



Ensuring Graduate Student Success Through Mentorship



HOST



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SPEAKERS



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A guide to best practices and tips to make your virtual experience seamless

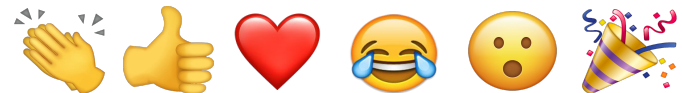
- Upon entry, audio is on mute
- Ensure your camera is on
- Adjust your video layout to speaker view
- Chat your name and institution!



Audience Engagement

**Submit your questions
throughout the event and
chat with attendees via the
Chat feature in Zoom**

Like what you hear? Let us know
with reactions!



During this event, you'll learn:

- The impact of mentorship on graduate student success
- How mentorship is incorporated into the overall graduate student experience
- What makes graduate student mentorship successful
- Learn actionable best practices for fostering a culture of mentorship at your institution



Let's Take a Poll

- Are you a Mentor Collective partner?
- Do you already have a graduate mentorship program...
 - with Mentor Collective?
 - without Mentor Collective?
 - or, are you thinking about starting one?
- What are the top issues facing your graduate students?



Impacting Graduate Student Success



Issues Facing Graduate Students

Student Opinion of Education Value

53%

Graduate students saying their education was definitely worth it

Employer Perception of Workforce Preparation

10%

Business leaders who believe schools effectively prepare students for the workforce

Growing Student Need

60%

Students were unaware of the full scope of services offered to them at their college or university

Limited Administrative Capacity

50%

Higher-ed professionals reported feeling clinically meaningful levels of burnout

Sources:

- Employment and Earnings Outcomes: [Third Way](#)
- Employer Perceptions of Recent Graduates: [University Innovation Alliance](#)
- Increasing Belonging for Learners: [Tyton Partners](#)
- Administrative Capacity: [Academic Impressions](#) and [Inside Higher Ed](#)



Relevant Mentors



What does mentorship mean for mentees?



“I hope that through this program, I can better organize my work/school load and be able to find others in my school that I can learn from.”

- *Mentee, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona*

“I want to take advantage of the resources at my school, and get advice or insight on internships that match my career goals.”

- *Mentee, University of San Diego*

What does mentorship mean for mentors?



“I love giving back to college students. I was a first generation college student, so I feel like I have experiences to share and am willing to help!”

- *Mentor, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University*

“I often find myself thinking back on the strong mentorship I received in graduate school and beyond. Without the mentors who walked alongside me, I would not be where I am today. This is why I chose to become a mentor...to pay it forward.”

- *Mentor, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice*

Sense of Belonging & Social Connection

Why It Matters: A sense of belonging boosts performance and reduces dropout.

How Mentorship Helps: Mentors support social integration and camaraderie.

Key Evidence:

- *Goff (2018)*: Mentorship reduces stress, increases resilience.
- *Curtin et al. (2016)*: Mentored students report stronger belonging.



Help-Seeking Behavior & Resource Utilization

Why It Matters: Fear of judgment often limits students' help-seeking.

How Mentorship Helps: Mentors bridge students to institutional resources, reducing barriers.

Key Evidence:

- *Weidman et al. (2001):* Mentored students adopt similar help-seeking behaviors.
- *Curtin et al. (2013):* Mentored students use resources more.



Academic Self-Efficacy

Why It Matters: Higher self-efficacy = better performance & resilience.

How Mentorship Helps: Mentors offer practical academic advice, fostering confidence.

Key Evidence:

- *Colvin & Ashman (2010)*: Mentorship boosts self-efficacy.
- *Elliott et al. (2018)*: Encourages seeking help as a success strategy.



Persistence & Completion

How Mentorship Helps: Research shows mentored students are more likely to complete programs on time

Key Study Highlights:

- *Budge (2006)*: Higher completion & satisfaction rates.
- *Gardner & Barnes (2007)*: Improved retention with structured mentorship.
- *Golde (2005)*: Mentorship reduces dropout linked to academic frustration.



Career Readiness

Why It Matters: Guidance in career planning is critical for success post-graduation.

How Mentorship Helps: Mentors provide networking, job search support, and insights.

Key Evidence:

- Smith et al. (2012): Mentored students are better prepared for job searches.
- Sambunjak et al. (2006): Mentored students report higher career satisfaction.



Partner Spotlight: University of San Diego

Rachelle Ann Martinez, M.A.

