

## **Sample Questions to start Mentor-Mentee Dialogue**

The objective of the initial conversation is for the Mentor to establish a dialogue with the Mentee that will guide the next several months of contact. To do this the Mentor can tailor future meetings and conversations to be more productive if the beginning knowledge level and areas of interest of the Mentee are known. These questions are suggestions to “break the ice” and establish a level of knowledge to begin the relationship. The Mentor should also try to establish a comfort range of peer conversation and strive to know the Mentee as an individual, as indicated by the second set of questions:

### Questions for Engineering Background:

What background do you have in railroads?

What courses are you taking or have you completed?

What are you curious about, what would you like to know?

Are you active in any other professional associations such as ASCE, ITE, SAE, SWE, etc.?

Have you had previous employment in engineering or railroading?

### Questions for a working relationship:

What outside interests and activities do you like?

What is your favorite part of the country?

What have been your favorite and least favorite courses?

What are your time commitments and work or class schedules?