**GEM Encourage & Elevate Mentoring Program**

**Sample Mentoring Questions**

These are example questions to start the conversation between mentors and mentees and to support the development of their own topics. Please feel free to choose what to discuss.

**Career-related Questions**

1. What are some challenges that you faced from graduate school to your current position?
2. What kind of career opportunities are there besides tenure-track faculty?
3. How do you search for a faculty or research position after graduation?
4. What kind of skills do potential advisors and recruiters look for in graduating students?
5. What’s the most important lesson you learned in grad school or in your career and how has it proven invaluable?
6. Can you recommend a book or resource for dealing with difficult conversations?
7. Along your career path, do you have mentors? How have they influenced you?
8. How does the mentor relationship change from having a Ph.D. advisor as a grad student and having an advisor as a postdoc?
9. How and where do you find inspiration for your research career?
10. How do you go about building/maintaining your network?
11. How do you maintain a balance between work and life?
12. Are there certain things I should be doing now to prepare myself for my future career as a scientist/faculty/leadership position?
13. When should I say “no” to an opportunity?
14. When should I start looking for postdoc and how?
15. Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to your young self?

**Funding & Fellowships**

1. What are some general tips when writing/preparing research proposals and fellowships?
2. Are there any specific fellowships you would/wouldn’t recommend students apply to?
3. How to write a compelling proposal for fellowships or research funding?
4. What is the general process for your teams to evolve from an idea to a proposal?
5. Large projects always require collaboration of multiple scientists. What are the general processes for a PI or co-PI to find collaborators?
6. How can I stay aware of funding opportunities? What are some common sources of information about these?

**General Research Questions**

1. What is the general process for your teams to evolve from an idea to a paper?
2. How can I contribute to the Decadal Survey?
3. How can I find a good research direction?
4. How do I know if my research is important to the community?
5. Why is it taking so long to write my first paper? Any tips for paper writing?
6. How did you develop the communication skills to present your research work and engage an audience?

**GEM or AGU-SPA Community Questions**

1. What are some tips to better engage with the GEM community?
2. What practices can you recommend for dealing with nervousness when speaking to groups?
3. What should I do at the poster session during AGU or GEM workshop besides my own presentation?
4. What should I do at the social events during AGU or GEM workshop and how can they help me?
5. Is there any other resource for students to participate in, other than AGU and GEM workshop?
6. Should I participate in mini-GEM?