



Breakout Session

Inviting in Experts: How to Leverage Authentic Audiences in the Virtual Classroom

Christy Kingham, Springpoint
Geoffrey Schmidt, Holyoke Public Schools
Jessica Waters, Nowell Leadership Academy



Welcome!

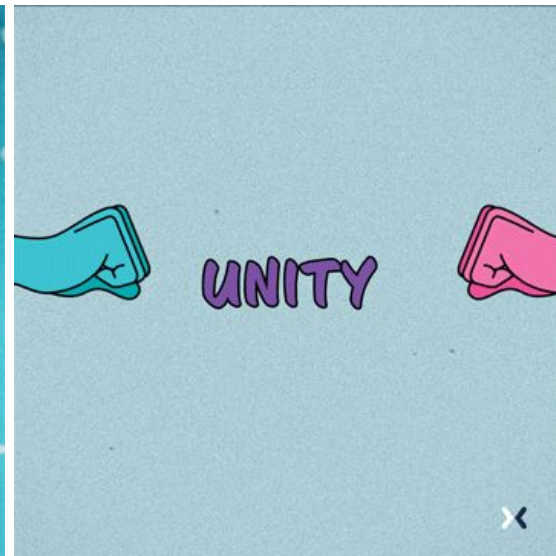
While we all join in, please introduce yourselves in the chat by sharing:

- Your name, school/organization, current role
- What are you hoping to learn from this session?

Follow us



@SpringpointEDU



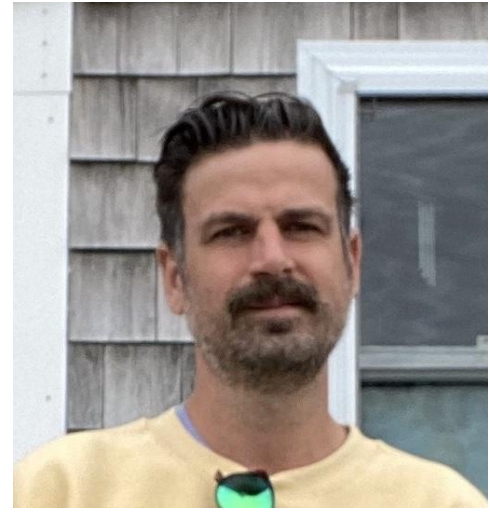
Presenters



Christy Kingham
*Director, Leadership &
School Design,
Springpoint*
(she/her/hers)



Jessica Waters
*Executive Director, Nowell
Leadership Academy*
(she/her/hers)

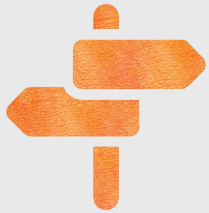


Geoffrey Schmidt
*Engagement Director &
School Design Lead,
Holyoke Public Schools*
(he/his/him)

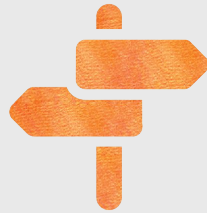


Session Overview

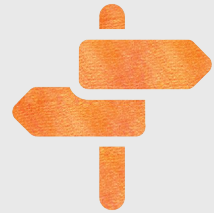
Objectives



Participants will learn about how projects can be designed to include authentic audience participation, through public exhibitions and expert feedback.



Participants will brainstorm how they can design learning experiences and performance tasks that include authentic audiences.



Participants will build a plan to invite authentic audiences into their school or classroom as a way to engage students and strengthen student work.

Agenda

Time	Agenda
10 minutes	Introduction & Context
10 minutes	Experts at Holyoke Opportunity Academy
10 minutes	Experts at Nowell Leadership Academy
20 minutes	Panel Conversation and Q&A
10 minutes	Inviting Experts to Your Community

Why Experts?