Director of Student Engagement, School of
Leadership and Education Sciences
University of San Diego



University of San Diego SOLES



Goals:

- Increase sense of belonging and connection for graduate students
- Increase use of resources for help-seeking behavior



Mentee Population: 1st year graduate students

Mentor Population: 2nd and 3rd year graduate students



Includes SOLES specific customized resources



How has **graduate student
mentorship** created impact at USD
SOLES?



Flags

Data point

Priority Flag Topics

Click on data point to see individual data information



Flags
Upflift University

You have 0 pending flags to review [Review Pending Flags](#)

Pending Actionable Non-Actionable Resolved All Flags

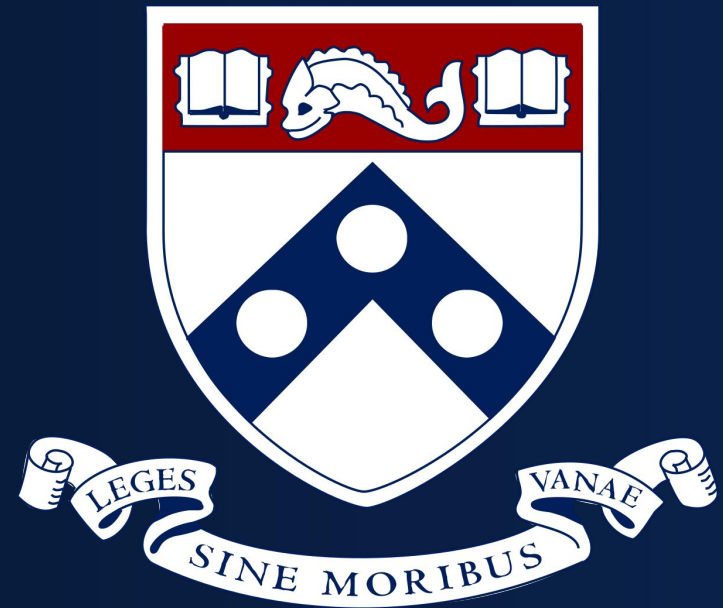
Search by name or email [Search](#) [Filter Flags](#)

Details	Date reported	Support priority	Mentee	Mentor	Topic flagged
>	Mar 21, 2023	Not needed	Ashli Steuber steuber.ashli.622@upflift-test	Nannette Greenfelder greenfelder.nannette.772@upflift-test	Academic struggles, Other
>	Jan 7, 2023	Not needed	Ashli Steuber steuber.ashli.622@upflift-test	Nannette Greenfelder greenfelder.nannette.772@upflift-test	Academic struggles, Housing or food insecurity, Mental health challenges
>	Dec 29, 2022	Not needed	Yousie Reichle reichle.yousie.127@upflift-test	Tabi Oulton ulton.tabi.134@upflift-test	Other
>	Dec 29, 2022	Not needed	Tessa Cartachlor cartachlor.tessa.647@upflift-test	Arlene Head head.arlene.790@upflift-test	Academic struggles, Roommate conflict
>	Nov 27, 2022	Immediate	Doc Johnson johnson.doc.657@upflift-test	Tabi Oulton ulton.tabi.134@upflift-test	Financial concerns
>	Sep 19, 2022	Not needed	Bana Viliash viliash.bana.297@upflift-test	Elenor Upton upton.elenor.299@upflift-test	Academic struggles, Considering switching majors
>	Sep 6, 2022	Not needed	Shaunda Zoonagh zoonagh.shaunda.865@upflift-test	Alice Leach leach.alice.134@upflift-test	Other
>	Sep 6, 2022	Not needed	Osai Koton koton.osai.910@upflift-test	Gena Schulist schulist.gena.760@upflift-test	Considering switching majors, Financial concerns
>	Aug 26, 2022	Not needed	Luisa Skrick skrick.luisa.544@upflift-test	Larson Parker parker.larson.457@upflift-test	Academic struggles, Mental health challenges
>	Aug 26, 2022	Not needed	Vanessa Kessler kessler.vanessa.649@upflift-test	Vicki Belanger belanger.vicki.727@upflift-test	Other

- Provide immediate support
- Interpret aggregate results during key periods in the student experience

Partner Spotlight: University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Clinkscales, DSW, LCSW
Associate Dean of Student Affairs
University of Pennsylvania,
School of Social Policy & Practice





Goals:

- Provide SP2 students with personalized alumni mentors for career readiness and support as SP2 students
- Engage SP2 alumni in a meaningful way to give back to the campus community



Mentee Population: School of Social Policy and Practice students

Mentor Population: Alumni from Penn SP2



- Assessment surveys to understand **career decision self-efficacy** and **academic help seeking** behaviors in current graduate students
- Collaborating with Associate Director of Alumni Engagement & Annual Fund



How has **graduate student
mentorship** created impact at Penn
School of Social Policy & Practice?



