



Community Food Systems Mentorship Program Informational Call

11:00-11:30 am CT

Welcome! Please introduce yourself in the chat and share one word that comes to mind when you think about mentorship.

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



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

IN MENTEE'S WORDS



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
- 7 cohorts = Over 180 mentees total; 63% identify as BIPOC
- 100% of participants feel more confident in their leadership capacity & 90% planned to make changes to their practices



Mentors



Miles Gordon

Principal, Kitchen Table Consulting



Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Wai'anae Community Re-Development
Corporation and the MA'O Community Food
Systems Initiative



Lydia Villanueva

Director/Founder of CASA del Llano, Inc



Rev Dele

Grandmother Elder, Earthkeeper, Mystic



Karen Lehman

Principal, Adaptive Leadership, LLC.



Rowen White

Sierra Seeds and Indigenous Seedkeepers
Network



Mentors



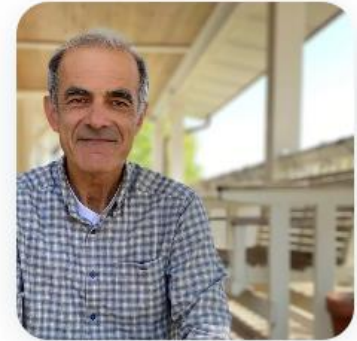
Nancy Creamer

Professor Emerita, NC State University, Former
Director, Center for Environmental Farming
Systems



Karen Washington

Farmer/Activist, Rise and Root Farm



Kamyar Enshayan

Director, Center for Energy & Environmental
Education at University of Northern Iowa



Rich Pirog

Former Director for the Center for Regional
Food Systems at Michigan State University



Angel Mendez

Executive Director, Red Tomato



Bevelyn Afor Ukah

Director of the Committee on Racial Equity at
the Center for Environmental Farming Systems,
Artist, Justice Educator



WHAT TO EXPECT

- 8-hours of direct support from a mentor over 4 months
 - March – June, 2024
 - 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



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



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.



KEY DATES

- **Applications open through February 5th**
- Mentees notified: week of March 9th
 - Survey to confirm participation
- Mentee kickoff call: March 20th
- Mentee cohort calls: April-May
- Mentee closeout call: mid-June
- Mentorship runs: March 9 – June 30, 2024



APPLICATION TIPS

- **Who should apply:**
 - Anyone from program staff to executive directors who work to advance equitable food systems
 - Consider your time and availability 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 go through mentorship
 - Consider why you are seeking mentorship
- **Process:**
 - Complete Organizational Capacity Assessment Matrix
 - Select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for mentor on the application
 - Wallace Center screens applications and passes on to mentors
 - Mentors review applications and select who matches with their background

Q/A



Contact fslinfo@winrock.org with questions