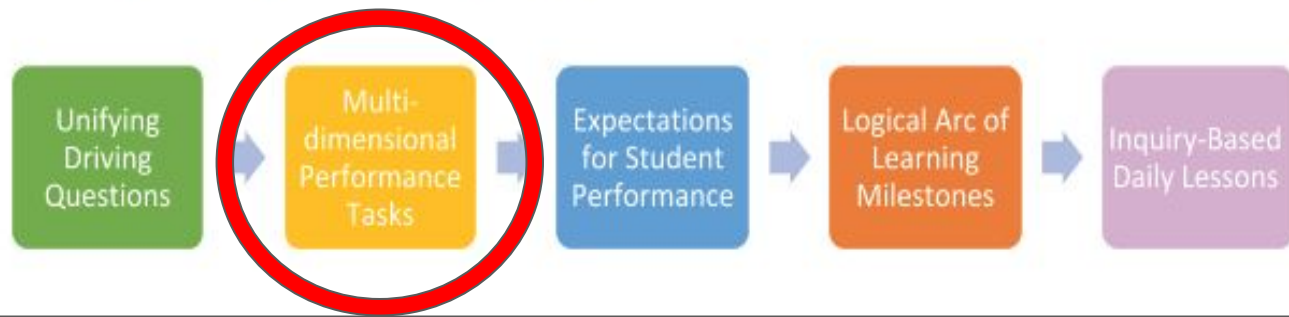
Transformative Learning Experiences (TLEs)



- Project Based Unit of Study
- Promotes Deeper Learning
- Develops College and Career Ready Competencies
- Makes Learning Relevant
- Fosters Rigorous Thinking and Student Work

Key Components of a Transformative Learning Experience

The design of a Transformative Learning Experience consists of five core components, which are designed in a specific order and back-mapped from prioritized competencies.

