



Involving partnership team members using the Innovation Portal

- Mentoring and advising – increased Partnership member involvement with students, and the course or activity
- Multiple voices, feedback and advice for students
- Easy to record and document interactions for partnership team members
- support for teachers and faculty

Both K-12 and Post-secondary institutions often have business partners and community members who are interested in connecting with the work students are doing as a mentor and advisor or as a subject matter expert. Even when the teachers and mentors are working together, there are two common obstacles to implementing this model that the Innovation Portal has been able to help address. The first obstacle involves geography and class time. In order for mentors to come to the school they must arrange time away from work and then spend time getting to and from the school location and then get be available when a given class meets. On the other side of that coin it is often equally difficult for teachers to schedule times for mentors to come to the school and to accurately gauge the progress of a given project so that the mentors can be most effective in the progress of the project. The “Partnership Team” model depicted below and described here using the Innovation Portal, has been very effective at addressing these issues and in creating a more robust and regular flow of interactions between the students and mentors.

Below is an summary and depiction of how teachers and community members employing this model get it started, manage it throughout the school year. There are many variations on this essential theme as teachers and partnership teams mold the practice to fit their needs and schedules.



Once teachers, faculty and administrators have identified community members or organizational partners who they believe would be interested in this model they arrange an Informational meeting (generally at the beginning of the school year or term) to describe the what the students will be doing, what the Innovation Portal is how it works how the embedded rubric is used as a guide and assessment tool throughout the project. An outline of how mentors are to be connected to student’s portfolios and how to use the REVIEW function of the portal to offer intermittent scores and feedback at any time are accomplished. In this session Advisors create their own Innovation Portal accounts and “score” a practice portfolio led by the teacher

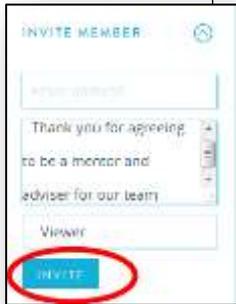


The screenshot shows the Innovation Portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'complete review' and 'opportunities' links. The main content area is titled 'Baby Stroller Wheel Problem' and contains a text block: 'As referring to our solution decision matrix in Element D, we developed numerous possible solutions to the baby stroller wheel problem. The solution concepts receiving highest score were switching the front wheels to the back and likewise back wheels to the front to put more...'. Below this is a 'REVIEW ELEMENT' section with a 'CHOOSE SCORE' dropdown menu set to '2'. There is a 'ADD COMMENTS' section with a text area containing feedback: 'Hello team, I hope you are doing well. Regarding this element right now I would judge it to be a 2 relative to the rubric. You have described a few ways in which your plan to test the new stroller in typical use cases but I believe you need to more specifically relate each test to each of your design requirements. An an example, One of your stated design requirements was that the new good design should withstand the force of one hundred pounds stress with out breaking. Can you include a test possible using a large scale and some weights to put the stroller under this load condition, and then do this at a statistically significant number of times? This is a better example of connecting your testing DIRECTLY to your stated design requirements and goals... Good luck team, looking forward to our next review!'. On the right side, there is a vertical navigation menu with letters A through N.

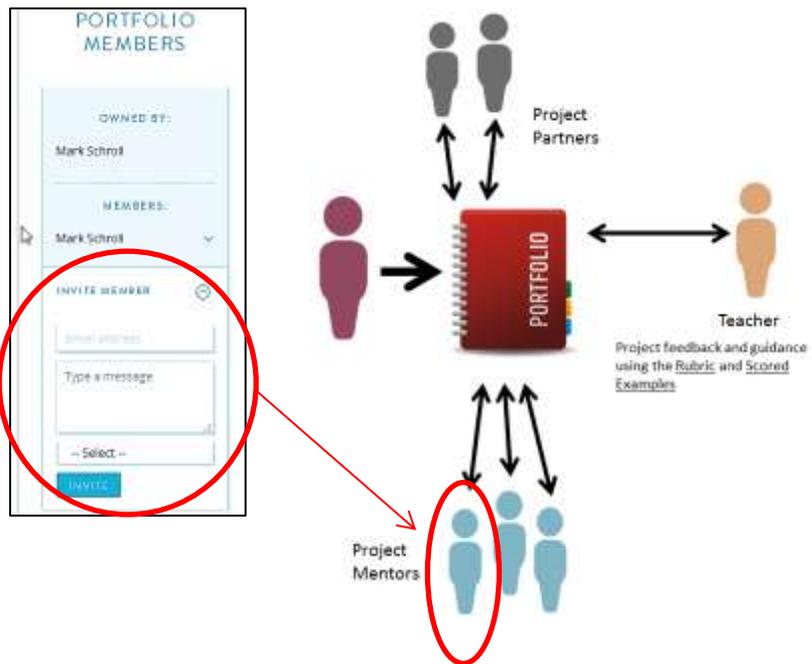


Getting Connected

- Once the partnership team members are familiar with the portal and the rubric the teacher instructs their students to invite the advisors as “viewers” to each of the class projects.
- Advisors and hosting teachers work together to develop a schedule of times when the advisor agrees to review, score and offer feedback and guidance to the student teams through the innovation portal
- Advisors and students keep a copy of each “review” including comments and scores
- Students use the reviews to capture and record the advice and instruction they are given
- Advisors use their completed reviews to document the work they have been doing with participating schools for their own records and for their supervisors as needed



This graphic portrays the advisor being invited to connect to a team portfolio. Advisors offer feedback, guidance, and suggestions relative to the embedded rubric and keep copies of the advice they submit back.



Mentors/Advisors keep a copy of every review they complete and send to students. Students keep copies of every review from every mentor as well. Students can refer to the advice and comments any time to improve their project. Mentors can access and print their reviews and summaries to use as documentation of their time involved as a mentor/Advisor.

