

Four

ideas to support students in your community through partnerships

A guide for community organizations and businesses

Authentic partnerships bring the Portrait of a Nevada Learner to life one meaningful interaction at a time.

Explore a range of ways to help students build essential skills and connect learning to the broader community. Whether you begin with a bold, visionary idea or a simple interaction, each step you take demonstrates a commitment to a shared, connected future.



Big-picture ideas



Small-steps

1 Build Mentorship Opportunities



Create mentorship experiences that expand students' exposure to careers and community roles (e.g., pair staff mentors with students for one semester).



Digital Pen Pal

Provide one-time feedback on student work, highlighting Portrait skills.

3 Design Skill-Building Pathways



Create internships or projects that connect classroom learning to professional application. E.g., Partner with a school to offer project-based internships.



'Day-in-the-Life' Guest Spot

Record a brief video showing a Portrait skill you used at work and give it to a teacher to share.

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2 Make Space for Students to Lead



Invite students into planning and decision-making so their voices shape community outcomes (e.g., Invite students to help design a community awareness campaign).



The 15-Minute Focus Group

Students give quick feedback on one idea, post, or aspect of your organization, virtual or in-person.

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4 Establish Community-based Learning Hubs



Transform a space where students can explore interests and build Portrait skills. E.g., Host an after-school session for students.



Skills Showcase Wall

Display student work and highlight Portrait domains showing community connection matters beyond school.

See 4 more micro-steps on the next page!

Create Your Own Community-Based Learning Hub



Below you will find considerations for community hubs through bigger moves and quick starts. Take action where you can.

> Real-World Input

Why It Matters

Students grow Portrait skills by working on real issues they care about.

Take Action

BIGGER MOVE: Support youth-led projects and partner with nonprofits or community centers.

QUICK START: Community Question Board
Post one real question your organization is wrestling with (e.g., “How can we serve families better?”). Invite students to add ideas or solutions on sticky notes or a quick form.

> Role Models in Action

Why It Matters

Seeing a wide range of people and career paths helps students understand how Portrait skills are used every day in real work and life.

Take Action

BIGGER MOVE: Offer to host diverse career speakers from various backgrounds to share their stories.

QUICK START: Career Skill Spotlight
Post a photo or short video highlighting an employee’s Portrait skill.

> Open Doors and Access

Why It Matters

Removing barriers ensures every student can participate in community learning.

Take Action

BIGGER MOVE: Partner with libraries for hotspot lending.

QUICK START: Study & Charge Stations offer a quiet space with outlets and wifi during set after-school hours.

> Hands-On Evidence

Why It Matters

When students can show what they know through doing, creating, or presenting, they develop deeper understanding and practice essential Portrait skills.

Take Action

BIGGER MOVE: Invite students to pitch solutions using models, prototypes, or performances.

QUICK START: 1-Hour Pop-Up AMA
Host a monthly “Ask Me Anything” on Portrait/Workplace skill connection.