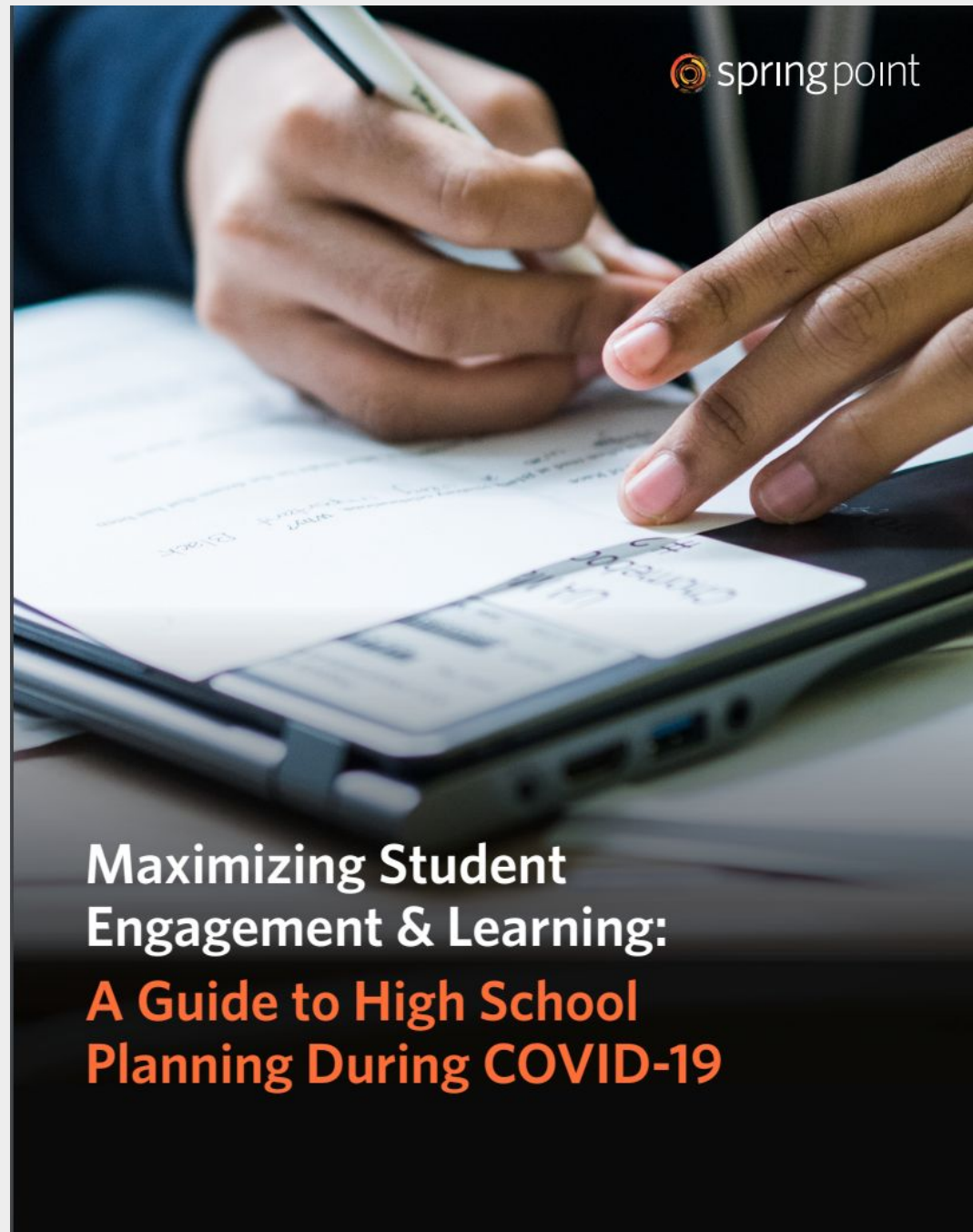




Access the publication
on our website:
springpointschools.org

*Direct link to
publication:*

bit.ly/SPchecklistpub



**Maximizing Student
Engagement & Learning:
A Guide to High School
Planning During COVID-19**

Authentic Audience



Engaging with Experts:

Throughout the Unit

Public Exhibition:

*One event with experts
and a wider audience*

Why Experts?

**Increase
student
engagement
and
investment**

**The work
becomes
“Real”**

**Deepen
content and
skill work**

Types of Experts

Example: Gentrification Photo Essay TLE	
Skill Expertise	Content Expertise
