

Career Education Mentoring Program

The Career Education Mentoring Program is offered to a select group of new career education teachers and teachers returning to the profession after extended absences. By new, we mean first-year educators, experienced educators teaching in a program area for the first time, educators returning in a program area after being out of teaching for five years or more, or educators returning in a new program area after an absence of five years or more. Teachers from Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources; Business, Marketing and Information Technology; Family Consumer Sciences and Human Services; and Technology, Health and Skilled Technical Sciences may participate. The goals of the Career Education Mentoring Program are as follows:

- Meet the mentoring requirements set forth in the newly revised Educator Certification requirements.
- Offer a professional learning community that includes collaboration and reflection among new teachers and mentors.
- Provide the opportunity for new and returning teachers to become familiar with the teaching and administrative culture of the program area.
- Support new teachers and teachers who are returning to the classroom in their work with students.
- Build a cohort group of new and returning teachers, particularly in the program area.

Even though a mentoring program may be offered in your school district, this mentoring program is offered as a complement to your local program. The Career Education Mentoring Program will assist protégés (new educators) in addressing the challenges and responsibilities of their specific program areas by providing a mentor from another school district who is experienced in the same program area. When a new career education teacher is the only educator in the building or school district in a specific program area, the support received from the mentoring program will be most beneficial.

As part of the year-long program, mentors and protégés will be expected to meet two times during the school year. In addition, the mentor and protégé may visit each other's school during the school year. In recognition and celebration of their participation in the program, both mentors and protégés will be honored at the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education (MoACTE) Summer Conference in July.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please contact Dennis Harden, Coordinator of Career Education, at (573) 751-3500 or Dennis.Harden@dese.mo.gov.