

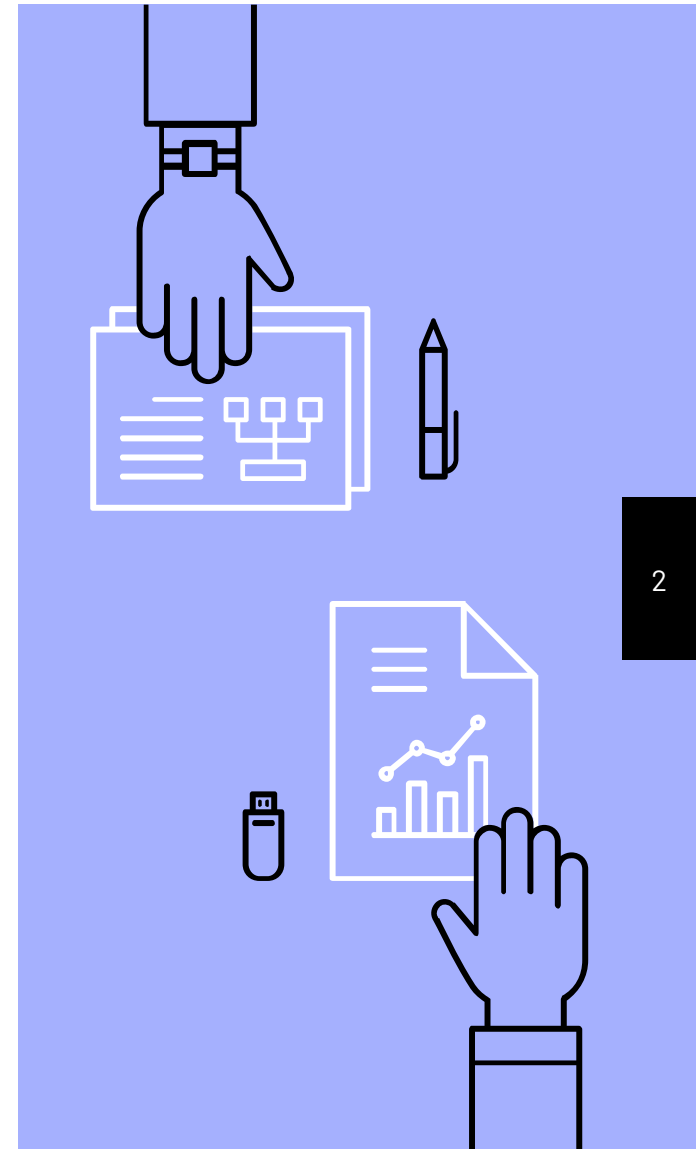
# Engaging Virtual Volunteers in Agricultural Teacher Education: *The Volunteers' Perspective*

Becky Haddad | Oregon State University  
Tiffany Morey | Pennsylvania State University  
Daniel Foster | Pennsylvania State University

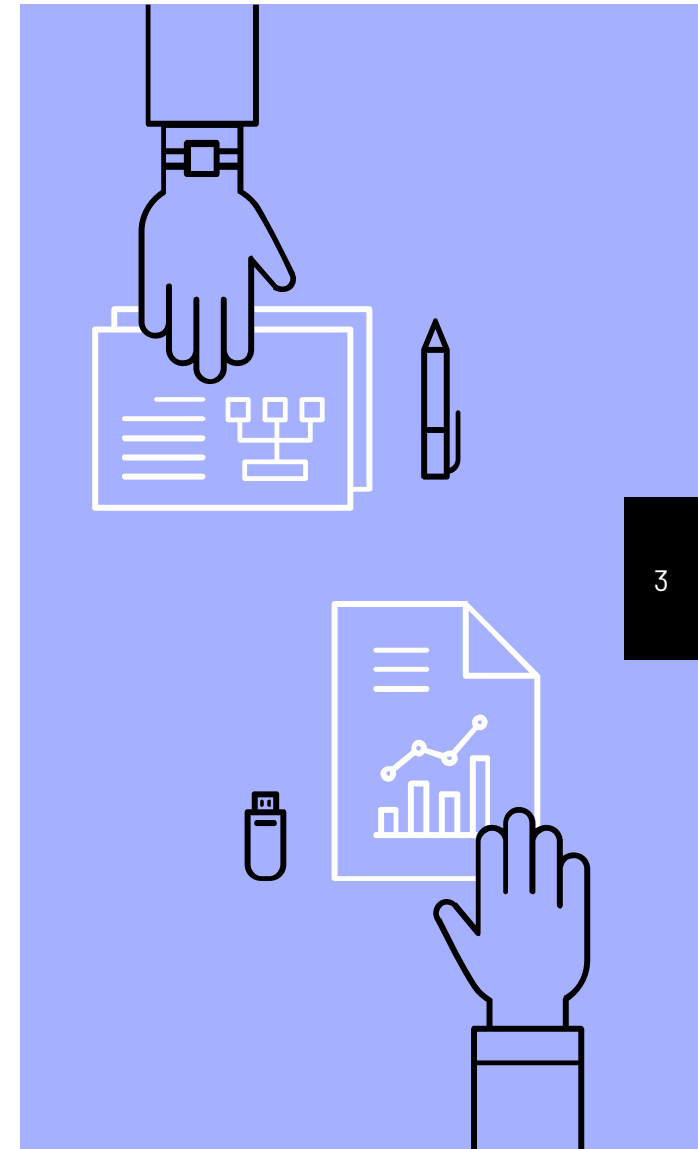
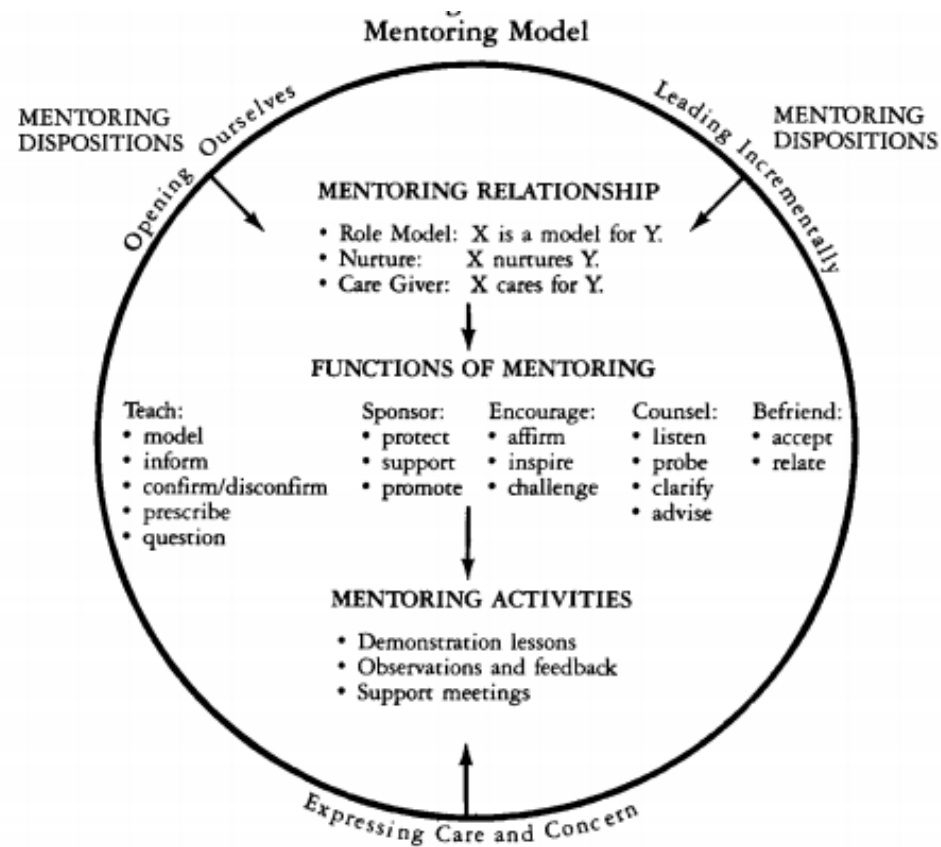
# Why Virtual Mentoring?

