




NSF ATE Funding & Mentor-Connect Opportunities

Wednesday, September 24, 2025


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Getting Started

- Using the chat box to introduce yourself
- Ask questions in the chat
- Questions will be answered during the webinar
- Change the view in the upper right-hand corner



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Logistics

- Registered participants will receive link to the webinar recording within one week
- Registered participants will receive e-mail with any attachments shared in Chat
- Attendees may request a Certificate of Completion by emailing Mentor-Connect@fdtc.edu

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Presenters



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AGENDA

Part I: The NSF ATE Program

- NSF at a Glance
- NSF ATE Program
- ATE Tracks & Deadline
- Reminders

Part II: What Does it Mean for You

- What is an idea
- Case studies of funded projects
- Hints and Tips

Part II: Mentor-Connect Opportunity

- Eligibility: NSF ATE vs. Mentor-Connect
- Mentor-Connect — the Project
- Mentor-Connect System of Support
- Eligibility: Mentor-Connect Specifics
- Getting Started/Next Steps

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What is your current role at your institution?

- A. Faculty
- B. Administrator
- C. Grant Professional
- D. None of the above

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National Science Foundation at a Glance

The U.S. National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency that supports science and engineering in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

WHAT WE DO

- Expand the frontiers of discovery
- Create opportunities everywhere
- Enhance the U.S. national and economic security
- Support research infrastructure
- Sustain global leadership
- Catalyze regional innovation
- Translate technologies to the marketplace
- Safeguard the research enterprise

\$9.06B
FY 2024
Total Enacted

93%
Funds research,
education and
related activities

11K
Awards

1.9K
Institutions

353K
People

*Data represents FY 2023 Actuals unless otherwise indicated

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NSF Directorates

Alexandria, VA

BIO	MPS
CISE	ENG
SBE	GEO
EDU	TIP

Directorate for STEM Education — Division of Undergraduate Education — **ATE**

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Advanced Technological Education (ATE)

Goals:

- produce qualified science and engineering technicians to meet workforce demands, and
- improve the technical skills and the general STEM preparation of these technicians and the educators who prepare them

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ATE Program

Supports:

- Partnerships between two-year colleges and industry, other IHEs, K-12 schools, and other entities to improve the education of technicians in science and engineering.
- Two-year colleges in leadership roles, faculty-led, credit-bearing courses and programs
- Development or improvement of technical education pathways to careers - curriculum development, professional development, work-based experiences, etc...

U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education

Preparing a diverse STEM workforce and a well-informed citizenry

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ATE Supported Tech Fields

Including but not limited to:

- Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
- Agricultural & Bio-technologies
- Energy & Environmental Technologies
- Engineering Technologies
- Information Technologies
- Micro- and Nano-technologies
- Security Technologies
- Geospatial Technologies
- Autonomous Emerging Technologies

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ATE Funding Opportunities

- Track 1 Small Scale Projects** (not restricted to New)
Up to \$475,000 & 3 years
- Track 2 Projects**
Up to \$1,000,000 & 3 years
- Track 3 Consortia for Innovations in Technical Education**
2 institutions: up to \$1,200,000 over 3-4 years
3 or more institutions: up to \$3,000,000 over 3-4 years
- Track 4 ATE Centers**
Up to \$7,500,000 over 5 years, Competitive renewal possible

Deadline All Tracks:
Oct. 2, 2025

First Thursday
in October
thereafter

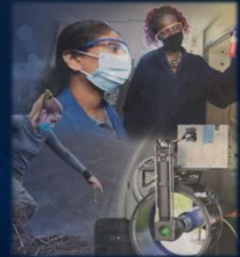
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Track 1: Small Scale Projects

Best Place to Start!, \$475,000 over three years

Examples of Track 1 & 2 Areas of Focus:

- ✓ Program, course and curriculum development
- ✓ Implementation, innovation, and adaptation projects
- ✓ Internships, work-based experiences, integration of career competencies
- ✓ Implementing new technologies in career-focused pathways
- ✓ Professional Development for Educators & K-12 Teachers
- ✓ Instrumentation/Equipment Acquisition



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ATE Website

Solicitation

PAPPG
24-1

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Excluded from ATE

- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ General STEM Education w/o Technician Focus
- ✓ Transfer Focused Programs
- ✓ Health, Veterinary & Medical Technician Programs
- ✓ Specific Equipment (next slide)



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Equipment Excluded from ATE

- ✓ Replacement Equipment or Instrumentation that does not "Significantly Improve Instructional Capability"
- ✓ Vehicles, Trailers, Laboratory Furnishings, General Utility Items
- ✓ Maintenance of Equipment or Related Contracts
- ✓ Modification, Construction, or Furnishing of Laboratories or Other Buildings
- ✓ Installation of Equipment or Instrumentation
- ✓ Teaching Aids



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Reminders for Proposal Writing

- ✓ Read the Solicitation carefully--watch for updates (24-584)
- ✓ Navigate the PAPPG (NSF 24-1)
- ✓ Contact a Program Officer with questions
- ✓ Utilize NSF award search function
- ✓ Watch the NSF website for changes – Current NSF Priorities
- ✓ Serve as a reviewer
- ✓ Apply to a mentoring program (Mentor-Connect)
- ✓ Reach out to ATE Centers and PIs
- ✓ Attend office hours, webinars, community events

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What You Need to Get Started

- An idea for enhancing technician education
- Desire to make a difference
- Industry need for completers of the targeted technician education program(s)

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Could Mean . . .

