

# **Supporting Newly Arrived Young People from Immigrant & Refugee Populations through Mentoring and Family Support**

Thursday, December 15, 2022



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# Participate in Today's Webinar

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- Type questions in the **Q&A** panel
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- **Live captions** available in the panel by clicking on the “**CC**” at the bottom of the screen
- Respond to polls
- Who is with us today?
  - Type in the **Chat** to introduce yourself!
  - For all participants to see your message, change to “All panelists and attendees” in the Chat

Audio Settings ^



Chat



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Q&A



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# Good to Know...

**One week after the webinar, all attendees receive an email with:**

- Instructions for how to access a PDF of presentation slides and webinar recording
- Link to the [Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series webpage](#), where all slides, recordings and resources are posted

**Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.**

# Today's Webinar

- Gain foundational knowledge of terms such as "refugee" and "asylum" to contextualize some of the unique experiences of newly arrived young people
- Learn about the migrant experience and refugee communities in Nebraska
- Understand how to create a supportive environment by applying positive and culturally appropriate mentoring practices

# Facilitator Info



As a refugee from Iraq, Layla Younis has focused her education and career goals towards promoting development both domestically and abroad. In Morocco, Layla worked to promote gender equity and economic empowerment of women. In Bahrain, she taught English to provide quality education. Domestically, Layla is a grants and project manager.

With over 7 years of experience in project and grants management, Layla's previous roles include serving as the Nebraska Refugee State Coordinator. Through this role Layla liaised between federal, state, and local partner to promote inclusive systems for refugee integration.

Internationally, Layla has promoted gender equity and economic empowerment. In Morocco, Layla worked at the Association al Amal pour le Developpement, a vocational women's training center that enabled women's economic mobility. In Bahrain, Layla was served as an English Second Language (ESL) Teaching Assistant to about 100 students at the Arabian Gulf University.

Layla has two B.A.s; one in Journalism and Mass Communication and one in English Literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Currently, Layla works in international development. Her portfolio is split between business development and project management in the Middle East and North Africa. Her languages include Kurdish and intermediate Arabic.

As consultant she is most excited to support youth in Nebraska. Layla has had mentors who've guided her towards her personal and professional goals; being a consultant at MENTOR NE is one small way to pay it forward."

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# The Distinction

## **Refugee:**

A person fleeing his or her country because of war, violence, persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

No one chooses to be a refugee.

## **Asylee:**

A noncitizen in the United States or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to their country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the individual's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

# OUR Reality

**60 million people have been forced to flee their homes – creating the largest refugee crisis since World War II.**

**Among them is a generation of children who have lost everything they know: their homes, their education, and sometimes even their families.**

**It's a situation that has forced families into terrifying situations and impossible choices. And children have suffered most.**

**This is our world. These are our children. We must ensure child refugees are not forgotten.**

# Global Trends

- **At the end of 2021, the total number of people worldwide who were forced to flee their homes due to conflicts, violence, fear of persecution and human rights violations was 89.3 million.**
- **The number of refugees worldwide increased from 20.7 in 2020 to 21.3 million at the end of 2021, more than double the 10.5 million a decade ago.**
- **Total forced displacement now exceeds 100 million people. This means 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee.**

- The United Nations Refugee Agency

# Statewide (Nebraska) Trends

- **Nebraska had the nation's highest per capita refugee resettlement rate in the fiscal year 2016. From January 2010 to January 2019, the state resettled 8,425 refugees.**
- **About 1,000 Afghan arrivals in the last year. Mostly to Omaha and Lincoln.**

# Redefined By Hope

- Resilient and resourceful survivors
- Strong and unique assets/skill sets (not necessarily in language or education)
- Differing cultures in a community should not be seen as an obstacle to overcome, but rather as inspiration
- As they find their footing, stimulate the economy, raise productivity, improve local worker wages, boost innovation, and often generate international trade because of their connections to various countries.

# Timon Gurung



Born and raised in a refugee camp in Nepal, Timon Gurung is a nationally known youth motivational speaker and leadership facilitator. With lived experiences of being a refugee, he knows the challenges of being the new kid in a foreign country. His biggest fear was communication now his biggest passion is communication. Now, he encourages students to turn their biggest fears into their biggest passion.

As a first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Communication, he is an example of the “American Dream”. He helps students learn that every challenge is just a hidden opportunity waiting to be discovered. He encourages students to take responsibility for their own success and see all immigrants and refugees as valued and contributing members of our society.

Timon is an expert in youth leadership development, with over 6 years of experience inspiring students from all walks of life.

He co-founded Engaged Leaders Inc. a nonprofit organization that supports the minority, immigrant, and refugee students in Omaha and surrounding areas by providing out of school leadership, career skill building and STEM programming through community-based initiatives.

