



Connecting Students to the World: Connected Learning Approach

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What is Connected Learning Approach?

- Learning beyond the traditional classroom.
- Connected learning **combines personal interests, supportive relationships, and opportunities.**
- It is learning in an age of abundant access to information and social connection that embraces the diverse backgrounds and interests of all young people.

Connected Learning Principles



CONNECTED LEARNING

3 LEARNING PRINCIPLES

- PEER SUPPORTED
- INTEREST DRIVEN
- ACADEMICALLY ENRICHED

3 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- OPENLY NETWORKED
- SHARED PURPOSE
- PRODUCTION CENTERED



There is a interconnectedness of the different parts of a youth's life through which they are learning.



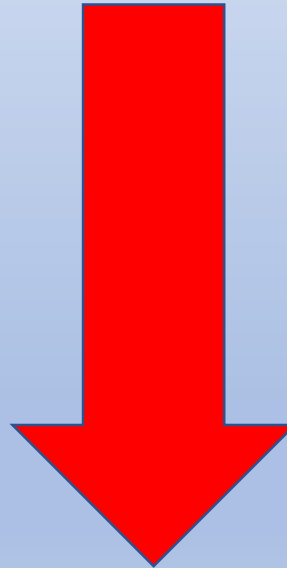
Peer and community support for interest- and passion-driven learning

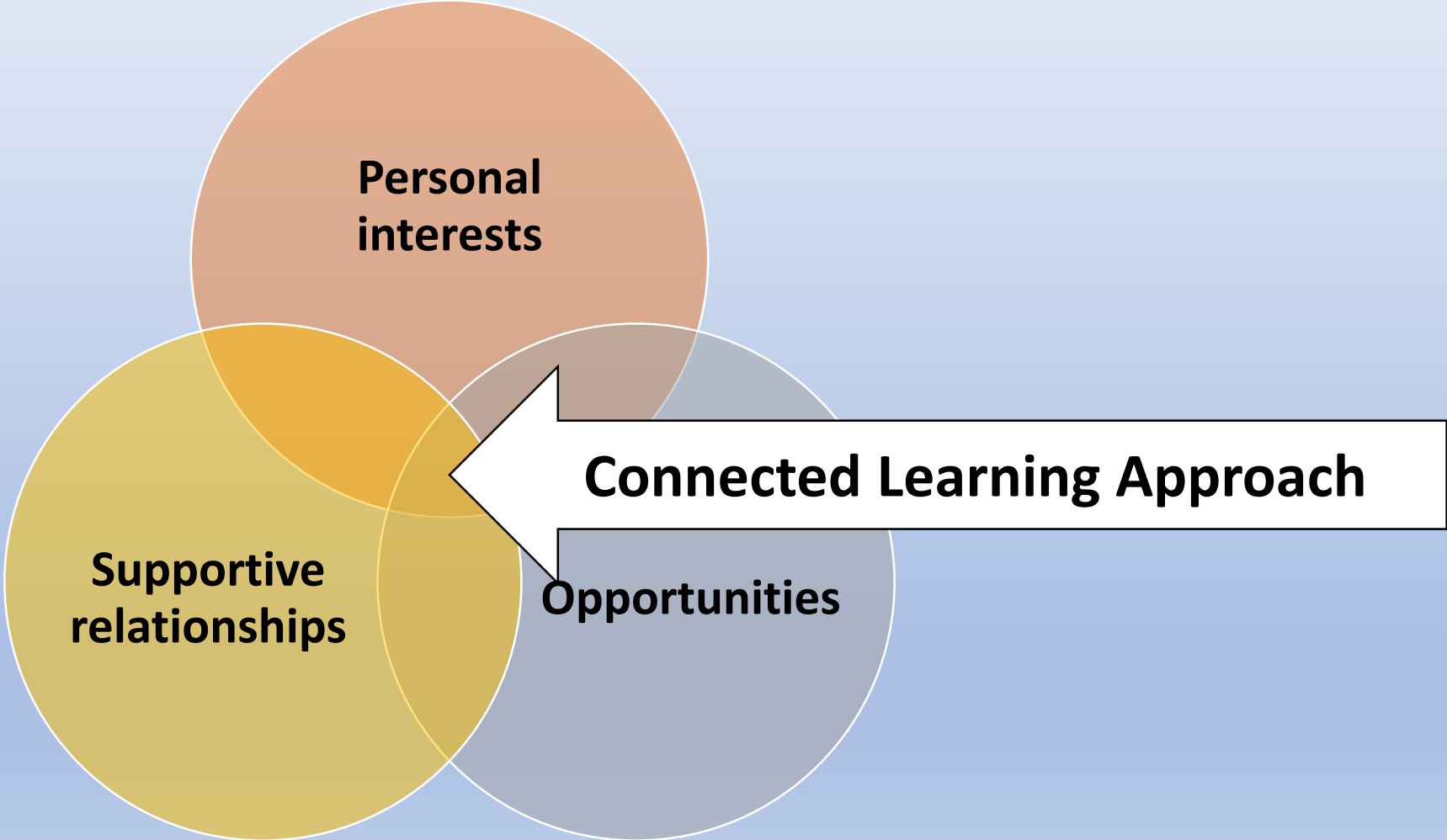


Translating and linking that learning to academic success and eventually to career success.

