**Dear UC Davis Faculty & Staff Members:**

The UC Davis Cross Cultural Center (CCC) would like to invite you to apply as a mentor to our Graduate Students of Color (GSoC) Mentoring Program for the 2023-2024 academic year. The need to increase and improve faculty-graduate student mentorships within underrepresented groups was one key recommendation resulting from the Diversity Dialogues with the Dean in 2014. The GSoC Mentoring Program was created to address that recommendation. Faculty support has been and will continue to be critical for the program’s success. While prospective mentors who identify as faculty/staff of color are strongly encouraged to participate, we invite all faculty & staff members who wish to be active in our effort to support student-driven diversity initiatives here at UC Davis to serve as faculty mentors in the GSoC Mentoring program.

**Purpose of the GSoC Mentoring Program**

Our primary goal is to assist in the retention of historically marginalized students in order to improve their representation in the UC Davis graduate community. We do this by providing graduate students of color structured opportunities to explore a variety of academic and career pathways. Faculty mentorship of graduate students of color is imperative for their retention in their graduate programs at UC Davis and for increasing the number of faculty of color in the academy overall.

**Format of the GSoC Mentoring Program**

GSoC is a two-quarter commitment beginning in Winter 2024 and taking place through the end of Spring 2024. Faculty/Staff mentors will be paired with graduate student mentees in order to share their experiences and offer helpful tips on how to successfully navigate graduate school at UC Davis. While mentors and mentees will determine their agreed-upon goals, we suggest that they meet between once and twice a month. These meetings are an opportunity for mentors and mentees to communicate their experiences in a more relaxed setting than traditional faculty-graduate student research-related advising. At the same time, these meetings offer critical support for students who are navigating some difficult situations related to retention.

**Benefits of Participating in the GSoC Mentoring Program**

Faculty members who participate in the GSoC Mentoring Program are recognized for their efforts in teaming with the CCC to provide critical support for our underrepresented graduate student communities. Moreover, the program connects faculty members across various disciplines who are committed to providing hands-on support to our graduate students of color and the diversity initiatives in our graduate school programs.

**Applications close Dec 14th**

[**Application Link**](https://forms.gle/YVW6Z5VpmZjhK7BJA)