“Thanks to the ADVANCE External Mentor Program, I have benefited greatly from the collaboration/interactions with my mentor for my career development. I wanted to understand extrinsic synaptic noise and intrinsic channel noise: What roles these noises play in shaping oscillation and their patterns of neuronal activity that arise through the central nervous system. I reached out to Dr. James Keener, a distinguished professor of mathematics and adjunct professor of bioengineering at the University of Utah, who specializes in mathematics biology, especially in the field of cardiac electrophysiology, scroll waves, bidomain equations, and defibrillation. Together, we worked on mathematical modeling and analysis of this project to develop novel theoretical and numerical approaches to study excitable cells.”

—Dr. Xueying Wang, Mathematics
2013 External Mentor Grant Recipient (pictured on cover)

“Through ADVANCE at WSU’s External Mentor Program, I was able to have Dr. Murat Kacira, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Arizona, visit my lab to further understand the potentials, limitations, and challenges in utilizing sensing technologies for crop phenotyping. Dr. Kacira also put me in touch with other experts working in this area and he gave me very useful tips on developing my short- and long-term goals in research in order to be successful.”

—Dr. Sindhu Sankaran, Biological Systems Engineering
2013 External Mentor Grant Recipient (pictured inside)
THE PROGRAM

The External Mentor Program is offered to tenured and tenure-track women faculty in STEM disciplines and underrepresented minority faculty in any discipline. Its aim is to foster career development by supporting mentor relationships with leaders outside our university. These mentors provide training and mentorship, facilitate collaborative research efforts, and serve as role models.

RESEARCH: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXTERNAL MENTOR PROGRAM

The Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) conducted a survey asking participants to rate the impact of the External Mentor Program on several indicators of career success and quality of life. The results show that the External Mentor Program had a strong, positive impact among participating faculty.

FUNDING

In a joint investment with your department and ADVANCE at WSU, funding is provided to enable significant interaction between a mentee and mentor. The proposed use of funds should emphasize a significant intention to improve career advancement opportunities. The grant enables participating faculty to travel to each other’s university to work collaboratively, attend and present at conferences together, and have the opportunity to learn from an established researcher in their field.