Part of successful programming:

- ▶ Role modeling, nurturing, caring
- ▶ Promoting teaching
- ▶ Providing encouragement

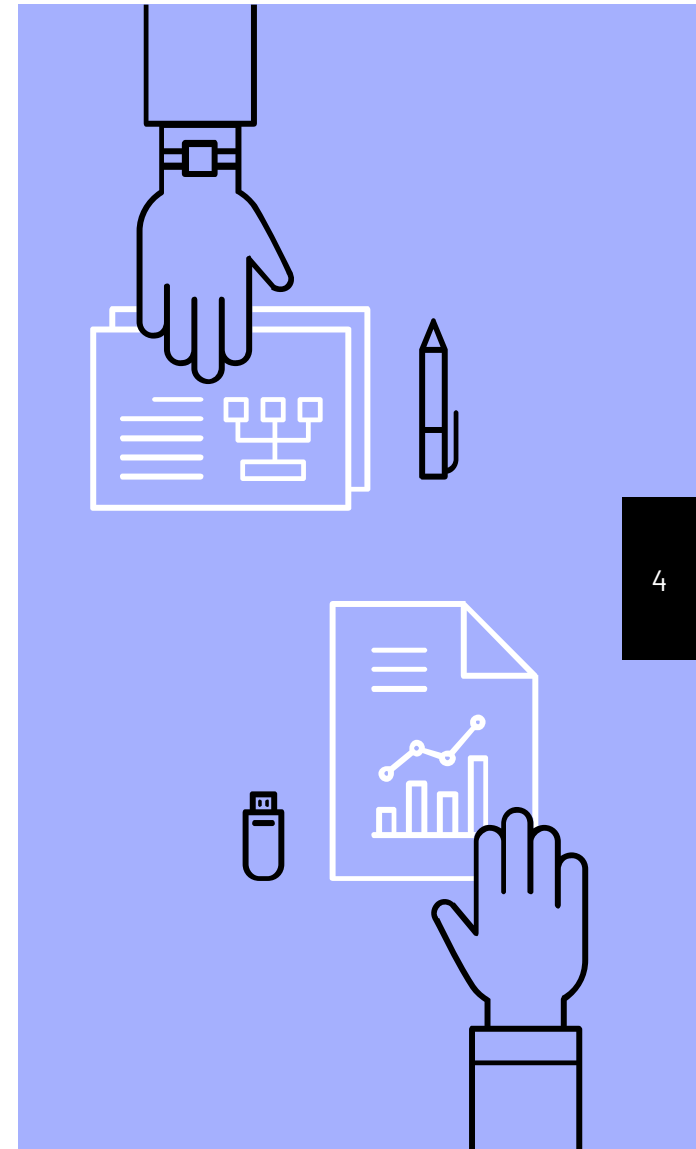


# Virtual Mentoring Process



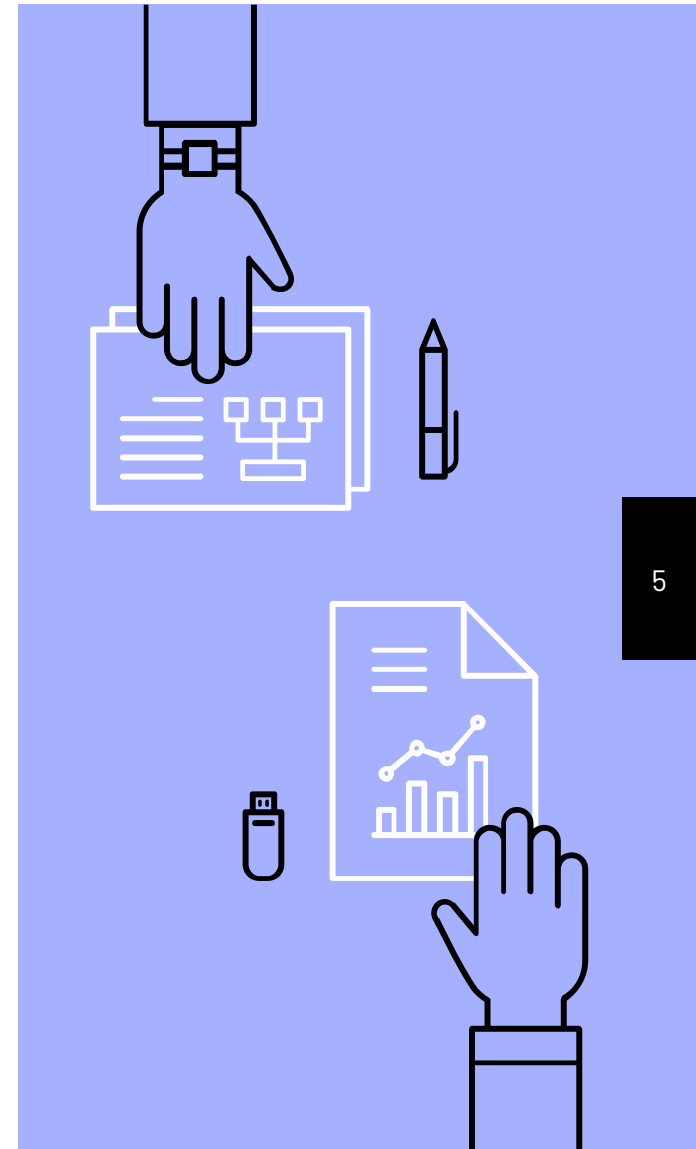
## Who's On The Team?

