A Quest For GLOBAL LEARNING

Opportunity Education

Jolene Zywica, PhD

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

Brian Kear
OVERVIEW

Introductions
Partnership background
Design thinking overview
About the course
Questions
INTRODUCTIONS

Jolene Zywica, PhD

- Founded in 2005
- 1,500 schools globally, 900,000 students
- Quest Forward Learning’s mission: Activate lifelong curiosity in each student, cultivating the mindset, essential habits, and skills
- US Academies, 7 Tanzania Schools, 1 University, 1 US Public Charter School, 2 Public Schools
- Our products: Quest!, QuestMaker, Quest Community
INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Kear

- Non-profit, open access institution founded in 1966
- Early adopter of online learning stemmed from military roots
- Open access institution with more than 50,000 graduates worldwide
- Design and User Experience background - BA in Graphic Design and MFA in Creativity
- Passionate about design and creativity, and the power they have to foster change
Our Partnership

How did the OE and BU collaboration start?

What were the roles of each organization and how did you determine what course to create?
OVERVIEW • DESIGN THINKING

• The course is based on the design thinking process developed by Herbert Simon (1969)

• Methodology expanded by the Stanford Design School and many materials for the course were based on these exercises.
WHY DESIGN THINKING?

- Every Day Design
- Community Improvement
- Product Innovation
About Our Course

THINKING BY DESIGN

Content all online and on the Quest! App

Flexible course pace

Taught residentially to students on campus in Bellevue, NE and Tanzania

Students design a community solution
Boundary Roads

Overview
As we become more empathic, we may also find ourselves feeling different, new, or more intense emotions. This is normal and a really healthy part of feeling empathy. But it is also very important that we learn how to make sure we do not become overwhelmed by these emotions. In other quests in this level, we will learn about managing difficult emotions and stress when and if they come up.

Artifacts
- Create a Personal Bill of Rights.
NEBRASKA
Bellevue University & Quest Forward Academy, Omaha

CALIFORNIA
Quest Forward Academy, Santa Rosa

TANZANIA
Mtakuja Secondary School & Tanzania Quest Designers
PARTICIPATION BY SITE

Students that have completed at least 1 quest

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• Law enforcement relations, abuse of authority, sexual misconduct
• Homelessness and sustainable housing concerns turn personal
TZ COMMUNITY DESIGNS

- Limited access to resources - Charcoal paper
- Streamlining daily tasks - Fish farm
Connecting

STUDENTS GLOBALLY

Emphasis on the overlap of learning and flexibility/application of design thinking for local and global problems.
I've learned to work better with others. I've also learned how to think through problems differently. Also this journey helped me discover my creativity.
Design Thinking as a course managed to change learners’ mindsets and their way of seeing their environment... ever since the introduction of the course Michael has changed into a totally different person: positive-minded, creative, innovative and patient... ever since Michael did [the marshmallow] challenge he has always been looking for things to create, things to improve around the campus.
Average quest rating across all quest and implementations

4.1/5
TIPS FOR FORMING PARTNERSHIPS

1. Everyone involved must invest time. Effort should be mutual.

2. Everyone must be willing to substantially change their practices and adapt to others’ needs.

3. Top level support is critical.