# Peer Mentoring Circles for Women STEM Faculty at Murray State University

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Mentoring provides important connections and support to faculty and may especially help female STEM faculty reduce social isolation and develop networks that are essential for professional development and success. Peer mentoring groups were introduced in AY 2016-17 at Murray State University as part of an ADVANCE project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Interested female STEM faculty were assigned to one of three circles consisting of 6-8 women from multiple disciplines and ranks. Circles met biweekly, and each group was led by a trained female facilitator who provided direction, introduced topics, and guided discussion. Participants reported benefits of participation that included enlarging their professional and social networks, developing strategies to navigate the university, and enhancing their perception of the university as a supportive community. Current outcomes and future directions are discussed.