- ▶ Mentor team approach
  - ▶ Teacher candidate
  - ▶ Cooperating teacher
  - ▶ University supervisor
  - ▶ Recent program graduate
  - ▶ Out-of-state thought leader
  - ▶ In-state agricultural educator

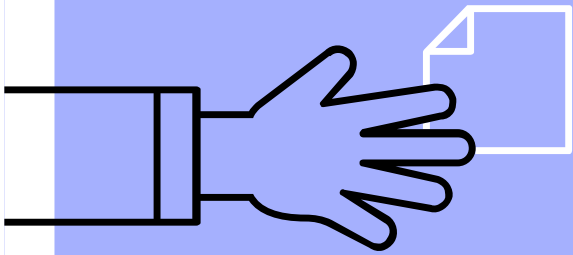
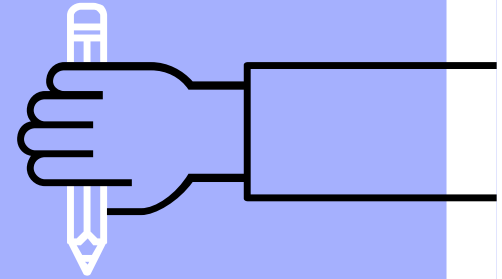


## How Does It Work?

- ▶ Digital Communication
  - ▶ Edthena 
  - ▶ Twitter 
  - ▶ Blog Posts 
  - ▶ Email & others



1.  
How do  
volunteers  
engage?





**Luke Kerstetter**  
@Luke\_Kerstetter

Follow

How can immersive video technology enhance our classroom instruction? #TLTSym #psuaged19 #psuaged20 @FosterDanielD

5:10 PM - 12 Mar 2019

5 Likes

2 5

Tweet your reply



**Daniel D. Foster** @FosterDanielD · Mar 12

Replying to @Luke\_Kerstetter  
Boy, would @opmccubbins love to talk to you!

1 1

1 more reply



**Stuart Barber** @4DVirtualFarm · Mar 12

Replying to @Luke\_Kerstetter @FosterDanielD  
Can take you to places far away from where you teach to understand international #AgEdu in #VR Virtually leave the classroom to see what happens through time and place. Experience situations before/during/after tours and a host more



**Bethany Mathie**  
@BethMathiePsu

Follow

#PSUAgEd19 created and installed 6 raised beds as a service learning project for Watershed Public Charter School today! We are excited to see the students engaged in the space! #ReadyForHire #Theyhavestudentloans #teachAg #teachAgPSU

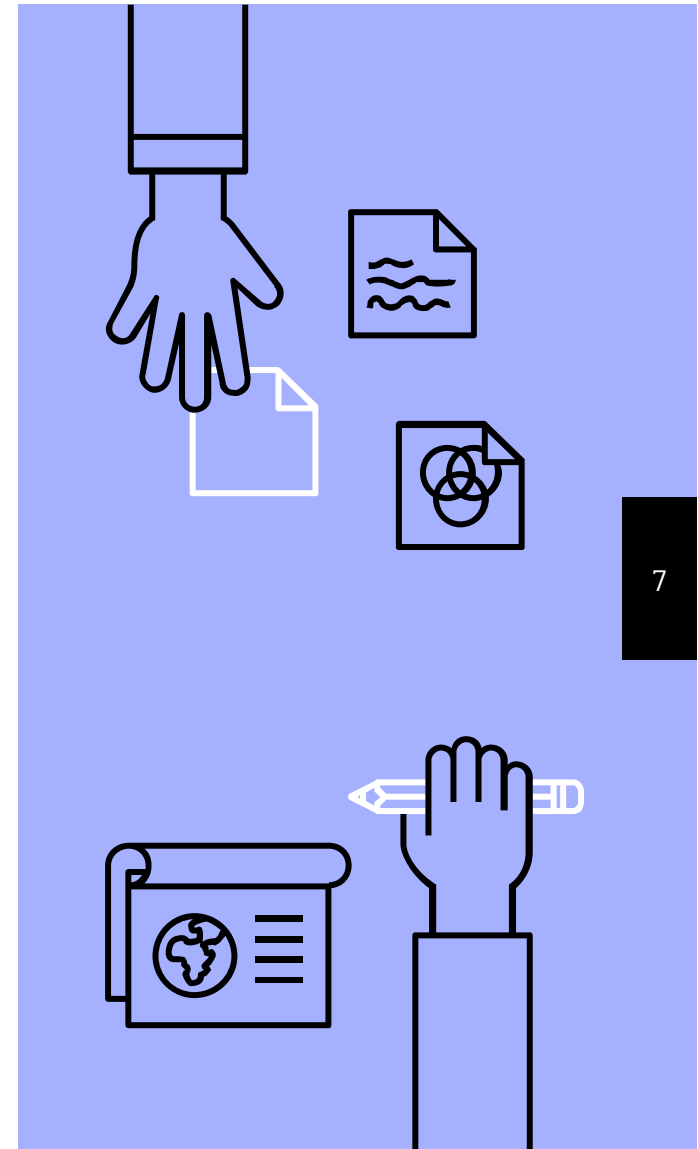


1:51 PM - 24 Apr 2019

4 Retweets 14 Likes

4 14

Tweet your reply





# Blogger



**Matthew Eddy** September 24, 2018 at 4:51 AM

Thought - passion is great, but guiding that passion when it isn't going in the direction you want in the classroom is the trick. FWIW

Reply



**Kevin Keith** November 12, 2018 at 5:32 AM

Project learning is an excellent way to raise student interest and build competence in application. I think that it is great to start this to build competence and provide for a different learning style with your students. Those with a kinesthetic learning style can really excel in this, depending on the project. I challenge you to use PBL outside the mechanical area to add to the application of a wide range of skills and instructional areas! Sincerest best wishes! Gaining skill with PBL will go a long way toward enhancing your repertoire and provide learning successes to all!