Professional Photographers & Writers	Stakeholders with unique perspectives on the topic (city council members, developers, non-profit advocacy groups, the mayor's office, etc.)

Types of Expert Engagement

Project Launch

**Whole Class or Small
Group Discussion**

Plan and prepare experts, teachers and students...this helps to ensure it's authentic and deeply embedded in the learning experience.

With

**Critique of Final
Products**

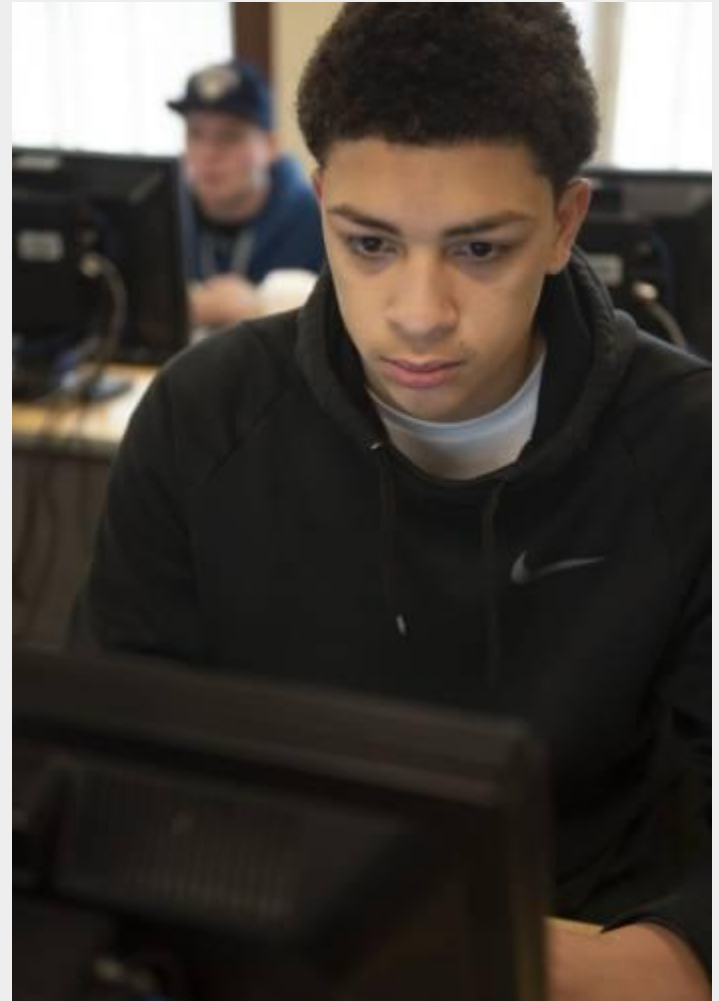
Attend Final Exhibition as Audience

Experts in Practice

Experts at Opportunity Academy in Holyoke, MA

Opportunity Academy is a set of alternative high school pathways that allow students to continue or restart on a pathway to a diploma if they are not succeeding at Holyoke High School's main campuses.