- ➔ Recruitment
- ➔ Faculty Development
- ➔ Program Update
- ➔ Some Equipment

As long as it provides for . . .

The education of highly-qualified technicians for advanced-technology fields

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South Central College — Doug Laven

EXAMPLE

- South Central College: iMEC (DUE 1304835)
- Enhancing the Independent Mechatronics Technical Curriculum and Creating a New Pathway from Rural High Schools into Mechatronics Careers (DUE 2037491)
- Expanding the Technician Workforce through Independent Mechatronics Education Curriculum (DUE 2400652)

- Focused on developing Mechatronics distance learning program
- Offer four college credit Mechatronics courses to regional high school partners in Minnesota and Nebraska

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Robeson Community College — Louis McIntyre

EXAMPLE

- Robeson Regional BioTech Education Consortium (DUE 0603356)
Focused on developing agriculture biotechnology — developed bio-agriculture program, student internships, public schools outreach

- Increasing the Number and Diversity of Cybersecurity Technicians in Rural North Carolina (DUE 2100012)
Focused on building the cybersecurity workforce — program enhancement and growth, student internships and outreach

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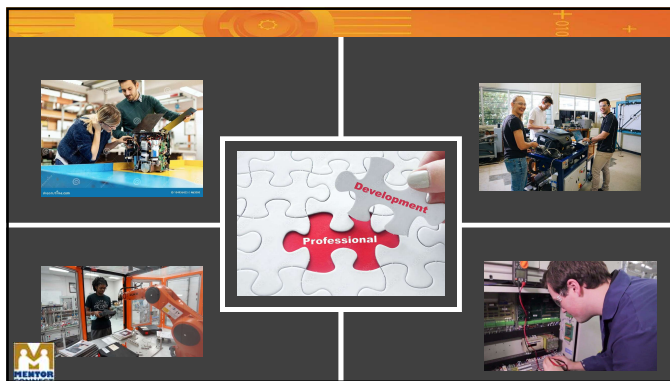
ABTech Community College

EXAMPLE

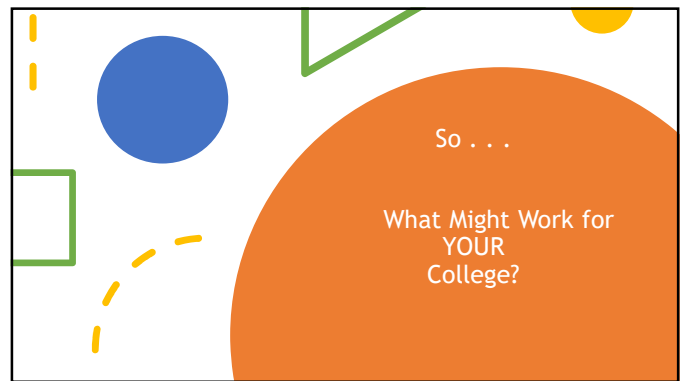
- Three grants — totalling over \$1.6 million
- Focus on recruiting and retaining
 - More students (Grants 1 and 2)
 - High school students (Grant 3)
- Allowed us to develop recruiting materials and have time for recruiting activities
 - Release time
 - Reduction in teaching load
 - Stipends

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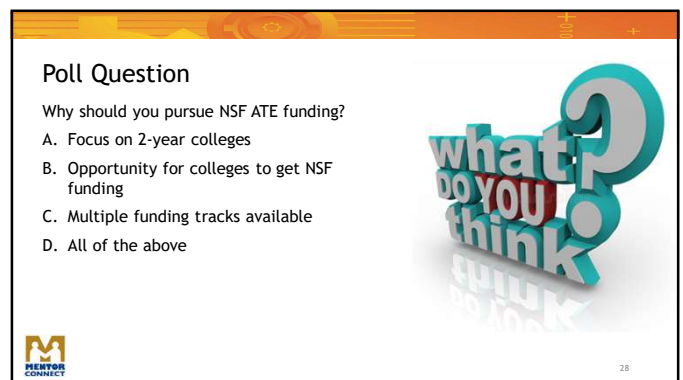
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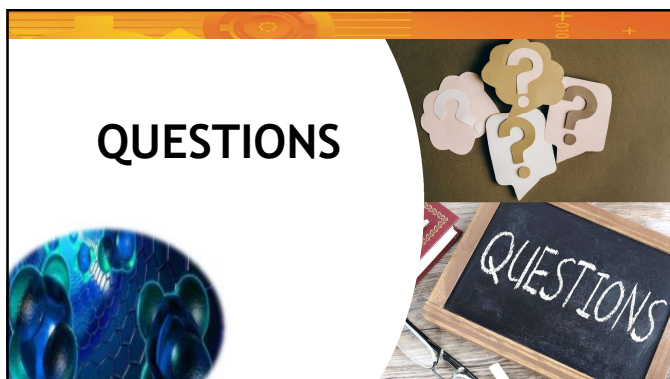
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The BIG Picture

Mentor-Connect helps colleges compete for NSF ATE grant funding to improve technician education and develop as leaders



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Differences

NSF-ATE

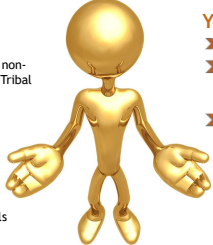

See PAPPG Chapter I.E.

