts, and Personal letter of interest.

***How to Apply***

* Submit two recommendations from faculty.
* Submit a 300-word essay including the criteria supplied in the application packet

(on last page of application packet)

Participants will be selected on the basis of having the potential for graduate studies. A committee comprised of faculty, the AALANA Executive Director, the AALANA Assistant Director, the SMC/DEI Faculty Associate and SMC program coordinator will interview and select from eligible students.

***Eligibility Requirements***

* 3.0 minimum cumulative grade point average
* AALANA student at Kent State University (African American, Latino/a or Hispanic, Native American or Asian/Pacific Islander)
* Faculty-Student pairs from all KSU disciplines are eligible

***Application Checklist for AALANA Faculty-Student Connection Program*, *please provide the following for consideration:***

\_\_\_\_\_ AALANA Faculty-Student Connection Application fully completed

\_\_\_\_\_ 300-word essay (Note criteria below)

\_\_\_\_\_ Two (2) letters of recommendation from faculty members

(Faculty instructions can be found at the back of the application packet)

\_\_\_\_\_ A writing sample (paper or essay from previous coursework that will provide us with an example of your best work—no more than 7 pages)

\_\_\_\_\_ Unofficial copies of transcripts

***Indicate which criteria are applicable to you:***

\_\_\_\_\_ First-generation college student

\_\_\_\_\_ African American, Latino and Native American (AALANA)

\_\_\_\_\_ Present GPA (3.0 or better)

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident

\_\_\_\_\_ Pell recipient

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Faculty Member:

The above named student has applied to the AALANA Faculty-Student Connection Program at Kent State University. This form denotes that you have been chosen to submit a recommendation on his/her behalf. We would appreciate your effort in addressing any of the following qualifications in reference to the above student. Thank you for your time and effort in writing this recommendation.

Questions/Issues relevant for being considered for the AALANA Faculty-Student Connection Program:

• How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

• How does the applicant respond to change and/or major challenges?

• Does the applicant possess the drive and commitment to pursue graduate and/or

professional study?

• Do you believe that the applicant has the potential to do major research in his/her

field of study if given the opportunity and preparation?

• In what areas do you feel the applicant needs assistance and /or development?

• Is there any additional information you think helpful to the AALANA Faculty-Student

Connection Program in considering this student?

***Please return your recommendation in a sealed envelope to:***

Student Multicultural Center

Attn: Oscar Ramos (AALANA Faculty-Student Connection Program)

206 Kent Student Center, P.O. Box 5190

Kent, Ohio 44242

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Criteria for Essay**

Please provide on a separate sheet of paper (handwritten or typed) a 300-word essay that incorporates the following:

A. Give a brief intellectual autobiography describing the formation of your academic interest. Include reason(s) for desiring to participate in undergraduate research.

B. Describe your tentative plans for research (either specific problems or general areas in which you hope to work).

C. Describe your career or professional goals.

D. Add any other relevant information.