Fall Survey Results — What You Told Us
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our fall survey. Your feedback is invaluable to us, especially during this transitional first year. Here is a snapshot of some of those responses:

- Most pairs have interacted more than twice already, many 4+ times
- The vast majority reported having a “good” or “excellent” relationship
- The most popular activities were email and phone conversations, meeting for coffee or a meal, resume critiquing, video chatting, and completing the action plan worksheets
- Mentors would like to challenge students to follow up sooner, come to conversations better prepared, and set more time aside for the relationship, as well as be more proactive in terms of initiating communication, asking questions, and requesting assistance
- Both mentors and students cited busy schedules and distance as the two biggest obstacles to the relationship
- Mentors see the opportunity to help/give back and connecting with young people/students as the best parts of their experience
- Students have most enjoyed having someone experienced to talk to and seek advice from and being exposed to different career paths
- Both groups of participants have requested monthly reminders from program staff

Online Handbook Refresher
Another takeaway from the survey was the fact that a notable number of our participants have not yet read our online handbook. Additionally, in some of the open-ended questions we had mentors and students asking about where to find our worksheets and information on campus resources. We’d like to encourage everyone to use this month to (re)familiarize yourself with the following resources available within the handbook:

- Mentor Action Plan (pg. 16) and Student Action Plan (pg. 18)
- Suggested Questions, Topics, & Activities (pg. 20)
- Student Development Plan (pg. 23)
- Campus Resources for Mentors & Students (pg. 26)

Conversation Topics & Activities for This Month
- Spring classes—What are you studying this semester?
- Summer plans—Internship? Job? Research? Studying Abroad?
- Engineering & IT Industry Career Day (2/11/14)—How are you preparing?
- Mentor Program Spring Reception (4/4/14)—Will you attend?
- Complete the Student Development Plan worksheet together
- Ask your mentor to critique your resume, cover letter, and/or LinkedIn profile
- Discuss possible dates to visit your mentor at his/her company

* Students—Don’t forget to show your appreciation for your mentor. The words “thank you” can go a long way. *

Spring 2014 Reception
If you haven’t already done so, please add our spring reception to your 2014 calendar—Friday, April 4 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Featheringill Hall’s Adams Atrium. Any ideas about how you might like to spend some of this time? Please share them with us. To view more pictures from our fall Meet & Greet Reception, click here.

We Want to Hear & Feature Your Stories
Please consider submitting brief written stories, pictures and/or video clips documenting experiences you’ve shared with your mentor/mentee. In addition to our desire to know how you’re spending your time together, we’d love to be able to feature these on our website. Our hope is that these examples will inspire current and future participants so that they, too, can gain maximum benefit from the program. Please send anything you’re willing to share with us via email.

Visit us online at http://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/mentor
Questions or comments? Email us at vuse-mentor@vanderbilt.edu or call (615) 343-8061.