

# COMMUNITY MENTORING SUPPORT



**Expand your menu of secondary gifted education services. Comprehensive services for gifted students should include programming options that enable students to work authentically and deeply in their domains of talent via mentorship experiences with experts in a field. Consider adding a mentorship program for students who have largely exhausted the advanced learning opportunities in areas of strength and interest that are traditionally available on the high school campus.**

## See It

Gifted students demonstrate intense (sometimes unusual) interests. They are persistent in pursuing self-selected learning activities related to those areas of interest, and, as a result, their understanding and achievement develop well beyond those of their age peers and often beyond the level of advanced instruction provided at school.

## Do It

Select an enthusiastic mentorship program coordinator, who has the heart for gifted adolescents and is well connected in the community. Develop a process through which highly motivated, mature high school students who are passionate about a particular area of study are selected for the program and paired with area professionals who work closely with students on learning goals developed jointly by the student, the mentor, gifted program personnel, and, department faculty and central office curriculum staff. Take care to make sure that gifted girls and students from disadvantaged backgrounds know about the mentorship program and are encouraged to participate. Community mentors can help students build tacit knowledge and connections to navigate a path from rigorous learning opportunities to personal creative productivity later in life.

## More

- Developing Mentorship Programs for Gifted Students. Del Siegle and Kristen Stephens (2005)
- Mentor Relationships: How They Aid Creative Achievement, Endure Change and Die. E. Paul Torrance (1984).

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# PRACTICES.

IN COMMUNITIES

