

# 12 ADVOCACY ACTIONS FOR SUCCESS

## 6. GROWTH COMES FROM ENGAGEMENT

How might you get involved locally/ nationally with ADCES?

Who would you like to add to your “mentor portfolio”? Jot names down for each category of mentor and consider asking for their support.

### **Strategic Mentor**

- Helps you see the big picture and long-term direction
- Guides positioning of your work/program
- Advises on priorities and decision-making
- Often a senior leader or experienced executive

### **Sponsor/ Career Advocate**

- Publicly advocates for you in rooms you’re not in
- Recommends you for opportunities, funding, visibility
- Uses their reputation to advance your work
- Focus: influence, access, and power

### **Political/Organizational Navigator**

- Teaches you how the system really works
- Helps you understand stakeholders, power structures, and alliances
- Advises on timing and messaging
- Critical for institutional advocacy

### **Skill-Based Mentor**

- Helps develop specific competencies (presentation, negotiation, research, program design, leadership)
- Provides tactical improvement feedback
- Focus: capability building

### **Thought Partner / Intellectual Mentor**

- Challenges your thinking
- Helps refine ideas, arguments, and frameworks
- Strengthens credibility and clarity of message
- Ideal for program development or policy advocacy

### **Connector / Network Mentor**

- Expands your professional network
- Makes strategic introductions
- Helps you build coalitions and partnerships
- Particularly useful for advocacy and influence work

### **Peer Mentor / Accountability Partner**

- Offers mutual support and learning
- Provides feedback and encouragement
- Helps sustain momentum on goals