



nConnect AP/Small Group Mentoring Program

Mission:

To challenge high school students to succeed in more rigorous academic subjects and to prepare them to become future leaders and innovators in the global economy.

History:

nConnect was founded in 2005 with the simple and pragmatic idea to provide mentors to encourage and support students taking rigorous courses such as Advanced Placement® courses. By pairing engineers, scientists, and other professionals with small groups of students taking AP® science and math classes and working on senior projects, nConnect supports students taking rigorous classes, provides an important mentoring relationship and brings greater relevance to coursework.

Goals:

1. Encourage more students to take rigorous science and math classes
2. Help more students succeed in these programs
3. Advise students on their college and career choices, encourage them to pursue world-class colleges, and expose them to a wide variety of career options
4. Support teachers in providing the highest quality teaching to students

Mentors are the key to nConnect's success:

Industry professionals who volunteer to work with students through nConnect's mentoring program bring relevance and expertise to the classroom. By showing the connection between classes and real-world problems students see the applicability of their studies to the real world. Understanding this relevance keeps students engaged and interested in their classes. The tutoring provided by nConnect mentors helps students understand the subject matter and score well on exams, such as the AP® exam.

Volunteers:

nConnect is recruiting professionals to mentor students in AP® science and math classes, and senior project classes during the 2011-2012 school year.

**Interested in mentoring, tutoring and challenging the next generation?
Contact nConnect for more information and a mentor application,
360-567-5557, molly.schmitz@nconnect.org**

nConnect
www.nconnect.org
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nConnect Mentor Position Description

Essential Functions:

nConnect mentors support teachers and students in science and math focused Advanced Placement® and senior project courses.

Duties include:

1. Attend an orientation and 2-3 meetings per year; attend additional events as able.
2. Visit classroom in September or October to introduce self and describe nConnect program.
3. Meet with students and/or visit classroom on an ongoing basis September or October –May. Mentors and teachers determine if it is more effective for the mentor to visit during class time or meet with small groups of students outside of class time.
4. For mentors who work with small groups: meet with students face to face 2-4 times per month. These mentoring sessions typically last an hour at a time.
5. Familiarize self with course textbook, syllabus, and expectations. If applicable, review and understand AP® exam for course.
6. Develop materials for mentoring sessions and/or in support of classroom learning. Materials should focus on nConnect mentoring's three core activities:
 - a. Tutor: Answer homework questions; develop, distribute and review additional problem sets; when possible, attend additional study sessions that nConnect or teachers set up.
 - b. Challenge: Bring in problems/technology from industry to show relevance of coursework to “real world”; arrange, or help nConnect arrange, a tour of a company that has jobs relating to course material; invite colleagues to talk to classroom about their careers; discuss career opportunities in the community or beyond that relate to students’ interests; review skills, including “soft skills,” that will ensure success in college and career; start a book club with group and read/discuss science, science fiction, etc. books.
 - c. Mentor: Know and support students as individuals; support students who are working on senior projects; support students in their college search and application process.
7. Maintain regular communication with assigned teacher via phone and/or email.
8. Maintain regular communication with small group students, if applicable, via email and/or phone.
9. Comply with all district policies while serving as an nConnect mentor.

Who can be a mentor?:

Mentors should have a strong understanding of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects either academically or how they are used in industry:

- A college student majoring in a STEM subject
- A professional who is currently or was recently working in a STEM field
- A retiree who worked in a STEM field

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