

Abstract # M-14-1094

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Gear: ThirdGearType: Workshop Length:

Abstract: FORWARD to Professorship Mini-Workshop

This mini-workshop, adapted from FORWARD to Professorship, is aimed at women who are currently or intend to become tenure-track assistant professors in science, engineering or mathematics, but all interested parties are welcome.

The first FORWARD to Professorship three-day workshop was held in 2003 and we plan to offer it again in May 2004. Participants have been unanimously positive in their experience at the workshop. This activity is supported by a NSF ADVANCE Leadership award under the ADVANCE program whose goal is to increase the participation of women in the scientific and engineering workforce through the increased representation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers [1]. We feel it is important to encourage and facilitate women's advancement to the higher ranks of academic leadership by organizing a diverse community of women near-peer academicians who can share ideas, encouragement and collegiality as a balance to the often isolated, politically-charged environment at academic institutions. The FORWARD three-day workshop provides a forum to explore a wide range of creative solutions to problems common to us all, through participant interaction and community discussion. We believe that sustained interaction and sharing of experiences on what can or has worked for others acts as a powerful catalyst for advancement of women into the upper ranks of science and engineering academia.

The mini-workshop will address some of the issues covered in the full workshop, namely skills and strategies to survive and excel in academia. Topics of discussion will include how to: - apply and negotiate for a position - make effective use of time to tenure - navigate the tenure-track process - secure research funding - get the most out of teaching - achieve a career/home balance in life.

Resource materials will be made available at the meeting and all online materials from the workshop are, of course, always accessible. The three-hour session will include presentations, discussions and hands-on activities. Some topics will be introduced and then time will be provided for a relevant work assignment, e.g. a writing exercise for a personal statement for a tenure-track position application. These brainstorming exercises serve to promote discussion between attendees and to provide participants with a beginning of a personal career plan. For other topics, such as the career/home balance, a group discussion is more appropriate.

1. National Science Foundation, ADVANCE Program description, <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/advance/>, 2003.