Reply

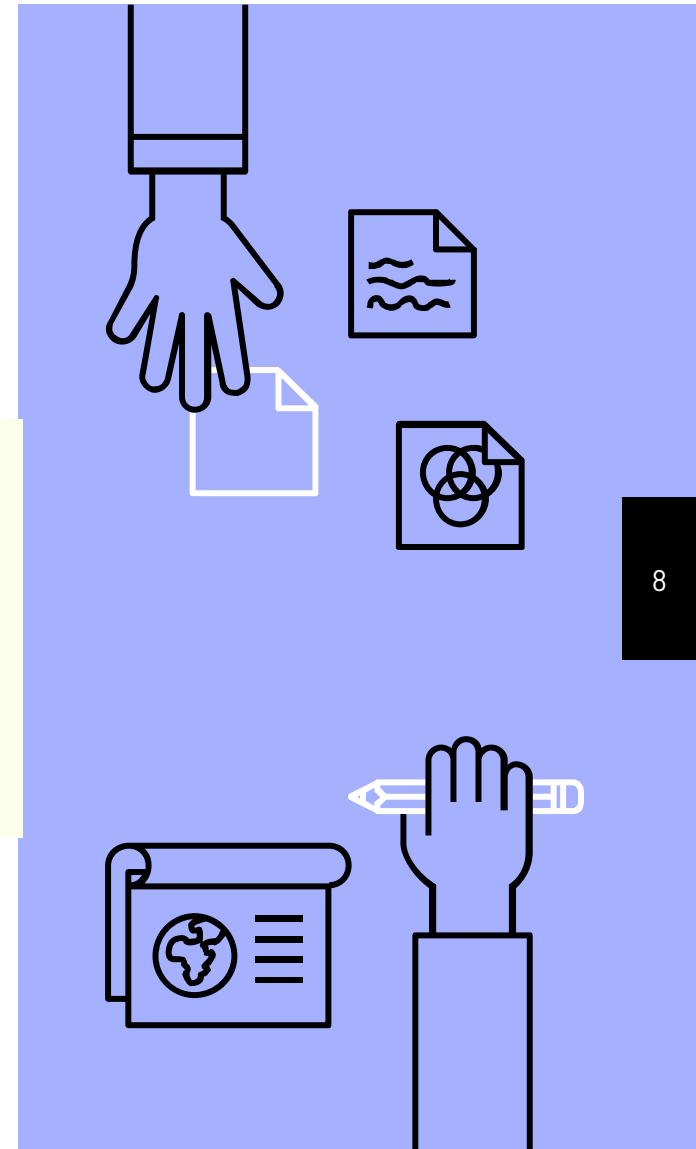


**K. Janae McMichael**

Rachel, excellent point about the importance of carefully selecting verbs in learning objectives, or learning outcomes, to ensure the appropriate level for students.

Something to think about as you enter into your student teaching experience, how will you be transparent and communicate your learning objectives to your students so they can take ownership of their learning experience?

Reply







# Edthena

09:51



**Darla R.**  
Coach  
**Strength**

Your lesson activities flowed well and you were prepared with materials/question prompts, which allowed transitions to occur quickly and seamlessly. - 6 months ago



**Katie R.**  
Coach  
**Suggestion**

If you have a senior who is ready to leave, you can always pull in the work place or secondary education as reasoning. Find an example that can relate to either to make their time purposeful in the classroom. - 6 months ago



**Alexandra B.**  
Coach  
**Strength**

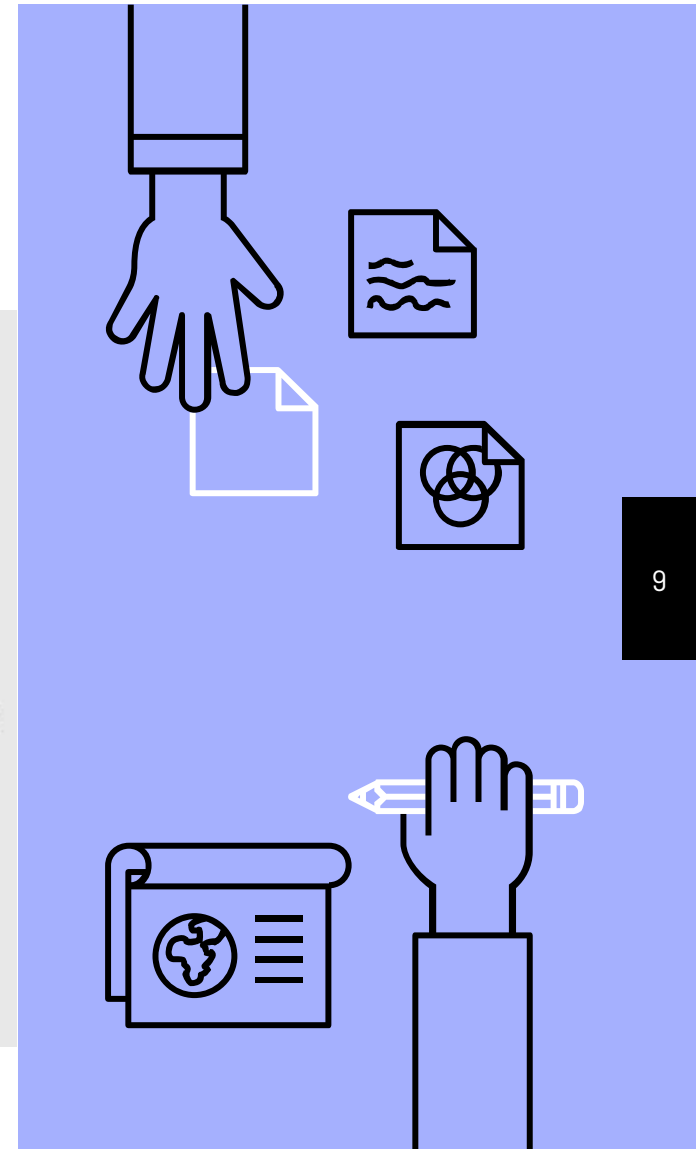
I like how you handled someone going slightly off track with your goal by following up with an authentic conversation. - 6 months ago

