

# Community Improvement Project



**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*



# Welcome Guests

## Local Expert Panel

- Chad Glover
- Glenn Roby
- Matt Streb
- Mike Pittsley
- Will Heinisch
- Denise Weinmann
- Ellingsworth Webb



Thank you!



Mortenson

Special thanks to 71 North!



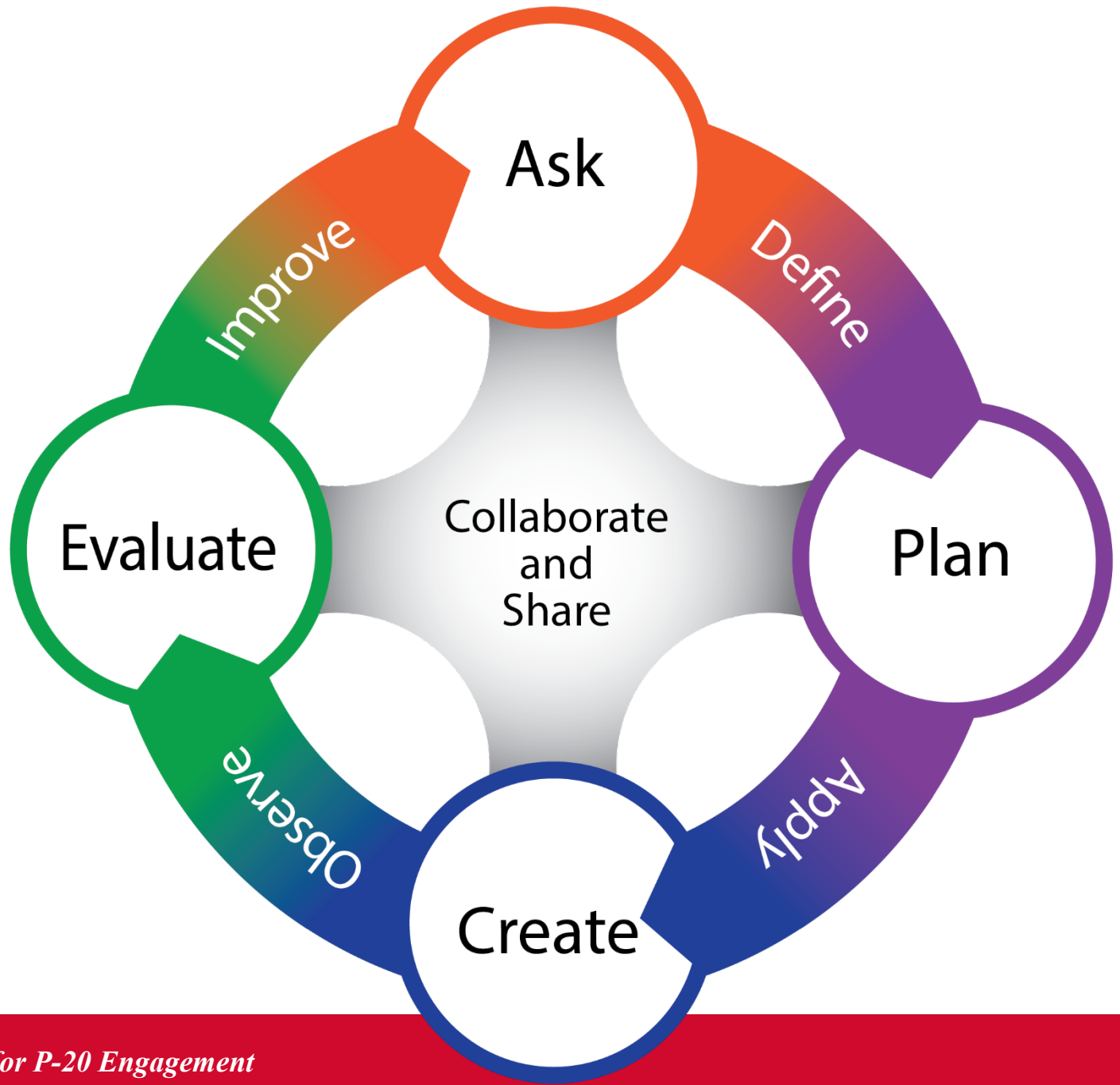
How can we design an  
energy efficient  
community/teen center to  
best meet the needs of the  
community?



