Dear XX

Dr. Xiao Luo and I are working on IUPUI’s SEIRI grant supported project titled “Developing Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to Improve the Enrollment and Retention of Underrepresented Students in Computing Programs”. Under this project, we would like to investigate culturally diverse mentor-mentee relationships impact enrollment, retention, and perspectives of underrepresented students in computing programs.

CIT 12000 (Quantitative Analysis I) and CIT 21400 (Intro to Data Management) are involved in this project. We are planning to have 5/6 mentors in total. The focuses of mentorship practices for these two courses will be to facilitate students to improve their sense of belongingness in computing and to transition to the computing field successfully. Mentors will share their personal experiences and views about STEM careers with students, provide encouragement & resources, and work as role models. Mentors will present career options in computing fields and opportunities through seminars and presentations.

We are reaching out to you to see whether you are interested in serving as a mentor for our project.

It will be a two years project but if you want, you can serve just one semester or two semesters starting from fall 2022. In fall 2022, we will incorporate the mentorship practice only for CIT 21400. Beginning of the semester (based on your availability) we will try to arrange an in-person (in-class) seminar with all mentors to introduce and connect all mentors with our students. After that, we will try to schedule one mentor every two weeks (or we can plan other formats of communications such as round-table discussion, panel discussions based on our mentors’ availabilities) to share their experiences and resources with the class either in-person or virtually based on your availability. We will divide the class into 6 groups where each group will have 5-6 students and they will have their assigned mentor. Students will have access to all mentors including their assigned mentor via emails, slack or other channels to discuss their concerns and questions outside the class.

If you agree to serve, we can definitely work around your schedule and provide you detail guidelines about your presentations with our students. We will also provide $100 gift card to each of our mentor. We truly believe your mentorship and support will inspire our underrepresented as well as other students to continue studying computing and declare a CIT major and it will be a valuable experience for your career.

If you have any questions or concerns, please free to contact me or Dr. Luo ([luo25@iupui.edu](mailto:luo25@iupui.edu))

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,