[← Reply](#)



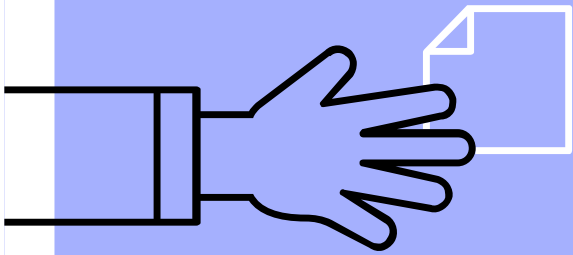
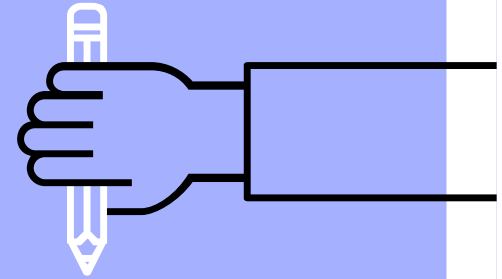
**Miranda K.**  
Coach  
**Suggestion**

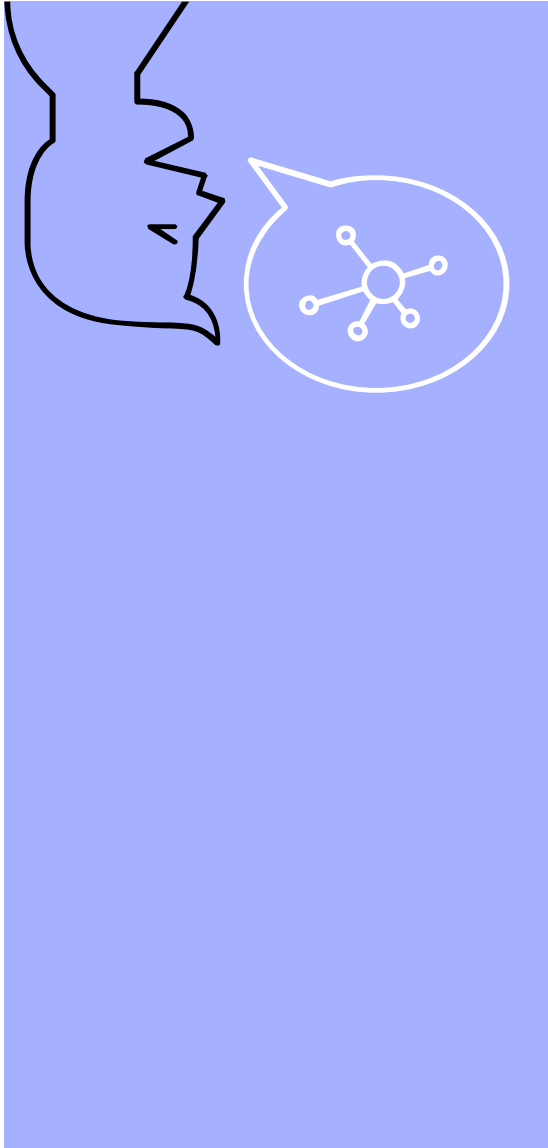
You can even ask them "What can respect look like?" Sometimes we throw words like that around, but they need to know what your definition of respect is. - 5 months ago





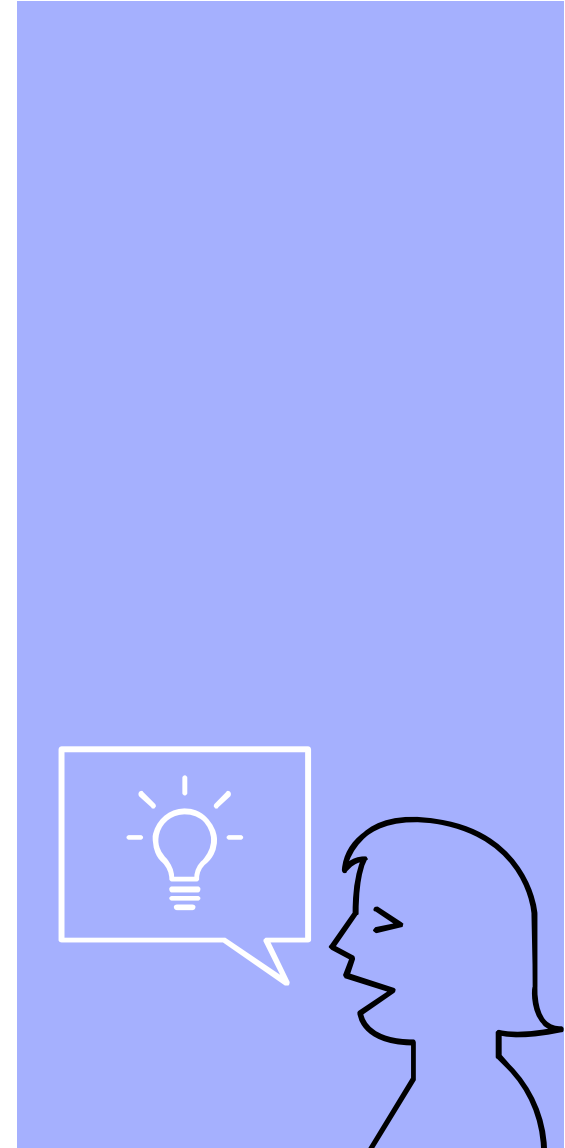
2.  
What are  
volunteers  
saying?