University of Pennsylvania

“[I want a mentor to share with me] how did they make the most of their graduate experience at Penn from meeting new people, finding courses that would be the most engaging and helpful for your current or future career?”

- Suzanne Herron



\$69,362

In Staff Time

“I had a mentor when I attended SP2 and have been wanting to return the favor. We remain friends to this day!”

- Hillary Sell

*Formula for time saved: 12 min per match 2.5min per nudge/email/zd message etc. 106.25 hours training per program



Partner Spotlight: California State Polytechnic University-Pomona



Salomon Oldak, Ph.D.
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Graduate Studies Advisor



Goals:

- Impact student sense of belonging, persistence, and retention
- Impact student academic success and time to degree completion
- Assess program effectiveness
- Build community of support



Mentee Population: incoming, first year graduate students

Mentor Population: upper division graduate students



- Assessment surveys focused on evaluating for Sense of Belonging, Academic Help Seeking, & Academic Self-Efficacy



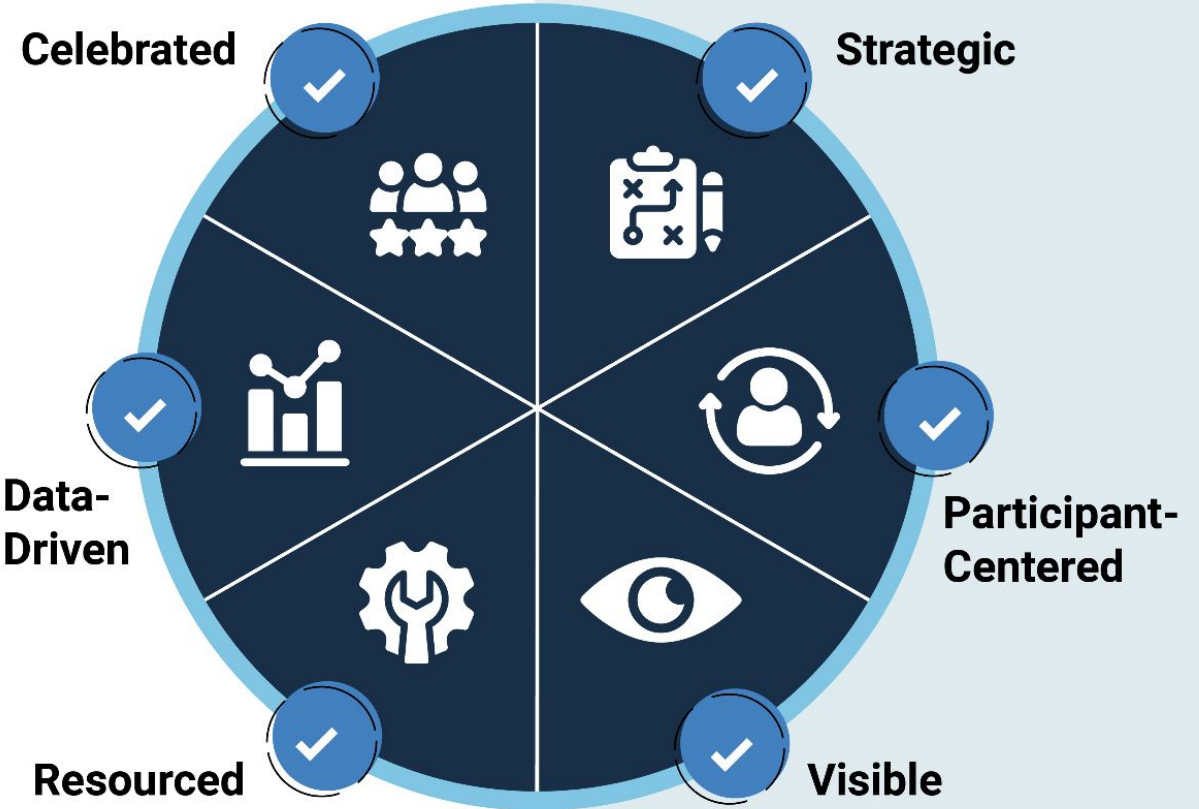
How has **graduate student
mentorship** created impact at Cal
Poly Pomona?





