



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

**FOOD SYSTEMS
LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

Community Food Systems Mentorship Program Informational Call

Thursday, January 13, 2022
3:00-3:30 pm ET

The Food Systems Leadership Network

A national peer learning community that connects current and emerging leaders, strengthens individual and collective leadership capacity, and fosters collaboration across communities.

- We envision these leaders linked through a living network of shared purpose, learning, and action that advances social justice locally, regionally, and nationally.
- The goal of the network is to accelerate the realization of a just, equitable, and sustainable food system that generates good food, health, and opportunity for all.



www.foodsystemsleadershipnetwork.org



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Community Food Systems Mentorship Program

Program Goals:

- To build relationships of solidarity and support across the movement
- To create space for seasoned leaders to share their wisdom, knowledge, & expertise with others
- To strengthen the capacity of food systems leaders to catalyze social change through food

Stats to date:

- Launched in January 2018
- 5 cohorts = 150 mentees total
- 100% of participants feel more confident in their leadership capacity & 94% planned to make changes to their practices



IN MENTEE'S WORDS





A-dae Romero-Briones, First Nations Development Institute



Angel Mendez, Red Tomato



Karen Washington, Rise and Root Farm



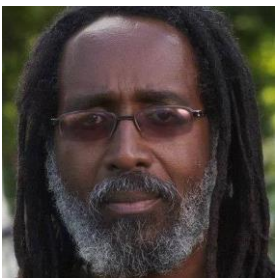
Nancy Creamer, Former Director, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, NC State University



Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation and the MA'O Community Food Systems Initiative



Lydia Villanueva, CASA del Llano, INC



Malik Yakini, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network



Niaz Dorry, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance and National Family Farm Coalition



Miles Gordon, Kitchen Table Consulting



WHAT TO EXPECT

- 8-hour commitment with mentor over 4 months
 - March – June, 2022
 - Create time for follow-up, prep, and action in-between calls
 - Mentees set their own goals for the program, mentors support in finding the path
- Cohort development
 - Kickoff, midway, and debrief connection points



The Difference between Mentorship and Technical Assistance

- Mentorship is based on relationship— a mentor's purpose is to support their mentee.
- Mentees consistently say their mentor was a sounding board.
- Asking for and receiving specific technical assistance may be *part* of the relationship, but it is not its primary purpose
- Answers/solutions ultimately reside within the mentee.
- Mentors are also learning--solidifying their own experience and expertise, and exchanging ideas with mentees.



WHAT MENTEES HAVE WORKED ON

- Organizational Leadership
 - Developing accountability within an organization
 - Community engagement and transferring power
- Personal Leadership
 - Prioritizing where to direct your energy to be most effective
 - Addressing self doubt and imposter syndrome
- Racial Equity
 - Navigating white spaces in the food movement and within organizations as a person of color
 - Creating culturally relevant and responsive places in agriculture



APPLICATION TIPS

- Who should apply:
 - Anyone from program staff to directors who work to advance equitable food systems
 - Consider your capacity to engage with a mentor and follow-up between calls
- When filling out your application:
 - Be honest about your current status and where you want to get through mentorship
 - Consider why you are seeking mentorship
- Process:
 - Complete Organizational Capacity Assessment Matrix
 - Select your 1st and 2nd choice for mentor on the application
 - Wallace Center screens applications and passes on to mentors
 - Mentors review applications and select who they would like to work with



KEY DATES

- **Applications open through January 28**
- Mentees notified: week of February 21
- Mentee kickoff call: March 8
- Mentee halfway call: early May
- Mentorship runs: March 8 – June 30, 2022



Q/A