“

*I wanted to give back;  
quit my job to go back to school  
Why do you mentor?  
I help people get feedback... I  
just want to be available.*

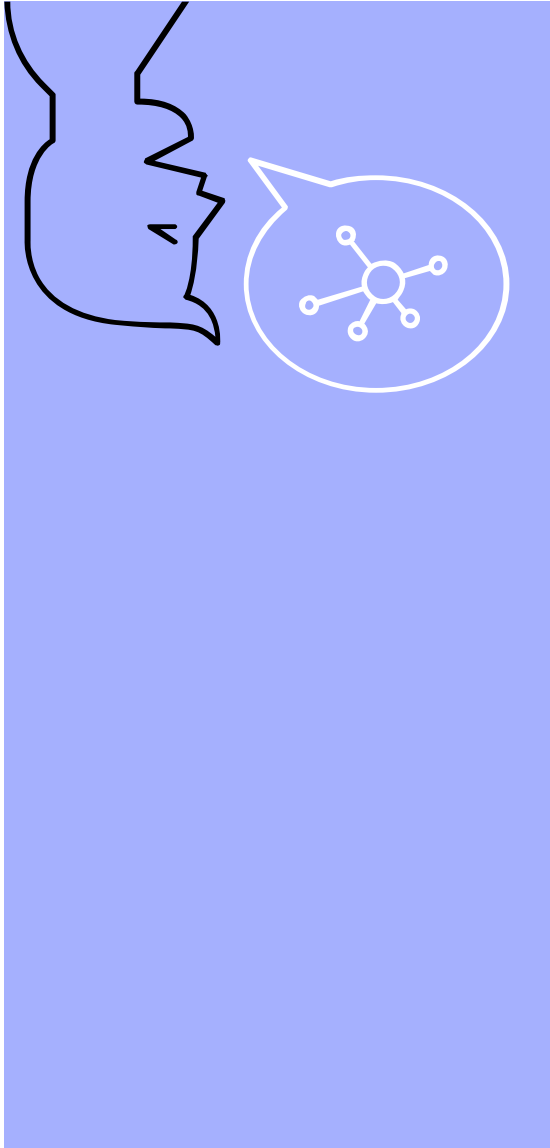


# BIG

## IDEA

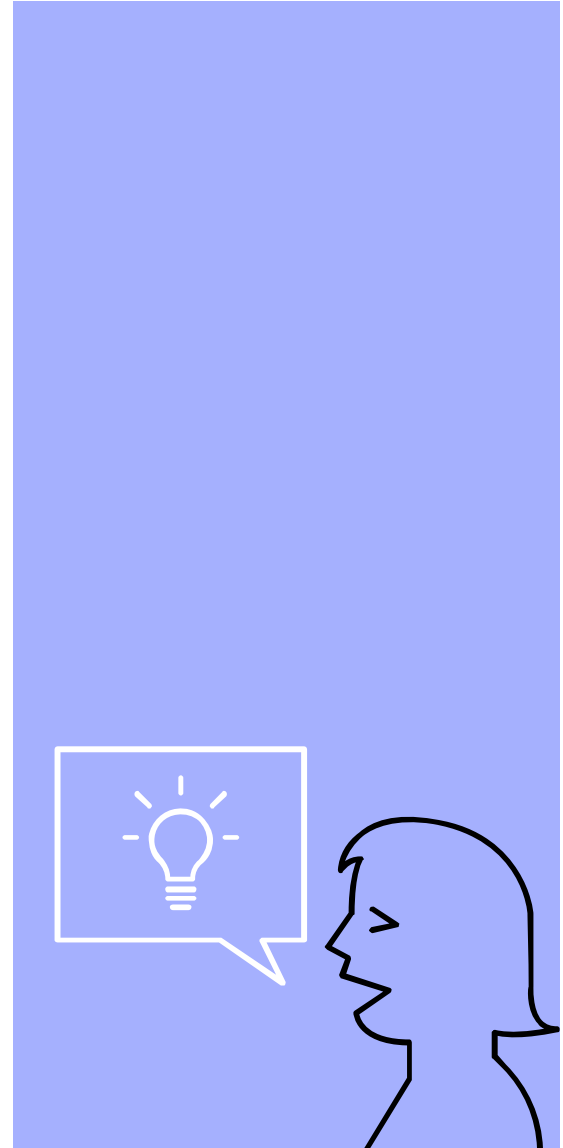
Volunteers mentor  
to give back to the  
profession





“

It's so intense, it's hard to be a  
Why do you virtually  
connect if you're not a  
mentor?  
intense.