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# Duong Tran



Duong Tran is a Junior at Grand Island Senior High located in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Duong was part of the very first group to participate in MENTOR Nebraska's Grand Island STRIVE program. This program has provided Duong with the opportunity to be connected to a caring adult within his school building that serves as his mentor, participate in meaningful civic and social engagement activities, and gives Duong access to educational and vocational advancement opportunities.

He and his family came to the United States in 2020 from Vietnam.

(\*Duong pictured with his STRIVE mentor to the left.)

# Dr. Amanda Levos



Dr. Amanda Levos serves as the English Learner (EL) Coordinator and Equity Systems Navigator for Grand Island Public Schools.

Amanda grew up in Columbus, Nebraska as the oldest of five, and moved to Grand Island in 2003 to start her career as an EL teacher at Grand Island Senior High.

She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated with a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership.

Amanda is involved in her community by supporting organizations like the Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island and as a mentor for the TeamMates Program.

Amanda is currently serving as a board member for MENTOR Nebraska and was recently nominated Vice President.

She is passionate about mentoring because it gives our youth the space to amplify their voices and provides them with the encouragement, support, and resources to thrive in our ever-changing world.

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# Panelists Discussion

Now that we've heard a little more about you, tell us a little bit about your experience or role with mentoring...

## Multiple Perspectives

- Program Alum, Peer Facilitator for Group Mentoring
- Program Alum, Current High School Student
- School Administrator, EL & Migrant Education

# Panelists Discussion

How did being a part of a mentoring program affect your sense of belonging in your school or community?

# Panelists Discussion

**What would you want someone to know before starting a mentoring program that supports newly arrived young people?**

**What specific actions can program staff take so that they are not reproducing victimization and harm?**

# Panelists Discussion

**Why is family engagement crucial when mentoring in these communities?**

# Panelists Discussion

Can you share your most proud moments of overcoming an obstacle and how that turned into a strength, either while mentoring or in your personal life? If you are a mentor, can you share how you've witnessed your mentee use their strength to navigate the dual worlds they live in?

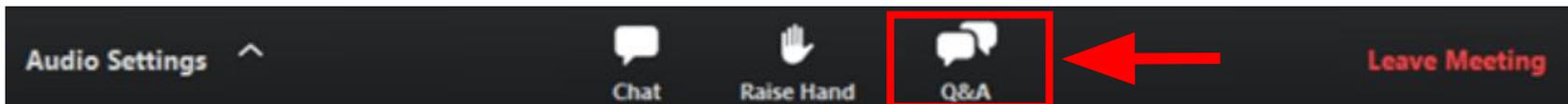
# Audience Q&A



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# Q&A

**Type your questions in  
the Q&A panel**



# Stay Connected

- **Email us** at [collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org](mailto:collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org)
- **Tweet** with hashtag #MentoringWebinar
- **Visit our webpage** on the MENTOR website for past and upcoming webinars:



The Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series is hosted by MENTOR National and facilitated by MENTOR and a planning team of MENTOR Affiliates. Through ongoing planning and evaluation of the latest developments in the field, this team delivers a webinar each month focused on strengthening mentoring practice, sharing new resources, and helping the field put research into practice. These webinars would not be possible without the planning team, which includes the following *Affiliates*: MENTOR Colorado, MENTOR Indiana, MENTOR North Carolina, MENTOR Vermont, and MENTOR Washington.

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# Resources

[Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality through Nov 2022](#)

[Refugee Admissions Report through Nov 2022](#)

[THRIVE Social](#)

[Grand Island Public Schools](#)

- [Equity in GIPS](#)

# Additional Resources

## Affiliates

Affiliates serve as a clearinghouse for training, resources, public awareness and advocacy. Find your local affiliate here:

<http://www.mentoring.org/our-work/our-affiliates/>

## Mentoring Connector

Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the Mentoring Connector

<https://connect.mentoring.org/admin>

## National Mentoring Resource Center

Check out the [OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center](#) to access evidence-based mentoring resources and to apply for no-cost training and technical assistance

# Remember...

## After the webinar:

- Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.
- Everyone will get an email with information on how to download the slides, recording, and resources on the CMWS webpage on the MENTOR website:

[http://www.mentoring.org/program\\_resources/training\\_opportunities/collaborative\\_mentoring\\_webinar\\_series/](http://www.mentoring.org/program_resources/training_opportunities/collaborative_mentoring_webinar_series/)

# Join Us Next Month!

**National Mentoring Month:  
Celebrating Your Efforts in January and Beyond**

**Thursday, January 19th**

**1PM - 2:15PM EST**



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