Youth Engagement Transition Initiative (YETI) Strategies for Professionals

NTACT THE COLLABORATIVE
Improving Opportunities & Outcomes

Let Youth Speak...

Designate time on the agenda specifically for youth

Youth participation needs to be more than optics

Be open to youths' ideas and feedback even if it is difficult to hear

Give youth tangible things to work on

Make Space...

Make an effort to learn the language youth are using

Patience is essential

Avoid Jargon

Create space for change

Respect boundaries set by young folks.

Take a young person at their word.

Spend Time Mentoring...

Take the time to teach youth the system(s)

Provide a list of typical acronyms and lingo

Have a goal in mind and think about the resources you can offer to best support youth with that goal

Youth are the Experts...

Recognize there are some youth who may choose identity first versus person first

Listen to and honor accommodation requests

Respect boundaries set by youth

Take the time to learn about what the young folks who are being invited into teams/ spaces with adults are passionate about

Lighten up...

Maintain a friendly and congenial environment

Social interactions and discussions are important

Get to know each others' interests and life outside the meeting