

# An Assessment of the 2020 Summer College and Workforce Development Institute

Patty Palmer, MSN  
University of Maryland, Graduate School

Vanessa P. Fahie, PhD, RN  
University of Maryland School of Nursing

## Background

The College and Workforce Development Institute was a five-week virtual summer camp for high school graduates. Due to the abrupt transition of in person learning in 2020, the format shifted from engaging students in college level courses on a college campus to a virtual environment. The Institute focused on enhancing writing, public speaking, interviewing, mathematics and financial literacy skills using a mentorship framework. Simplify Math Center, Urban Teachers, College Student Mentors and Program staff conducted the interactive sessions.

## Objectives

- Describe the recruitment of high school graduates (mentees) and college students (mentors) attending a Summer College and Workforce Development Institute
- Identify the significant components of the Summer College and Workforce Development Institute or detail the Summer College and Workforce Development Institute curriculum
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Summer College and Workforce Development Institute

## Institute Development

### Skills for College Success

- Organization
- Time Management
- Study
- Testing

### Marketing Self

- Cover letter
- Resume writing
- Interviewing skills
- Mock interviews

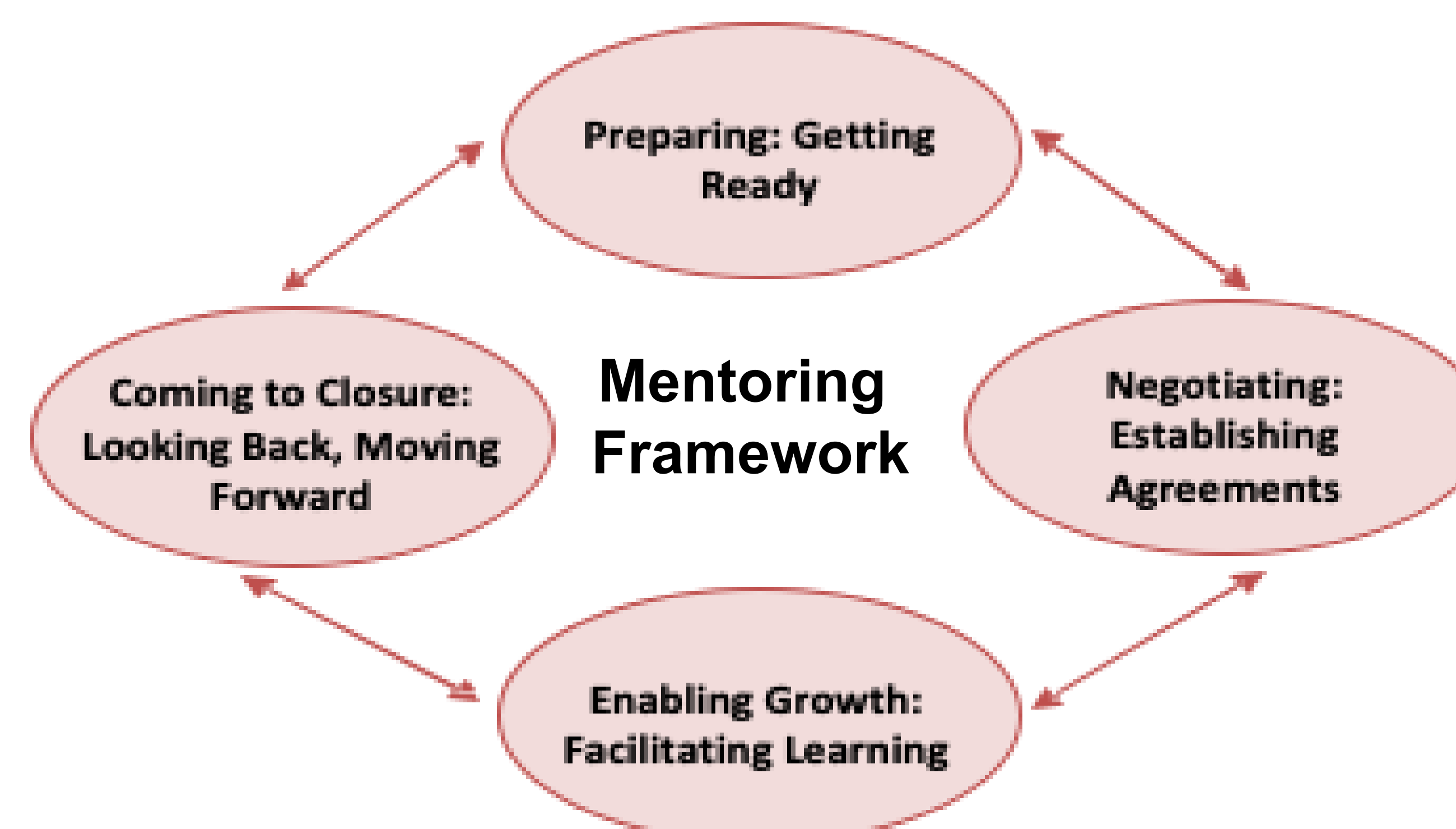
### Math for Life

- Pre Assessments
- Placement test prep
- College level math

### Financial Literacy

- FAFSA
- Money Matters

## Methods



### Recruitment Strategies

Mentees (Graduating Seniors)	Teachers	Mentors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School year contacts</li> <li>Guidance counselor lists</li> <li>Peer referrals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math Simplified Owner/Tutors</li> <li>Urban Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former College Ambassadors</li> <li>Former Adult Leaders</li> </ul>

## Curricular Highlights

### English/Language Arts Unit: Marketing Self

Job Applications  
Interview Etiquette

Introduction to  
Writing Resumes

Essay Process  
Drafting, Outlining  
and Writing

### Mentors Unit: Tools for College Success

The Right Technology

- Laptop with Internet
- Required Software
- Extra chargers

Support Systems

- Tutor
- Writing
- People resources

### Mathematics Unit: Placement Tests

Exponents, properties,  
evaluating expressions  
Simplifying expressions  
and solving equations

Ratio, proportion,  
percent Geometry

Measurement  
Word problems

## Results

- Twenty-one graduating seniors attended the virtual summer institute from July-August 2021
- Six college students with equal gender distribution who served as mentors led interactive sessions on Skills for College Success
- Four adult mentors, three English/Language Arts teachers, four math teachers/tutors and a 4H Educator facilitated sessions
- University of Maryland School of Nursing faculty and staff conducted mock job interviews
- Mentees actively participated in the 5 week program with the exception of days missed for college orientation (n=3).
- 60% (n=13) enrolled in college in fall 2020
- 30% (n=4) attended classes on campus
- 100% received financial aid (scholarships and grants)
- Freshmen year completed successfully despite restrictions on enjoying the full campus life experience

## References

Theodos, B., Pergamit, M. R. Edelstein, S., George, T. & Freiman, L. ( 2014). Preparing youth for college and career: A process evaluation of Urban Alliance.  
<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/22971/413233-preparing-youth-for-college-and-career.pdf>

## Acknowledgement

*This project was funded by the Maryland Higher Education Commission College Preparation Intervention Program grant #19-104. "Opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and no official endorsement should be inferred."*