

IntNSA Mentor Program

Purpose: The purpose of the IntNSA Mentor Program is to offer educational guidance and support for professional nurses conducting research, developing theory and/or engaging in clinical practice related to addictions. The program offers mentoring support to nurses who do not have appropriate faculty or supervisors available to assist them with advanced practice, theoretical, or research issues. As a result of the program, IntNSA anticipates attracting more nurses to the field of addictions.

Mentors: Mentors are IntNSA members who, based upon their curriculum vita, have the background required to assist the mentee to achieve her/his specific goals.. The mentor and protégé will agree on the protégé's goals and each person's responsibility in achieving those goals. They will determine what support is needed and will develop a plan with a timeline. If the pair is located within the same geographical area, they will meet on a regular basis to evaluate the attainment of goals. If it is necessary that a long distance relationship be maintained, a regular e-mail and phone schedule will be developed.

The mentor is not to replace the role of faculty adviser or supervisor. If the protégé is a nursing student, her/his role should be approved by the appropriate nursing faculty member. The limitations of the mentor's responsibilities should be understood by all parties. Mentors are personally responsible for determining if there is a conflict of interest with their employing agencies.

Protégés: Protégés may be new to the field of addictions, or may be experienced in the area. However, they are required to be IntNSA members The protégé's faculty advisor, supervisor, or other individual who oversees the protégé's research, education, or practice must provide a supporting letter indicating that the protégé has the experience resources necessary to complete the project.

Procedure for Applying to the IntNSA Mentoring Program

1) Mentors: IntNSA will put out a call for mentors through the newsletter and web page. Those interested in mentoring will complete an application and submit a current CV. In addition, the mentor should submit a biographical sketch of no more than 250 words with a statement of the area of expertise, type of mentoring that she/he wishes (clinical, research, theory development), and availability. Also, the mentor is invited to write any philosophical statement regarding teaching/mentoring strategies.

Once the mentor is approved, the biographical sketch will be placed on the IntNSA web page in a private "Members Only" access area. E-mail addresses for mentors will also be included. Potential protégés can search this area for a potential match.

2) Protégés: Anyone wishing to be a protégé must be an IntNSA member. Prospective protégés can search the "Members Only" area to find a mentor that has the appropriate expertise. It is the responsibility of the protégé to contact the possible mentor and to

develop the mentor-protégé plan. Once this is done the protégé will submit an application, indicating the proposed clinical, theory, or research project, the planned the duration of the mentorship, the support needed from a mentor, and the name of the mentor. The protégé applicant will also submit a letter of support from the supervisor or faculty member, along with a CV and evidence of an RN license.

After reviewing the protégé application, the research, practice, and education committees will give final approval to the mentor-protégé project. Upon completion of the mentorship, the mentor and protégé will send a summary report of accomplishment to IntNSA.

Mentor-Protégé Recognition: Mentor-protégés will be acknowledged in the IntNSA newsletter and at the annual conventions during the awards ceremony.