Request for Nominations for
Two 2016 STUDENT PEER MENTOR and two POSTDOC PEER MENTOR AWARDS

Postdoc and Student Peer Mentors are leaders in the community of their peers. They are highly motivated and share interests and experiences with their fellow postdocs and support those who are less experienced but on the same pathway. They are excellent and dedicated trainees themselves and, in serving as role models, they remind their peers of their capability and what can be done with lots of effort. They can provide perspectives for a successful life as a student/postdoc, and they know campus expectations and rules. As fellow trainees, they are closer to the experiences and concerns of their peers than are the Principle Investigators, and at the same time, they know when to direct people to more senior advisors.

Peer Mentors introduce fellow trainees to members of their own network who could be helpful for a fellow's advancement, and they provide emotional support during a professional or personal crisis during their training. Their own perseverance serves to revitalize those whose projects might currently be overbearing, and they provide support even when this might extend the day for them to finish their own work.

Peer Mentors lend an open ear if there are difficulties with an advisor, and they are willing to comment on a draft for a grant or a proposal for a fellowship application. They are great communicators, can adjust to the various personality types of different trainees and encourage them to take advantage of career development opportunities. At the same time, they are aware that mentoring skills are important for many academic and non-academic jobs, and they value the opportunity to hone their skills while supporting their peers. Peer Mentors are knowledgeable and compassionate and get genuine joy out of making a difference in someone's life, thereby empowering others to do their best.

While there might not be the perfect Peer Mentor, we would like to encourage you to evaluate your fellow students or postdocs (inside and outside your own laboratory) regarding the qualities listed above. Please send nomination letters (no less than 3/4 page and no more than 2 pages) to Pat Goggans (patricia.goggans@ucdenver.edu) no later than Monday May 2, 2016. Two peer mentors should be students and two Peer Mentors should be a postdocs or research associates. Please include the following information in your letter:

1. Name of Nominee, Email Address, Graduate Program, Department for Postdocs
2. Name of Nominator, Email Address, Graduate Program, Primary Mentor, Years of Graduate or Postdoctoral Training
3. How long have you known the nominee?
4. Describe in detail and with examples why you find the nominee deserving of the recognition.