Kent State Aeronautics Mentorship Program

Thank you for your interest in the Kent State Alumni Aeronautics Mentorship Program! The program was established as a way of connecting current Kent State University Aviation students with Kent State alumni who are now working in the aviation field. Our goal of this program is multi-faceted. We want to provide current Kent State students with a resource to ask questions about the real life as a professional; this can range from an Air Traffic Assistant to Facility Manager. As you know, many of the daily aspects of our jobs are not widely understood by students because of their lack of experience in the industry (scheduling, unions, training, facility classification, pay, shift work, etc.). We want to provide students with a positive outlook and encouragement that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We want to provide students with a real world resource to ask technical questions that they do not experience at their current experience level (complex SIDs/STARs, NextGEN, NY or other complex airspace, aerospace logistics, system thinking, etc.). We want to help students make the best possible decision about their first professional move after Kent State by providing them with the most accurate information possible. Lastly, we want to provide them a resource to help them with the hiring process through basic interview prep and recommendation (at your sole discretion). We are excited to continue the development of the Kent State Aeronautics Program and thank you for your contribution by sharing your knowledge with the next generation of aviation professionals. We look forward to having you onboard. -The Kent Mentorship Team

Our expectations of you as a mentor:

By entering into the Mentor role of this program, you agree to the outlined expectations listed above and below.

- Put the needs and goals of the student first. If your airline/company/agency does not seem to be the best fit for them based off their needs, tell them why you think so.

- Give the program your commitment. We created this program with the long-term needs of the students in mind. In some cases, the student may need a contact for a brief period of time; however, in many cases it will be a long-term commitment. If you are unwilling to make an informal connection and commitment to these students, we need to know so we can pair you accordingly for brief questions only. In most circumstances, you should expect to be paired for one semester (approximately four months) or for the full academic year (roughly late August to early May).

- Be a professional. This is an informal connection but you are representing Kent State and your company; make sure you keep your act clean and professional.
• Respect the privacy of the student. Don’t forget about FERPA and the problem with sharing any of their academic information. Don’t give out their contact information without asking.

• Stay in touch with your student. We expect you to remain in contact with your student throughout your tenure. However, we do understand that in some cases little can change over a semester for some students (i.e. a newly certified commercial student). If that is the case, check in when check rides would be accomplished, such as the end of the semester. If your student is in a point in their career where rapid progression is occurring, a more regular timeframe, such as once per month is acceptable. This doesn’t have to be much, a five minute call in some cases is sufficient.

• Let us know if you have any problems or if you are no longer in contact with your mentee. This will include a brief but regularly scheduled feedback form/survey. It will most likely be scheduled at a timeframe of approximately three months and should only take a few minutes to complete.

• Have fun with it! This is supposed to be a good time. They receive your help and knowledge; you receive the joy of having helping someone develop into a professional air traffic controller.

• Ask questions of us when necessary and provide us with program feedback and ideas. Our program is only as strong as our mentors are.

What you can expect from us:

• We will respect your privacy. We will not connect you with a student until we ask you first. After that, we will only provide them with your email address. Should you decide to give them your phone number after that, you may do so at your discretion.

• Our best attempt to pair you with people who meet your qualifications and your desires from the program.

• To keep this a reasonable, relatively small commitment. This is a long-term commitment; however, we will not be sending you the entire freshmen class to mentor for the rest of your life. We will send you one or two students who could use your help unless you specifically tell us you want to be more involved.