

Part of Opportunity Education's Webinar Series:  
*The Quest to Transform the High School Experience*

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# Transform Teaching into Mentoring

**Develop Mentoring Techniques to Suit Each Student**

 **Opportunity Education**  
[www.opportunityeducation.org](http://www.opportunityeducation.org)

**Welcome!**  
We will begin shortly.  
If you can see the  
slide and hear the  
music, you are all set.



# Kelsey Cain

**Director of Professional Learning  
Opportunity Education**

- Over the last 3 years, trained and supported over 300 teachers across the US and East Africa to support adoption of Quest Forward Learning and strengthen instructional practices.
- Teaching experience in many grades in both urban and rural school districts, as well as abroad
- B.A. in Psychology and Africana Studies; Teaching Licensure for K-6 all subjects, 6-9 Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies



# Nils I. Palsson

**Senior Mentor, Social Science**  
**Dean of Faculty & Academy Mentor Coach**  
**Quest Forward Academy, Santa Rosa**

- In third year of Quest Forward mentoring and second year as Academy Mentor Coach and PD leader.
- Taught all grade levels of Social Science curriculum at Quest Forward Academy, plus several electives.
- Before mentoring at QFA, taught history in public high school, served as a national nonprofit Communications Director, ran for US Congress twice, and hosted a community radio show. Avid tree-climber.



# John C. Young

**Academic Dean**  
**Girard College High School**

- 17 Years Teaching and Leading in Public and Independent Schools.
- Founded and scaled private and public sector organizations.
- Masters in Education Entrepreneurship from University of Pennsylvania



# Jolene Zywica, PhD

**Senior Director of Learning Strategy  
Opportunity Education**

- Led research, design, and evaluation efforts. Provide support to school leadership and staff
- Involved in Quest Forward Learning since its inception in 2014
- Prior experiences: Post-doctoral researcher at Carnegie Mellon University, Literacy Coach in Chicago Public Schools, Teacher in Pittsburgh H.S., Afterschool and summer program designer and facilitator, researcher
- PhD in Learning Sciences and Policy

Thank you for joining us.

# Please introduce yourselves in the chat box.

Your Name, Your Location and School/Organization, Your Role

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The webinar will be recorded and available. All webinar registrants will receive a follow-up email that will include the webinar slide deck, recording, and other resources mentioned during the presentation.



# In the next hour, you will...

1. Learn how to make your school and classroom culture more student-centered in 4 practical steps.
2. Share questions and advice among a community of Quest Forward mentors and leaders.
3. Receive a free ebook to learn more about the research and how to transform classrooms at your high school.

## ABOUT US



# Opportunity Education

Opportunity Education is a non-profit foundation developing and supporting life-changing learning programs for young adults worldwide. Since 2005, we have supported over 1 million students in 11 countries.

We help school leaders to shift their school's work from content instruction and testing to student skills practice and growth within a rigorous academic program that meets the highest standards.





# Need: A Better Learning Model for High School

## Students

From passive consumption and one-size-fits-all learning



To differentiated, student-directed, best-fit learning and growth supported by engaged teachers

## Curriculum

From content-focused memorization and testing



To project-driven, student-directed academic and skills development

## Assessments

From pervasive quizzes and summative grades



Authentic evaluation of both work product and work process

# Quest Forward Learning™

An Integrated Solution





**SKILLS-FORWARD  
CURRICULUM**

**FEEDBACK-FOCUSED  
ASSESSMENTS**

**INTEGRATED LEARNING  
MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**

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All supported by extensive teacher professional learning and coaching, and change management support.



 Opportunity Education

# Transform Teaching into Mentoring

**Develop Mentoring Techniques to Suit Each Student**



We all need  
a mentor,  
especially teens.



We all have mentors in our lives — personal and professional. They are a ‘guide on the side’ to help us reach our goals.

**If you are comfortable, respond in the chat:**

Think of a mentor or coach in your life.

1. What made them unique?
2. Were you successful with your goals because of their support?

# Research shows...



- Vast body of research showing improved outcomes (DuBois, et. al, 2011; Eby, et. al., 2008)
  - Social relationships
  - Motivation and behavior
  - Emotional well-being
  - Physical health
  - Academic and career outcomes
- Increased confidence and self-awareness
- Lower anxiety levels and satisfaction for mentors too! (Gill & Roulet, 2019)

# Who are mentors?



- Teachers
- Learners
- Experience creators
- Coaches
- Facilitators
- Networkers
- Guides
- Modelers of growth mindset



# Conversations with Quest Forward School Leaders





# Steps to Mentor More

1. Model a Growth Mindset
2. Leverage Your Strengths
3. Unlearn/Relearn
4. Practice, Practice, Practice



# 1. Model a Growth Mindset

What does it mean to be a mentor, and how do your teams model the growth mindset?





## 2. Leverage Your Strengths

How have mentors at your school leveraged their strengths, and how has that contributed to student learning?

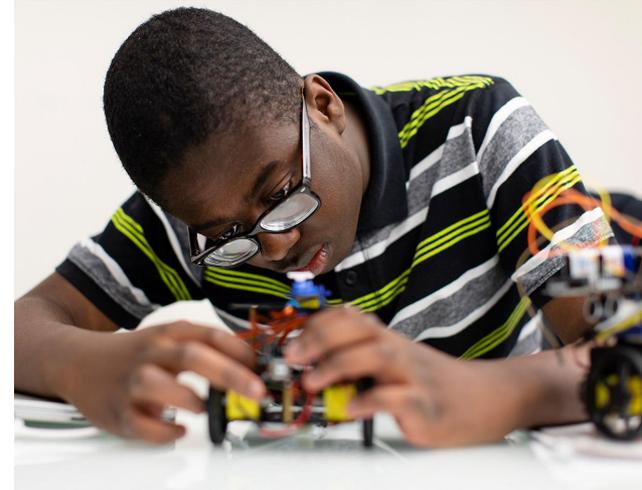




### 3. Unlearn/Relearn

What kinds of things have you done to help teachers at your school identify as mentors and employ mentoring strategies?

What helped you when you first started?





## 4. Practice, Practice, Practice

In what ways do you improve  
and grow within your  
mentoring practice?





5. What advice would you give to teachers or school leaders that want to bring in more mentoring in their schools?



# Next Steps

1

Mark your calendars. Sign up for the next webinar on student engagement.

[www.opportunityeducation.org/webinar-engagement](http://www.opportunityeducation.org/webinar-engagement)



**Opportunity Education**

[www.opportunityeducation.org](http://www.opportunityeducation.org)

2

Learn more about Quest Forward Learning, and how it helps high schools to transform.

[www.opportunityeducation.org/transform](http://www.opportunityeducation.org/transform)



**Opportunity Education**

[www.opportunityeducation.org](http://www.opportunityeducation.org)

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Contact us any time to find out if Quest Forward Learning could fit your unique school.

[info@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:info@opportunityeducation.org)

FREE EBOOK

# Guide on the Side

By: *Jolene Zywica, PhD*  
*Senior Director of Learning Strategy and*  
*Kelsey Cain, Director of Professional Learning*

In this ebook, we discuss four practical steps to bringing more mentoring into your teaching practice. This shift flips the narrative and improves student learning and well-being.

Your ebook will be emailed to you with the recording and slides from this event.



# Q&A

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What would you like to learn more about?



# Thank you.

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