- **Yes** – Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs), non-profit, non-academic organizations, and Tribal governments
- **Maybe** – For-profit organizations, State and Local Governments, Foreign Organizations, and Other Federal Agencies
- **No** – Unaffiliated Individuals

Mentor-Connect

Yes

- 2-year colleges
- Partnerships when 2-year college serves as the grantee (performing institution)
- New to ATE - Institutions or STEM Faculty/technician educators

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Mentor-Connect Overview


- Work one-on-one with an experienced Mentor
- Learn in a cohort with others who are new to ATE
- Understand NSF/ATE requirements
- Develop skills in
 - Project development & proposal structure
 - Proposal writing

NO CHARGE



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Mentor-Connect Geographic Impact:
12 cohorts → 43 States → 2 US Territories




261
College Teams

491
Faculty

317
Grant Professionals & Administrators



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Participant Success Data

- 86% have submitted NSF ATE proposals
- 72% received grants compared to 26% overall NSF funding rate


2024 Submission Success

- 100% submitted proposals (22 colleges)
- 82% projected to receive funding (18 colleges)




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Cohort Benefits



- An experienced mentor assigned to each team
- Technical assistance webinars & reference guides
- On-line resource library
- Help desk support




- Financial support: travel expenses, stipends
 - Three-day grant-writing workshop – Winter
 - One-day workshop & HI-TEC (conference) – Summer



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What is Expected of College?

- Participate as a team
 - Two faculty + 2 others
 - Grant Professional or equivalent
 - Other supportive administrator
- Fully engage in training & mentoring activities
- Provide feedback
- Submit an ATE proposal



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Who is Eligible?

- 2-year technical and community colleges & faculty
 - New-to-ATE colleges

OR

- New-to-ATE faculty – no experience as PI or Co-PI on an ATE grant




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Application Requirements

- Idea for ATE grant proposal
- 2 STEM faculty who teach technicians
 - Lead as PI or Co-PI
 - Have experience/qualifications
- + 2 others
 - Grant Professional or equivalent
 - Other supportive administrator
- Commitment of college – affidavit



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How to Apply

Access application:
www.Mentor-Connect.org
 "Get a Mentor"

Deadline Second Friday in November

Application Components:
 Electronic Application & College Affidavit




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Selection Process

- Everyone who applies gains access to Mentor-Connect help
- Up to 24 colleges/teams selected for Cohort 14; notification by November 30 of each year
- If not selected, you will receive:
 - One-on-one consultation & feedback on application
 - Alternate pathways to engage with the ATE Program
- Access to Mentor-Connect webinars and online resources




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February 4-6, 2026

Winter Workshop - New Orleans

- Instruction and Mentee-Mentor work time
 - Proposal structure & components
 - When to do what
 - Tips for proposal success
 - NSF proposal review & funding
 - Leadership skills development
 - ATE expectations for ATE projects (Track 1 & 2)



NEW ORLEANS

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Summer Workshop

- Tuesday, July 28, 2026
- In conjunction with HI-TEC in Austin, TX (July 27-30, 2026)




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Poll Question

Which of the following are Mentor-Connect participant benefits?

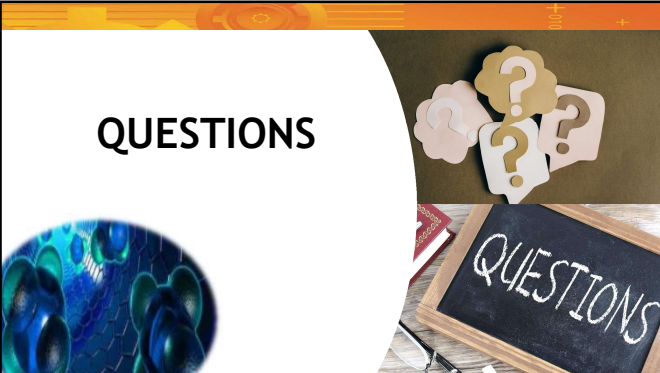
- A. Two ATE grant-development workshops
- B. One-on-one mentoring for each college team
- C. Technical support & webinars
- D. Travel support & stipends
- E. All of the above




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QUESTIONS




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Webinar Evaluation

- Please complete the evaluation
- Scroll down to make sure you answer all questions



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Connect with Mentor-Connect



- www.Mentor-Connect.org
- 843.676.8541
- mentor-connect@fdtc.edu
- ATEMentorConnect
- @Mentor_Connect
- [LinkedIn.com/MentorConnect](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MentorConnect)






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Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE

NSF DUE #2227301

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