Mission: Our school empowers learners who were previously disengaged with school to develop their academic, and socioemotional skills; and to envision and achieve a rewarding life. We accomplish this by prioritizing transformative relationships, **robust and relevant project-based learning, and learning opportunities that extend beyond our school's walls.**



How do TLEs and experts engage students and support their learning?

Initial data and anecdotal evidence show that students doing TLEs are more engaged and accumulating credits faster than students who have not experienced TLEs.

- In-Person PayDay Loans: Student Participant **+18% attend. increase** cycle-over-cycle
- Remote TLEs:
 - **Top 9** credit* earners: 2 TLE's+
 - **Top 15** credit earners: 1 TLE+



HI! MY NAME IS USMAN!

Usman Hameedi, © 2020

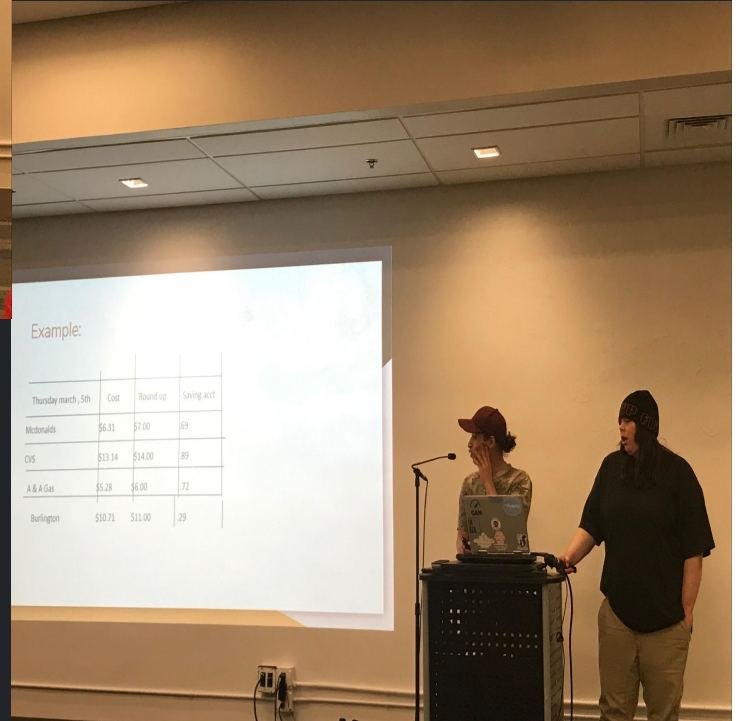
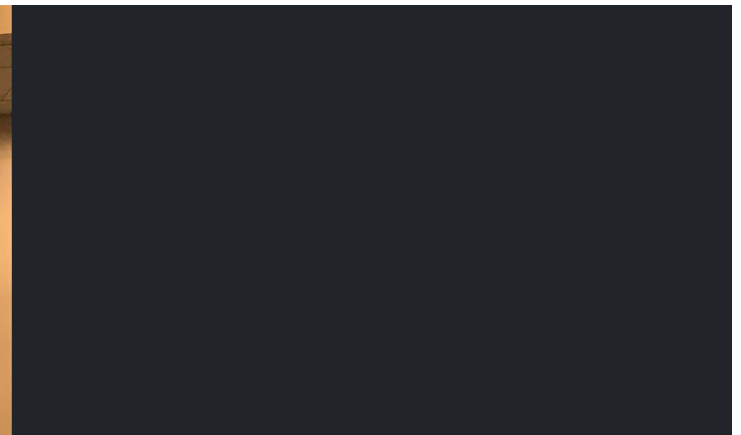
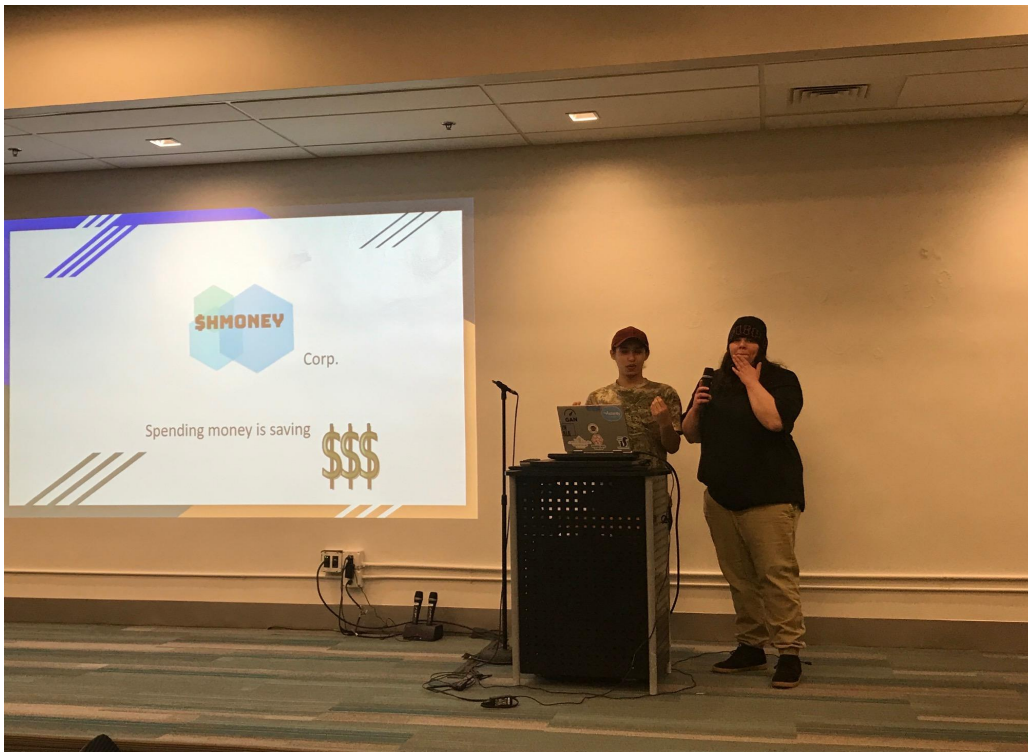
At Opportunity Academy, a Transformative Learning Experience focused on slam poetry featured an entry event starring Usman Hameedi, an award-winning slam poet, teaching artist, and scientist.



