



COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

Ms. Marie Vander Heiden
Executive Director
Association of Professional Biology
300 – 1095 McKenzie Ave.
Victoria, BC V8P 5L5

June 6, 2016

Re. Letter of support for the APB's mentorship program

Dear Ms. Vander Heiden,

On behalf of the College of Applied Biology (the College), the regulator of applied biology professionals in British Columbia, it is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the Association of Professional Biology's (APB) mentorship program. The College regulates its members in the public interest, ensuring that they meet a specific standard of education and experience, maintain their competency through continuing education, and adhere to a high standard of professional conduct.

Based on our review of the mentorship program documents, the refreshed APB mentorship program provides an excellent opportunity for APB members, who are generally College members, to work with a mentor to develop skills and knowledge to assist them in their professional career. The unique inclusion of a "professional learning community" approach, a focus on recognition of mentors and alumni of the program, and a cash bonus offered to each protégée who completes the full program all enhance the likelihood of success of this important initiative.

The College of Applied Biology recognizes the important role that professional development plays in maintaining and enhancing competence in professional practice. This is reflected in our mandatory requirements for continuing professional development (CPD). The College understands the value of experienced professionals working with others to share their knowledge and expertise, and participation in a mentoring arrangement is specifically identified as a CPD activity.

In conclusion, we strongly support the Association of Professional Biology's mentorship program, which will provide additional opportunities for College members to maintain and improve their competency, and to assist them in meeting their professional obligations.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Craig, PhD, RPBio
President, College of Applied Biology