



## ascilite community mentoring program and collaborative community mentoring program: When I succeed, we succeed!

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And, a range of mentors and mentees from the programs

### Abstract and Symposium Plan

This symposium is an opportunity to hear from a group of mentees and mentors about their 2011 projects. It is also a great opportunity to find out about the programs and how you can be involved in 2012 as either a mentor or mentee.

**The Community Mentoring Program (CMP)** involves a collaboration between two ascilite members for the purpose of achieving an agreed goal through dialogue, action and reflection. Mentoring can play a beneficial role in enabling participants to increase their knowledge and experience, enhance career prospects and improve job satisfaction. There are few experiences as powerful as connecting with other people who are united by the need to work collegially and to resolve mutually shared problems. ascilite initiated the Community Mentoring Program in 2003 and approximately 40 members have taken part over the 8 years. The Program has proved to be a valuable addition to the ascilite suite of activities to support its members. The CMP provides wonderful opportunities for a participant to expand a career portfolio and establish support networks that are so important for creating a better working environment and realise aspirations for the future.

**The Collaborative Community Mentoring Program (C<sup>2</sup>MP)**, piloted in 2011, matches a pair of consulting mentors who have devised a shared project or theme concept with up to 6 corresponding mentees who have their own projects that will fit within or relate to the proposed theme to form a collaborative peer-group. The C<sup>2</sup>MP aims to build on the strengths of the Community Mentoring Program and extend the reach and benefits of mentoring across the ascilite community. A dedicated area for the Program is hosted in the ascilite hub's Moodle environment and is used for synchronous and asynchronous interaction, focused discussions, sharing of ideas and resource building. There are clear parallels between social constructivist models for online learning and collaborative mentoring. Digital technologies provide significant opportunities to link dispersed individuals and groups for interaction and collaboration.

**Please cite as:** Reushle, S. (2011). ascilite community mentoring program and collaborative community mentoring program: When I succeed, we succeed! In G. Williams, P. Statham, N. Brown & B. Cleland (Eds.), *Changing Demands, Changing Directions. Proceedings ascilite Hobart 2011*. (pp.1075-1076). <https://doi.org/10.14742/apubs.2011.1889>

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