TAKE 5 MINUTES TO WRITE A REACTION TO MY POEM

Usman Hameedi, © 2020

Usman performed and guided students in analyzing and digesting his work. He also showed slam poetry videos that featured different themes and devices, and facilitated an activity for students to try their hands at slam.



PayDay Loans

Types of Expert Engagement

Project Launch	Whole Class or Small Group Discussion	1-1 Feedback
Whole Class Instruction	Small Group Instruction	Critique of Final Products
Attend Final Exhibition as Audience		

Experts at Nowell Leadership Academy in Providence, RI



Nowell Leadership Academy's mission is to ensure that Rhode Island's pregnant, parenting and underserved youth graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for success in college, career and family life.

- Serving 160 students
- 91% receive FRPL
- Two-thirds are pregnant or parenting
- 89% of Nowell's 2019 graduating class enrolled in a professional certification program, a two-year college or a four-year college.

Nowell Leadership Academy has conducted in-person expert touch points with local experts as well as virtually with national experts.

IN PERSON:

Students wrote short stories that they pitched to actual writers and publishers at the bookstore, “An Unlikely Story” owned and operated by Jeff Kinny in Plainville, MA.

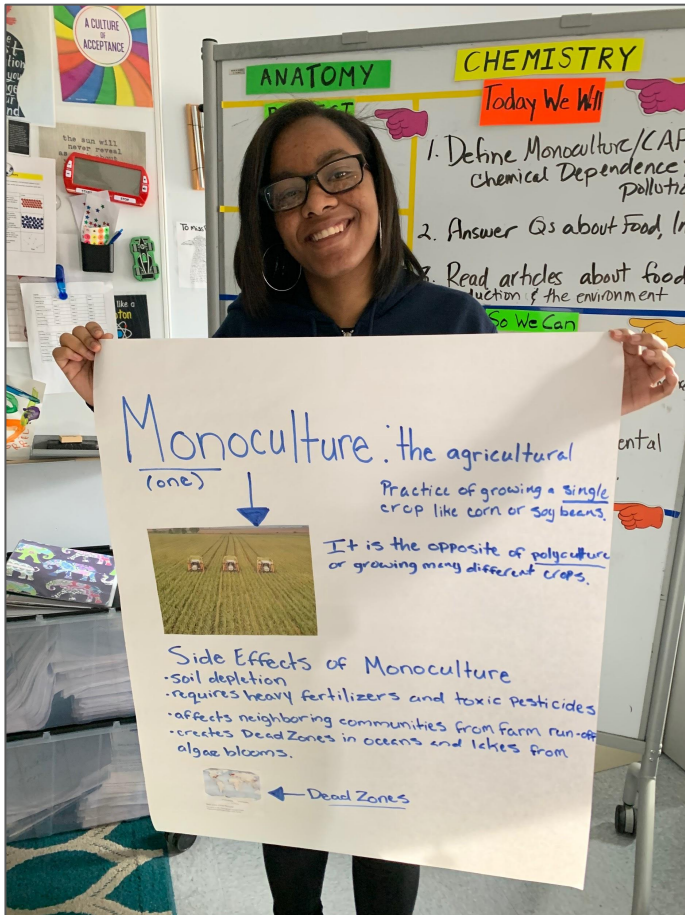
VIRTUAL:

A STEM class focused on building a city was joined by an engineer and scientist.

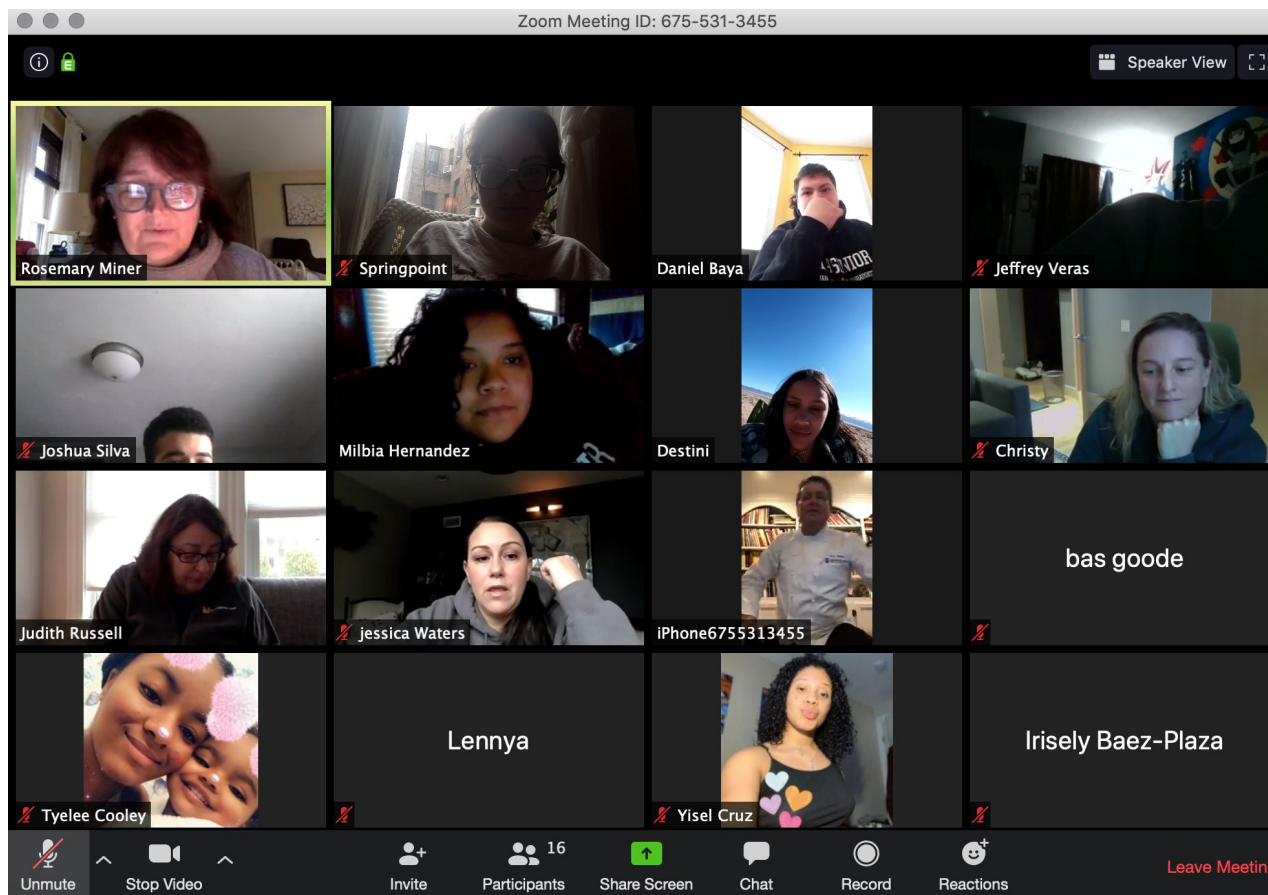
Buy In: Experiencing Experts Ourselves Via a Mini TLE



