



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Dorothy F. Schmidt
College of Arts and Letters

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FACULTY OUTSIDE MENTORING PROGRAM

The Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Outside Mentoring Program is administered by the Faculty Success and Retention committee, and is designed to connect junior faculty with renowned and accomplished professors in their respective fields of inquiry at other universities. The purpose is to help junior faculty navigate their first few years as college professors while also developing their professional networks and receiving guidance and feedback on their scholarly work and creative projects. The mentorship program is a two-year commitment; mentors and mentees meet (virtually) four times a year. As a part of the program, mentors agree to give one virtual presentation on their research at FAU and mentees give one virtual presentation on their research at the mentor's institution (this is usually done in the second year).

TESTIMONIALS

Marquese McFerguson, Communications

Participating in the mentorship program has been one of the most transformative experiences of my professional journey. It has shaped me both personally and professionally, expanding my network, sharpening my research focus, and strengthening my sense of purpose as a scholar.

Through the program, I've been able to form meaningful professional connections across the region and the nation, relationships that continue to enrich my work and open new doors. My mentor, in particular, has been an extraordinary source of guidance, encouragement, and wisdom. With his support, I was able to strengthen my research portfolio and gain valuable leadership and service opportunities. I now serve as the Director of Research for The Communication Ph.D. Pipeline Program and as an editorial board member for the journal *Communication and Race*, roles that were made possible, in large part, through his mentorship.

Beyond these accomplishments, our collaboration has evolved into an ongoing scholarly partnership; we are currently co-authoring a book project together. Throughout my tenure process, his mentorship proved invaluable, offering advice and reassurance at every stage.

Even now, he continues to provide consistent guidance and support. I am deeply grateful for his continued investment in my growth and for the mentorship program that made this life/career-changing connection possible.

Matty Lichtenstein, Sociology

The outside mentorship program has been absolutely wonderful for me as a new assistant professor at FAU. I received mentorship I would never have received otherwise, and I still have a close relationship with my mentor. This has made all the difference to me in achieving my research goals. So grateful for this program!

David Medina, English

Prior to the introduction and meeting that this program made possible, Dan Radus (my mentor) was someone I had never had a one-on-one conversation with. The meetings and mentorship that resulted from the program have been invaluable, but perhaps the most exiting result of this program was the fact that Dan invited me to submit a chapter in an edited collection he is putting together with Amy Gore. *Gatherings: New Directions in Indigenous Book History*, which is hitting the press in 2026, brings together the work of a wide range of interdisciplinary scholars, many of whom I had the great pleasure of meeting in person this year at the Society of Early Americanists conference. Dan organized a meeting at this year's SEA Conference for those of use who contributed chapters, and this meeting has snowballed into new relationships and opportunities for future collaboration. Suffice it to say that in addition to this program resulting in a publication, it has also produced a number of exciting collaborative possibilities.

While much of this would have been possible without the outside mentorship program, it's also very clear that the program took away much of the friction.

Stephanie Anderson, English

The mentorship has been wonderful! My mentor, Daisy Hernandez, has been very responsive and has provided great career/writing-related insights. She is doing her virtual research presentation to my graduate Creative Non-Fiction workshop this semester. I'll be presenting to one of her classes in the spring semester. Overall this has been an awesome mentorship experience.

