

October 7, 2024

Dear Aggie Alum,

My name is Tamara Christiani, and I am a graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in Integrative Genetics and Genomics while serving as the Graduate Student Advisor to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Chancellor. I am reaching out to invite you to participate in the Aggie Graduate Alumni Mentorship Program. This program is my service project, aimed at connecting senior graduate and professional students with alumni who can provide career guidance, networking opportunities, all while understanding the unique experience of being an Aggie. As someone who has successfully navigated the challenges in your industry, your insights and experiences would be invaluable to students like me.

The overview of the pilot program for the 2024-2025 academic year will consist of mentor-mentee partnerships, with shared career interests, engaging monthly to discuss topics such as resume advice, leveraging LinkedIn connections, tips to nail the interview and negotiate successfully. Partners will have a chance to meet in person at a mixer next month and in the spring when we celebrate the end of this cycle of the mentorship pilot. Mentors and mentees will be supported and be provided resources through the entire mentorship period.

Because of your achievement and advancement since graduating from UC Davis, the value of the degree I am working to receive is high. Your insights as you advance in your career have the potential to have a powerful impact in the professional development of students. Personally, this project is important to me as I desire a career in academia. No one in my family has pursued a career in this field, and thus my only knowledge of this industry has come from my casual conversations with my advisors and staff in Graduate Studies. Like my peers, I have spent my time understanding the theory, perfecting my technical skills, and now I am hoping you will help develop my professional skills to be successful in the next stage.

Thank you for considering to be a part of the inaugural launch of the Aggie Graduate Alumni Mentorship Program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at gradassistant@ucdavis.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Go Ags!

Sincerely,

Tamara Christiani