# Goals

- Create a project plan with clear deliverables and project timeline.
- Use data and research to justify design decisions.
- Work collaboratively with others to complete a project on time.
- Create a model or visualization of your proposed design using appropriate tools.
- Describe the benefits and challenges of your proposed design.
- Pitch your design to a panel of local experts.





# Schedule

- **Week 1: Ask** – Conduct a needs analysis.
- **Week 2: Plan** – Using the results of the needs analysis, brainstorm and research ideas and develop a plan for your design.
- **Week 3: Create** – Work in teams and with experts to create your design plan, model and budget.
- **Week 4: Evaluate** – Prepare and deliver design pitch to the local expert panel.



# What is a Community Center?

Our students researched community centers and determined that our community center should have be...

- A place to socialize
- A hub for the community
- Safe and respectful
- A place to hang out and chill
- Where you can learn and provide help and support
- A place to build relationships and friendship
- A place to have fun

And should have...

- Access to technology, books and other resources
- Quiet places to study and read
- Positive role models







# The Community Needs



**Drop off center for kids**

**Free programs for kids and adults**

An outdoor space that can be used for play, gardening and/or learning

**A place where the community can get access to healthy food options**

**A kitchen where the community can learn how to cook healthy meals**

**Safe spaces for kids and families**

**Qualified adult role models for kids**

Entrepreneurship Support (Help for small business for adults and students)

A place to share food that was either made by community members or grown in gardens

A place for the community to share and experience food from different cultures

**Safe water**

**Small business marketplace**

**A place that has motivational and inspirational art**

**Place for students and adults to explore art, dance and music**

**A place to have fun with friends for both adults and kids**

**Age level challenges and projects for kids**

A place for sharing skills and learning from each other for both adults and kids (dad hacks, mom hacks, skills, and job swaps)

Access to technology tools and software for multimedia creation and development

**CPR and first aid training**

**Peer mentors, mentor parents for adults and single parents**

**A place where adults can gather, meet new people and socialize**

**A place that looks welcoming that the community like going to**



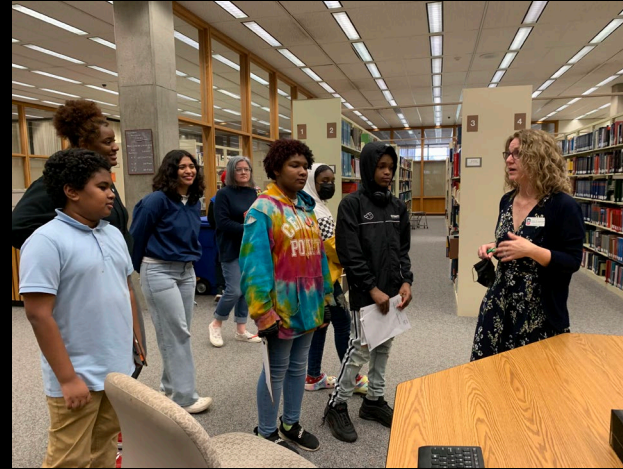
# Guest Speakers!

- NIU Nursing
- Chief Mitchell from NIU Police Department
- Kathy Johnson from Mortenson
- Yho Mendez – Design Thinking
- Edgar Mendez from Mortenson
- Joe Insley, Ina Murphy, and Hal Brynteson – NIU ddiLab/Argonne National Laboratory
- Luke Sebby – 71 North





# Research



Founder's Library  
Holmes Student Center  
NIU Esports  
Fargo Skate









# Design Showcase

