

Students, Rotarians come together for mentoring opportunity

[Craig Shoup](#), [Fremont News-Messenger](#) Published 2:26 p.m. ET Jan. 30, 2020



STRIVE mentor Angie Morelock and Ross High School senior Katlynn Morris meet once a week to discuss Morris' future in education. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

FREMONT - Finishing your senior year of high school can be nerve wracking.

For some students, thinking about their futures can cause even more nervous nights.

Katlynn Morris, a senior at Ross High School who is enrolled in Vanguard Center's medical program to get her STNA certification, knew she wanted to be pediatric cardiologist.

But getting to a goal can be overwhelming.

Morris is one of 21 seniors enrolled in Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education, or STRIVE, which pairs mentors from the Fremont Rotary Club and members of the community with students on the verge of graduating from Ross High School.

STRIVE has become a staple at Ross High School the past 22 years as students and mentors come together to map out a successful path.

Morris is paired with Angie Morelock, a public relations and communications director at Vanguard, who said her goal is to support Morris in her path to a career.

"She's been great, she has experience with kids and it helps to put it in a language that we can understand," Morris said of Morelock's advice.

Morelock has been a STRIVE mentor three times as a member of the Rotary Club.

"From the first to the third time, I learned that what each student wants may be a little different," said Morelock.

Some students are looking for advice on how to get to a certain career, while others may be looking for a mentor that can help them decide if college is a fit for them.

"I kind of follow their lead on what's important to them and what they're looking to get out of the program," Morelock said.

Morelock said the first time she served as a mentor she thought it was all about a strict program they had to follow, but STRIVE allows the mentors and mentees to develop their own way of obtaining goals.

Morelock said meetings with Morris are about development with adult relationships outside of parents and teachers.

In the end, she said her role is support.

"If she wants to go to school, I will support that, but I will support whatever path they want to take," said Morelock.

Morris will be furthering her education but some students in the program do not always take traditional college routes to find the career that is right for them.

This week, Morris decided to pursue a degree at Terra State Community College to be certified as a registered nurse before moving on to another school to pursue pediatric cardiology.

Morelock said she was excited to see Morris decide to go to Terra, because when the two began the mentor program in the fall, Morris had not thought about furthering her education at the Fremont community college.

Although Morris will exit the program in May, Morelock said she will stay in touch with her mentee as Morris goes through college.

In addition to weekly individual meetings with mentors, the students meet monthly during school to get help with college applications and financial aid assistance

cshoup@gannett.com

419-334-1035

Twitter: @CraigShoupNH