MentorNet Partner Representatives Roundtable Workshop

This session is designed particularly for representatives of MentorNet® partnering organizations to gain information from one another, engage with MentorNet program staff to provide feedback, and suggest program enhancements. Prospective MentorNet representatives are also welcome to participate.

Four roundtable discussions will focus on:

1. **Recruiting Students – an exercise in communication.** How do some universities manage to get so many students to sign up for MentorNet? What motivates students to participate? What methods do MentorNet representatives use to encourage student participation, and which seem to yield the best results? What data, collateral, and tools can MentorNet provide to assist strategies to reach out to students?   **Facilitator: Jennifer L. Dockter, Ph.D., Director of Programs, MentorNet**

2. **Improving MentorNet Systems.** The systems and processes underlying MentorNet programs are continually enhanced and improved based on the experiences of users, feedback from participants, and new research and evaluation findings. In 2002-03, MentorNet undertook a significant re-design of its matching and coaching systems to enable: protégé selection of mentors, year-round entry to the One-on-One programs for protégés and mentors, and reduced staffing in operations. How do the new MentorNet year-round matching and student self-matching systems work? What's different? What are the experiences of campus, corporate, and government representatives with these processes so far? What different strategies may be needed to enable them to be used most effectively? **Facilitator: Stephanie J. Fox, Director of Technology, MentorNet**

3. **Maximizing College/University MentorNet Participation.** There are many opportunities to leverage MentorNet engagement within an organization. What are the best strategies, tactics, and ideas to position MentorNet to benefit the institution of higher education in terms of linkage with academic programs, faculty interests, public relations, corporate relations, alumni/ae relations? **Facilitator: Carol B. Muller, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, MentorNet**

4. **Financing MentorNet.** Who pays for MentorNet? From the outset, there has been general agreement that a model which depended upon the primary beneficiaries – students – to pay for the service, would be unworkable. Although in its start-up years, foundation grants provided the bulk of MentorNet funding, sustaining a program's operations after its initial start-up requires a model for financial sustainability. This discussion will consider the current fee structure and financial model, and possible alternative models for funding. **Facilitator: Margaret Ashida, Chair, Advisory Board, MentorNet and Director, Corporate University Relations, IBM Corporate Technology**

Members of the MentorNet staff will facilitate each discussion, and be available to provide information and answer questions.