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David Hartenstine* (hartend@wwu.edu), **Perry Fizzano, Joseph A. Brobst, Joanna K. Garner** and **James Lamar Foster**. *Peer and Recent Alumni Mentoring for Math and Computer Science Students in an NSF S-STEM Program.*

The CS/M Scholars Program at Western Washington University (WWU) is an NSF Track 2 S-STEM project. The grant supports students (CS/M Scholars) majoring in math or computer science. A hallmark element of the program is a near-peer mentoring program. Each first- and second-year CS/M Scholar is paired with a junior or senior in the program. The junior and senior CS/M Scholars are each mentored by an Early Career Professional Mentor (ECPM), a recent WWU math or CS alum. Six times during the school year, mentors and mentees engage in short conversations on a provided theme. Summaries written by mentees have provided research data and feedback for program improvement. Preliminary research findings indicate that mentoring relationships provide safe spaces for students' identity exploration and development of commitments towards career paths and life goals. Each of the cases analyzed included articulation and exploration of students' beliefs, self-perceptions, goals, and action possibilities, suggesting that meaningful interventions to promote student retention in mathematics and CS can be implemented under time and resource constraints. Topics discussed will also include: recruitment of ECPMs, management, feedback from students and ECPMs, challenges faced, and plans for the future. (Received September 04, 2020)