

November Wisdom – High School and College Planning

You're invited to join the conversation with CEO of Global Mentorship Initiative Jon Browning and our panel of High School/College Consultants. They will be sharing invaluable strategies, resources, and guidance on high school and college planning that you and your children won't want to miss. Mark your calendar and join us for this can't-miss event!

BCGT PRESENTS

Our Speakers



**Kerri
McCastland**

Barrington
High School



**Jon
Browning**

Global Mentorship
Initiative



**Chris
Kim**

Excellerate
Learning Studio



**Nick
LaMantia**

Superior
Test Prep



**Kate
Pedigo**

Laura George
Consulting LLC

Registration will be available here:

bcgt220.org/events

**Thursday
Nov. 16,
2023**

7PM CT



- Keynote Presentation – Connecting Students to Careers Through Mentorship
- Introduction – Kerri McCastland, Executive Director of Instructional Programs and Future Readiness Technology & Innovation, Barrington High School
- Diverse Panel of Educational Consulting Background + Q&A



Jon Browning

**CEO & Board Chair
Global Mentorship Initiative**



“Connecting Students to Careers Through Mentorship”

- Mentorship transforms lives and we can make a difference by supporting those who may not have the same opportunities.
- GMI (Global Mentorship Initiative) was created from the Rockefeller Foundation's Digital Jobs Initiative, and dedicated to helping college students and refugees launch their careers through a structured, short-term, online mentorship.

Jon Browning is a former Microsoft Director (1990-2014) who is the Founder and CEO of Global Mentorship Initiative.

He chairs of the IAOP Center for Social Responsibility and co-created Global Impact Sourcing Coalition and the Impact Sourcing Awards.

Chris Kim is an Ed-Tech innovator and STEM talent leader. She is passionate about bringing positive disruption to the education system through personalized coaching for 21st-century learning.

Chris brings nearly two decades of experience in curriculum design, professional development training, parent engagement, youth leadership development, and college access. She co-founded Excellerate Learning Studio and created a framework based on learning science and a system that collects measurable data to make an informed decision on how to personalize the learning experience for each student.

Chris desired to help students and their families more holistically and developed Excellerate's five-pronged approach: financial readiness; academic readiness; major/career readiness; co/extra-curricular activities support and selection; and college selection and application support. She emphasizes the "right fit" higher education plan to help find the specific place where each unique child will thrive as a whole person—not just as a student—so he or she can best contribute to society. Additionally, Chris champions the underserved through various volunteering commitments.

Chris is a member of ISTE (International Society of Technology in Education), IDEA (Illinois Digital Educators Alliance), and HECA (Higher Education Consultants Association). Chris and her husband, Jimmy, and their two boys (Irum & Iden) and two girls (Coco & Caramel) love serving their communities through volunteering and breaking bread together.



Chris Kim

Co-Founder & CEO

Excellerate Learning Studio

Ed-Tech Innovator / STEM Talent Leader

[Homepage - Excellerate Learning Studio](#)



Kate Pedigo, M.Ed., NCC

Educational Consultant

Laura George Consulting

College Consulting | ACT Tutoring | College Essay/Application
/Guidance | SSAT/HSPT Tutoring

Kate Pedigo is an Educational Consultant specializing in high school and college planning. She understands that high school and college planning can be stressful and overwhelming, and she truly enjoys helping to make the process clear, manageable, and even fun for families. Kate's services include:

- Advising families as they plan high school courses and extracurriculars
- Helping families understand important college planning timelines
- Assisting students with exploration of majors and careers
- Guiding families through the college search and selection process
- Coaching students through Common App completion
- Supporting students considering the transfer process

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Kate pursued her Master of Education degree in School Counseling at Loyola University in Baltimore. She is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a certified marriage preparation and parenting facilitator. Kate has also earned Professional Member status with the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA), which requires demonstration of professional mastery and years of experience in the field.

Kate and her husband live in Brentwood, TN with their high school-aged son. They also have a son at the University of Alabama in the STEM/MBA program in Computer Science.

Learn more about our [High School and College Planning Services](#).

Nick LaMantia

CEO and The ACT / SAT Expert, Superior Test Prep

www.superiortestprep.com

Nick LaMantia has spent the last 14 years specializing in 1 to 1 tutoring for SAT / ACT and high school academics. He recently spent a decade as the owner, director, and lead tutor at Superior Test Preparation in Rolling Meadows.

Nick enjoys challenging each student, finding the strategies and techniques that work best for that individual's skill set and learning style. He looks to build confidence, motivation, and a strong understanding of the material.

Currently he tutors students nationwide via the internet, while also working in-person with students from many different backgrounds in his hometown of Chicago.