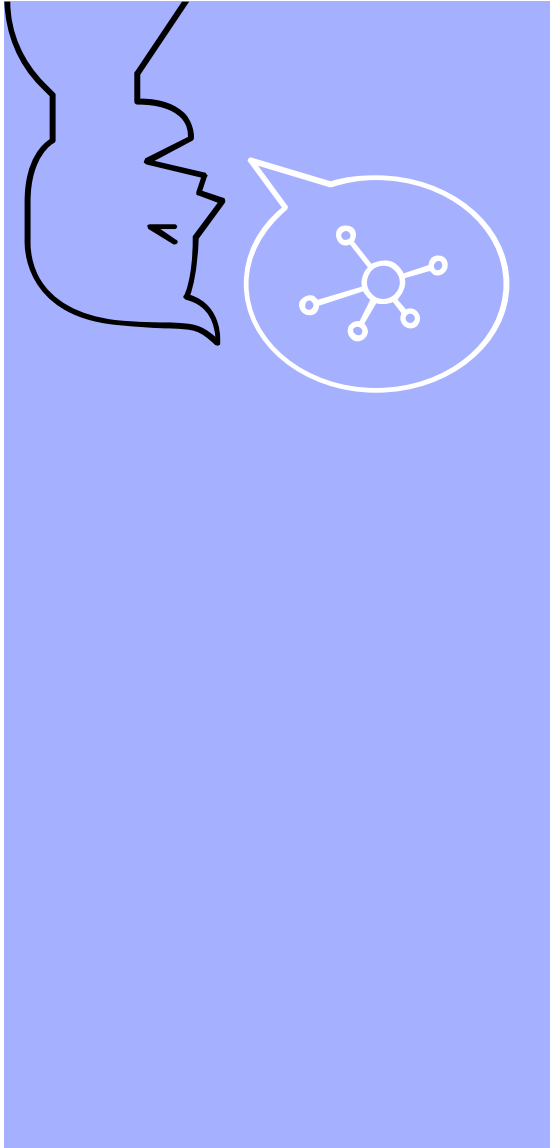


# BIG

## IDEA

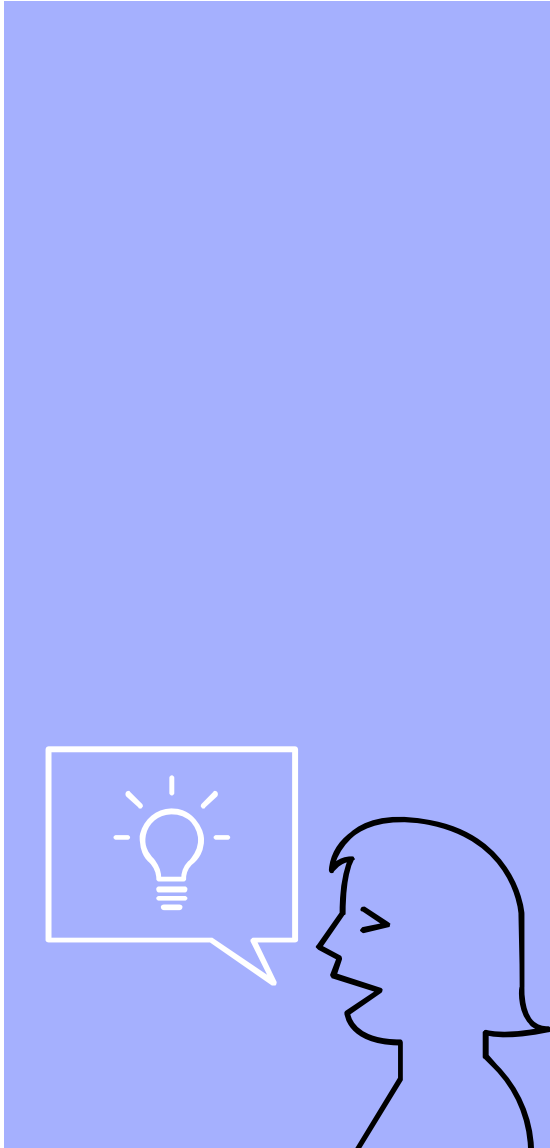
Volunteers virtually mentor as an more approachable means to stay connected





“

The blogs, I like to ask  
Twitter it's just fun to  
I send a few care  
questions rather than  
see what they're doing  
I pay no extra service. Just  
give answers, and  
we do the benefits of  
and starting then they  
provide suggestions as  
pictures with the  
get through.  
appropriate  
conversation.



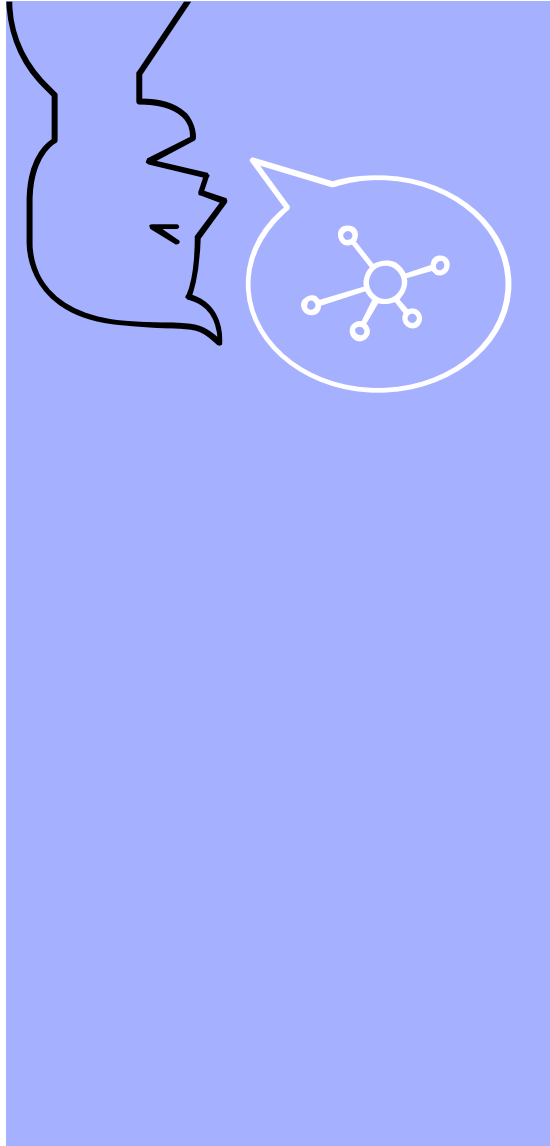


# BIG

## IDEA

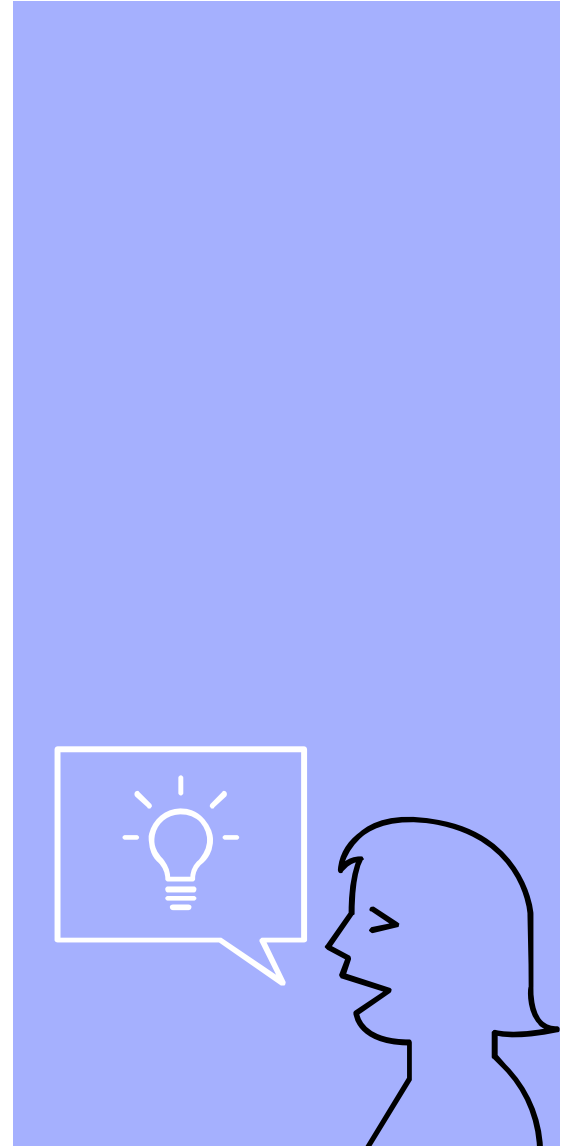
Volunteers engage  
across platforms,  
depending on what  
fits





“

Reading the book was fun. It was fun to see what they did on the final project. I was able to connect those little pieces and see how they fit together. I was able to see how they used their own ideas to help them start feeling contributing and thinking like a teacher.