MENTOR
COLLECTIVE

The Six Elements of a Culture of Mentorship



**What is a tip or lesson you'd share
with others who are **just getting
started** with graduate student
mentorship?**



The Evolution and Impact of Mentor Collective on Student Success

180+



Colleges and Universities Across the Country

+6%



Retention Rate *

+8%



Increase in Sense of Belonging *

+12%



Increase in Career Decision Self-Efficacy*

2014

Focused on engaging international students and fostering meaningful connections

2017

Recognized the increasing importance of retention and dedicated efforts exclusively to higher education space

2022

Developed the only mentorship platform providing leading student success indicators and workflows

2016

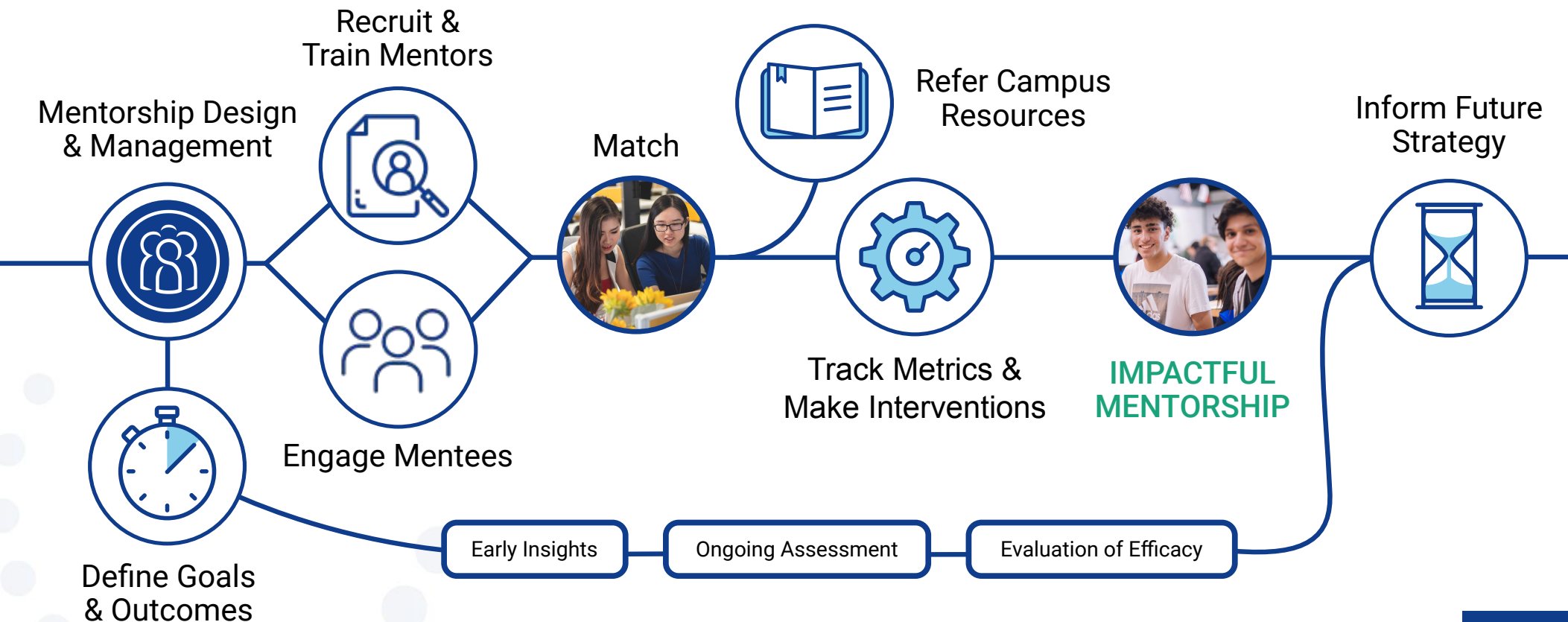
Provided expert services to student success teams to help drive and track student engagement and its positive impact on retention

2019

Recognized by Lumina Foundation for commitment to student engagement and retention

* For Mentor Collective Cohorts

Impactful Mentorship Simplified



Mentor Collective Framework is Designed with Student Success in Mind

FEATURES



- In-depth mentor training
- Flexible university design and scaling options
- Proprietary peer matching
- Data and analytics dashboards
- Real-time student assessments
- Broad range of interactions academic, social, sports, or logistical needs

BENEFITS



- Quick implementation and program start
- Consistent mentor and mentee experience and engagement
- Reporting on risk trends and categories to inform success strategy
- Human connection at scale
- Trusted confidant driving more engagement and touchpoints
- Activation of student success investments through custom mapping



Wrapping Up



- Are you a prospective partner and want to continue the conversation to learn how mentorship can support your graduate program?
- How valuable was this webinar for you?
- Please share any comments or suggestions you may have.
- What topics would you like to see covered at an upcoming Mentor Collective partner webinar?

Q&A



Thank you!



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