Hi! My name is Melanie Burgess, and I am the Project REACH Mentorship Coordinator. During the Mentorship orientation, you will have the opportunity to read my full bio.

The E-Mentorship is a culminating Project REACH professional development activity that complements/supplements existing district/complex and school mentorship programs. We are here for you, and we support in ways that you identify— including advisement, resources, and pedagogical support. The value of mentorship and collegial coaching has been well documented in professional research and is an important component of Project REACH participation.

The 1-school-year E-Mentorship begins once you graduate or become an Emergency Certified lead teacher of record; submit your certification/licensure and employment documentation; submit mentorship forms; and complete an orientation to mentorship processes and outcomes. Then you are paired with one of our excellent University of Phoenix faculty who has many years of experience both as an educator and as a mentor. I match you with a mentor based on your area of professional training (elementary, secondary, or special education) and the personal interests you identify on your mentorship forms.

You will be able to communicate privately with a mentor and discuss best practices/round-table topics publicly with other Project REACH mentors and recipients through the vehicle of online newsgroups. I like to think of these as dynamic forums for you to discuss teaching/school experiences with your mentor and with other Project REACH recipients. Professionals often want to consult with others who are outside the school environment. This is your opportunity. There are no assigned tasks; however, weekly communication is expected.

The E-Mentorship is unique to Project REACH; the University of Phoenix does not provide this support for any other College of Education graduates. Our most important goal of the mentorship experience is for you to feel that you have the professional support you need as you work with students in a high-need setting. A second goal is for you to set your own professional goals and to have opportunities to accomplish these goals as you share experiences and network with other professionals. Regardless of whether you are a first year teacher or have many experiences in the professional setting, we want you to feel that Project REACH is providing you with opportunities for your continued professional growth in areas of personal interest.

I will contact you with all the information you will need to begin the E-Mentorship process when you have graduated from your MAED program or when you have employment as an Emergency Certified lead teacher of record before graduation. Materials for the E-Mentorship follow. Please contact me anytime if you have any
questions regarding the E-Mentorship requirements or process. You can e-mail me at Melanie.Burgess@phoenix.edu or call me locally in Phoenix, AZ at 602-387-1744 or toll free at 1-800-366-9699, ext. 71744.

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