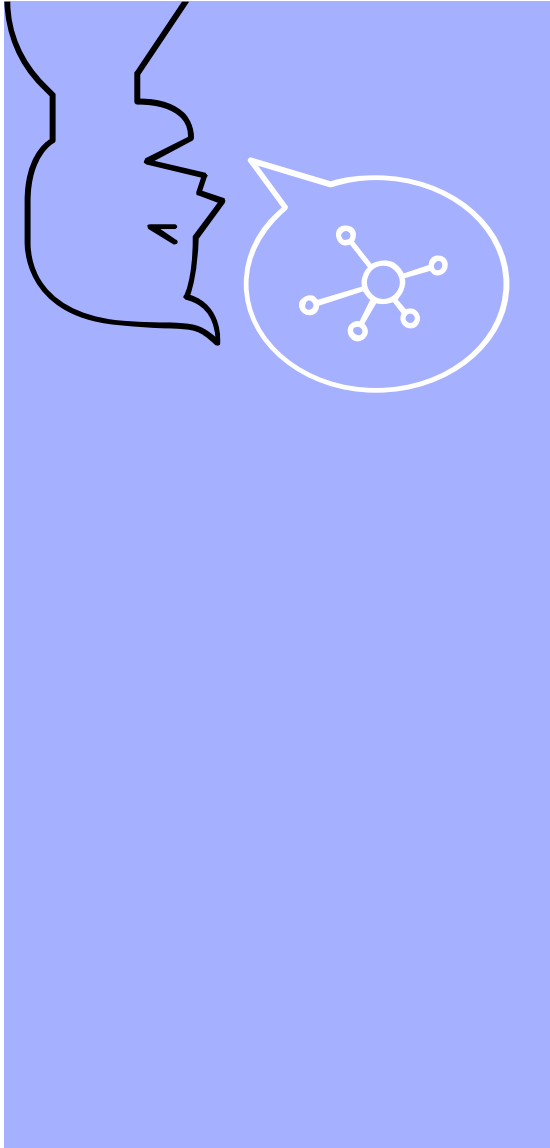


# BIG

## IDEA

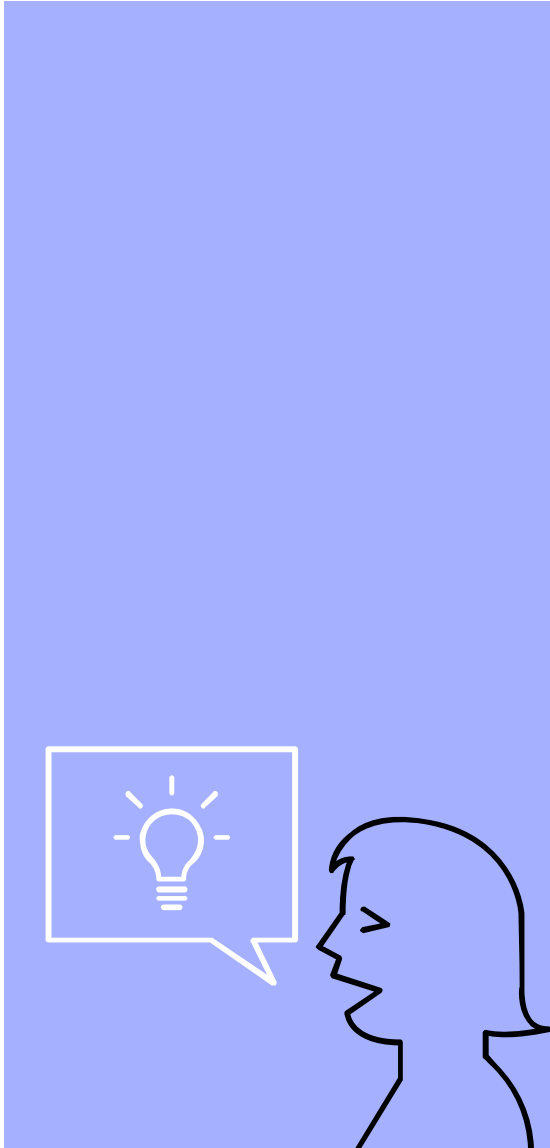
Volunteers love the process and the multiples ways they can engage their mentees





“

You're never as effective  
as you want to be.  
Be productive. I expected  
my mentee to reach out  
to me. Schedule in time to  
work. Offer to study for  
mentor and be productive  
with mentoring. Engage  
topics they're teaching or  
Remember: the purpose of  
curriculum.  
both ways.

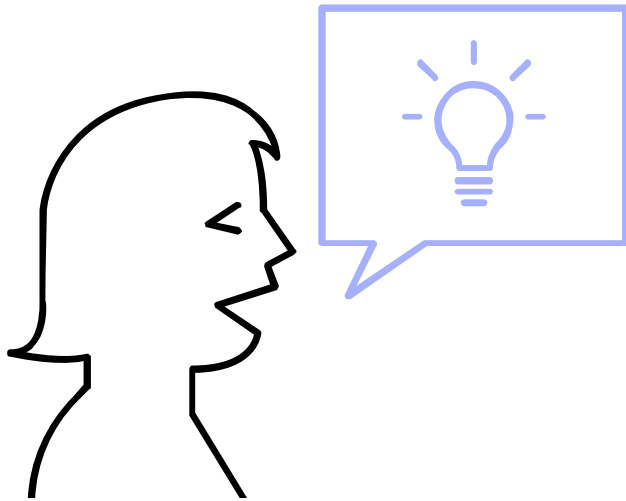


# BIG

## IDEA

Volunteers see ways to learn and grow along with their mentees. Be open to the process.





In the end:  
Connection is key

9 future ag teachers  
27 Virtual Mentors

100%  
Total success!

# THANKS!

## Any questions?

You can find us at:

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[foster@psu.edu](mailto:foster@psu.edu)

