

ASCEND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

September 2026

AGENDA TEMPLATE

Session Theme: Relationship Building & Networking

Training module this month: Both: Maintaining Momentum Throughout the Mentor Relationship

- Watch before your meeting. Come prepared to discuss how it applies to your work together.

Group session this month: Peer Problem-Solving Session A — Thu, Sept 10, 10–11am EST (Mentees — pick one)

Group session this month: Peer Problem-Solving Session B — Thu, Sept 17, 10–11am EST (Mentees — pick one)

Welcome & Check-In

Workshop debrief: Lab 2: Leader as Coach (August 20)

- What was the most useful thing you practiced in the lab?
- Have you had a chance to use a coaching approach with someone on your team — how did it go?
- Where do you feel most confident as a coach, and where do you want to keep growing?

- **Both:** Brief personal catch-up and progress check.
- Review any action items from your August meeting.
- **Mentee:** Share a quick update on your ASCEND goal.

Relationship Building & Networking

- **Mentor:** Share how building strong relationships has shaped your career — what made the difference?
- **Mentee:** Map your current professional network — who are your key connections, collaborators, and supporters?
- **Mentor:** Help identify potential new connections and growth areas in the mentee's network.
- **Both:** Identify 3–5 key individuals or roles the mentee should connect with and brainstorm how to make it happen.
- Discuss PSA-specific networking opportunities: internal events, cross-departmental projects, committees.

Next Steps & Scheduling

- **Both:** Agree on the date and time for your October meeting.
- **Both:** Watch the training module before your next meeting.
- **Mentee:** Attend one Peer Problem-Solving Session — Sept 10 or Sept 17, 10–11am EST.
- **Mentee:** Commit to one networking action to complete before October.

Scenario Practice

Scenario Practice

You are trying to move a project forward but it requires support from a department you have no existing relationship with. Your emails have gone unanswered and the deadline is approaching.

Walk through this together:

- What strategies could you use to get the right people's attention without going over anyone's head?
- How do you build a relationship quickly when the stakes are high?
- What would you do differently to avoid this situation next time?