



RISE Network

Promoting research and instruction in STEM education

Public talk with Becky Wai-Ling Packard: The power of daily interactions

Bringing intentionality to the mentoring and advising of first-generation and underrepresented students in STEM.

While we are all familiar with the importance of mentoring programs as a tool to broaden access to STEM, we may overlook the potential power within our daily interactions with students. Whether in class, office hours, or the research lab, we can have a major impact on students through the comments we make, our actions, and how we organize our interactions. Research demonstrates the power of these critical moments especially for students underrepresented in their field of study or first-generation on our campuses. I offer practical recommendations to be more intentional about the time and energy we are already investing as mentors and advisors, and in doing so, improve the power of our impact on students.

When: Thursday, September 14th, 2017 from 4-5 pm.

Where: SOEB 120

Please RSVP to Victoria at rise@uncg.edu



Meet Becky: Over the past twenty years, Packard's research has focused on the mentoring and persistence of students from diverse backgrounds with a focus on first-generation college students, students of color, community-college transfer students, nontraditional-aged students, low-income students, and women in technical fields.

She has published numerous articles in scholarly journals, and has written for broader audiences. Her piece in the New York Times'

on-line education blog was awarded a Fame Award for the best portrayal of community colleges in the public media. Packard's book *"Successful STEM Mentoring Initiatives for Underrepresented Students: A Research-Based Guide for Faculty and Administrators"* (Stylus Publishing), has been used as a resource by multiple institutions, and was recently featured at a recent meeting for Presidential Award for Mentoring in Science and Engineering (PAESMEM) award alumni. She has worked with over 45 institutions on mentoring, advising, inclusion initiatives, most recently with the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Caltech, RPI, Emory, and the University of Detroit.