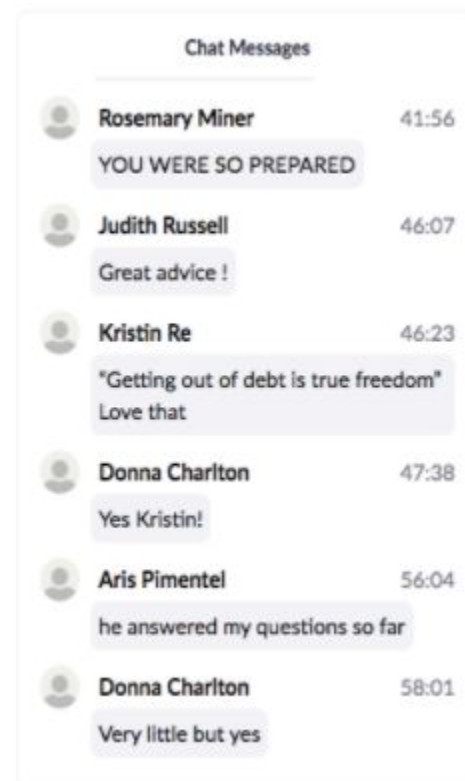
Citizen Food TLE



How can food be an avenue to empowerment, social justice and (re) building community?



Nowell Leadership Academy students joined a Zoom call in April to present their work to a local expert—Chef Steve Shipley, a seasoned chef and now faculty member at Johnson and Wales University. This was a milestone learning experience within the Citizen Food unit. Read more about it here: bit.ly/nowellexperts



Nowell Leadership Academy students heard from Financial Adviser, Patrick Gill a banking consultant to one of Canada's largest, financial institutions and a popular TEDTalk guest. He spoke with students in a finance class about debt and and financial freedom.



Panel Discussion



**Q&A: Put your
question in the chat!**

Inviting Experts to Your Community

Open Brainstorm

Let's apply this to your context!
Please take a moment in the chat to brainstorm using any of these prompts...

- **Dream big:** how/when might your district, school or classroom benefit from an expert?
- **Identify the players:** Who do you need on board to make this happen?
- **Ground in learning:** How would you ensure that experts are not a one-off and have an authentic role in the learning experience?
- **Start planning:** What would be your first step in actualizing this in your district, school or community?



Debrief

Find more here: bit.ly/expertsfolder

Reach us at:

Christy@SpringpointSchools.org

gschmidt@hps.holyoke.ma.us

jessica.waters@nowellacademy.org



AURORA INSTITUTE

Symposium 2020

OCTOBER 26-28, 2020 | **VIRTUAL**

Thank you for joining us!

Share Your Thoughts.
Participate in our 1 minute poll.
bit.ly/springpointsurvey