**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
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
## 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

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