



Motivate Lab

OUR MISSION

To improve people's lives through rigorous motivation research. Our focus is to understand the learning mindsets that promote individuals' learning, growth, achievement, and wellbeing. We use those insights to develop evidence-based solutions that can be applied across educational, extracurricular, and work contexts.

LEARNING MINDSETS

Learning mindsets are our beliefs and perceptions about learning and school. They shape how we interpret difficulty, and research shows they are critical predictors of academic performance, persistence, and motivation. We are primarily interested in three main learning mindsets.



GROWTH MINDSET:
Belief that intelligence can be developed



PURPOSE AND VALUE:
Belief that schoolwork is valuable because it's personally relevant



SOCIAL BELONGING:
Belief that one is connected to and respected by peers, cared for by teachers and mentors, and fits in with the culture

OUR RESEARCH PROCESS

SCIENTIFIC RIGOR



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

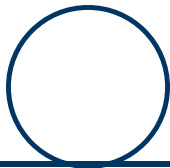


STRONG PARTNERSHIPS



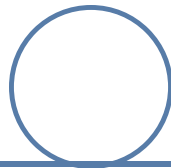
SOLUTION-FOCUSED, ACTION-ORIENTED RESEARCH

By combining psychological science with design thinking and researcher-practitioner partnerships, we instigate positive change in institutions, from the individual to the policy level. We utilize best practices in design-based research, randomized control trials, and improvement science to find optimal solutions to meet our partners' needs.



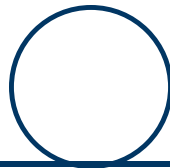
EMPATHIZE & LEARN

Understand the problem and context by listening to stakeholders



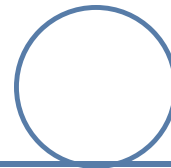
SYNTHESIZE & PLAN

Consolidate learning and develop next steps



PROTOTYPE & TEST

Customize interventions and strategies informed by data, feedback, and theory



ADOPT & INFUSE

Adopt effective strategies and responsibly scale to other contexts

OUR PARTNERS

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ALBEMARLE HIGH SCHOOL
CHATTANOOGA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE University System of Georgia
NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TUBINGEN UNIVERSITY Character Lab Valencia College
Tennessee Board of Regents CAL POLY POMONA Florida Virtual School University of Virginia
San Diego State University Nashville State Community College
Southwest Tennessee Community College Georgia Southwestern State University

For more information visit motivatelab.org



Motivate Lab

CHALLENGE

36%

ADULTS ACROSS TN & GA HOLD A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE

OUR PROJECTS

INFUSING STATEWIDE HIGHER ED SYSTEMS WITH LEARNING MINDSETS

PARTNERS

Tennessee Board of Regents and University System of Georgia

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Data collection with students from 66 institutions--including community colleges, technical schools, and 4-year universities; prototyping and testing customized direct-to-student interventions

FOCUS

Students traditionally underrepresented in higher ed (1st-generation, adult learners, racial and ethnic minority)

LOOKING AHEAD

Cross-state networked improvement community to develop and test mindset-supportive practices; prototype context-focused interventions at the classroom, institution, and policy level

CHALLENGE

54%

US COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS DON'T REACH COLLEGE READY MATH PROFICIENCY EVEN WITH REMEDIATION

REMOVING BARRIERS TO MOTIVATION IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE MATH

PARTNER

Valencia College

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Growth mindset and utility-value interventions with over 12,000 remedial math students

FOCUS

Underprepared students (students in developmental math courses)

LOOKING AHEAD

Explore students' longitudinal outcomes, such as GPA, major path, and career trajectories; develop faculty training materials

CHALLENGE

37%

GAP BETWEEN AVG GPA OF STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM WELL-REPRESENTED GROUPS AT OUR PARTNER SCHOOL

PROMOTING BELONGING DURING THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

PARTNER

Albemarle High School

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Novel video intervention targeting perceptions of belonging among rising 9th graders

FOCUS

Traditionally underrepresented students (e.g., students of color)

LOOKING AHEAD

Protocol for schools to create their own belonging videos; faculty training on incorporating belonging videos into classroom activities

CHALLENGE

50%

AVERAGE DECLINE IN SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL IN US

PROMOTING VALUE-DRIVEN LEARNING IN K-12 CLASSROOMS

PARTNER

Character Lab (characterlab.org/buildconnections)

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Teacher-led activity to help students make their own connections between their goals and course content

FOCUS

Students who have low expectations for success and/or low perception of the value of the course

LOOKING AHEAD

Widely disseminate activity and support materials; teacher training; research-practice partnerships to further test the efficacy of the activity

CHALLENGE

10 MILLION

KIDS ATTEND CAMP EACH SUMMER, BUT LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT SKILLS TRANSFER

MINDSET TRANSFER: OUT-OF-SCHOOL TO SCHOOL

PARTNER

American Camp Association & Camp Champions

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Mixed-methods and experimental research examining how campers and counselors support transfer, and how often transfer naturally occurs

FOCUS

Students from economically disadvantaged families

LOOKING AHEAD

Isolate and experimentally test factors that affect transfer; assess transfer between other educational and out-of-school contexts