Elements of Connected Learning

So learning is irresistible and life-changing when it connects personal interests to meaningful relationships and real-world opportunity.





Libraries are a nexus for informal learning, offering interest-driven programming with the support of a librarian.

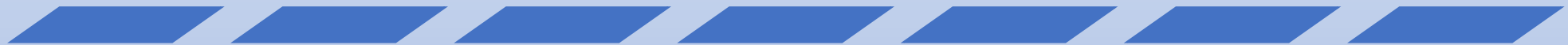
Agreed?

What should librarians do to support Connected Learners?

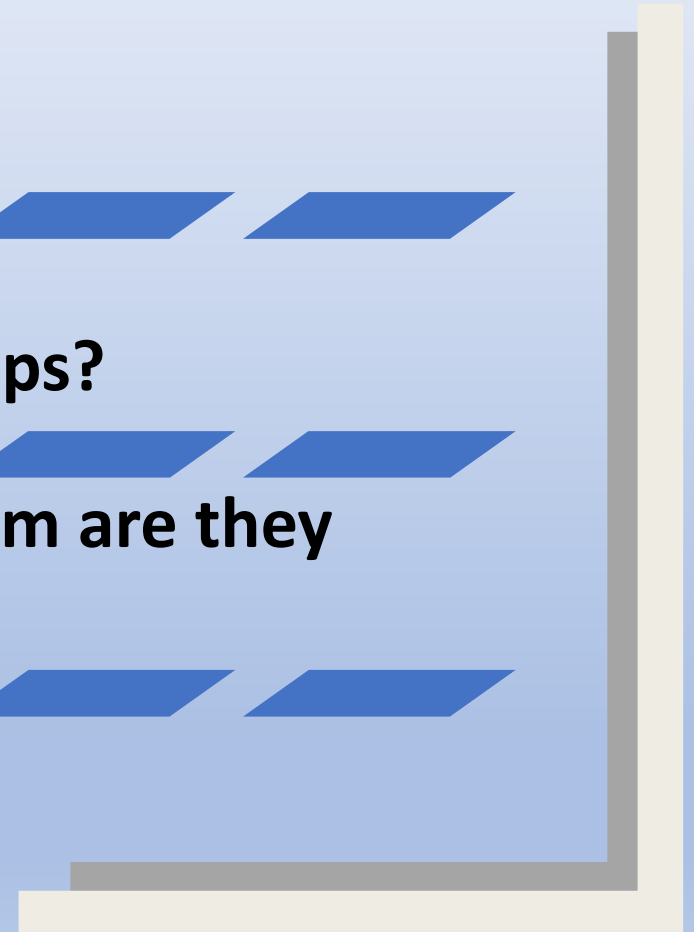
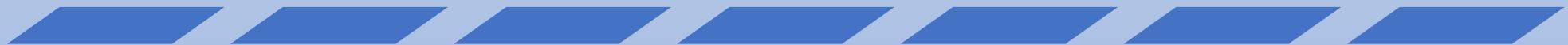
Whose interests are prioritized?



Who is offered the chance to build relationships?



To whom are opportunities given, and to whom are they denied?



YOUmedia, a youth digital makerspace in Chicago's main downtown public library, embodies the values and elements of connected learning. YOUmedia centers on digital media production such as music, art, poetry and journalism. Young people can “hang out socially, mess around with new projects and geek out” in areas of specialization when they want to take the leap. Librarians and mentors organize showcases, support the production of various projects and broker connections to other opportunities in their interest area.

YOUmedia Chicago: an example

Summary

- Learning is motivating when it grows out of personal interest.
- For example, when reading about games they enjoy playing, teenage boys read at a much higher level than their reading level in school.



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Interests



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Relationships

Summary

- Learners need support from peers and mentors to persist through setbacks and challenges.
- Peer learning situations allow for anyone to be an expert and take the role of the teacher.
- They also allow individuals to move between the role of teacher and learner fluidly.



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Opportunities

Summary

- Success beyond the classroom requires tangible connections to real-world career and civic opportunities.

A blue scroll graphic with a white border and a white shadow. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text "Thank you" in the center. The top and bottom edges of the scroll are rolled up, and the left edge is also rolled up. The background is a light blue gradient.

Thank you