

Empowering the young people of today.

emPowerU

2021 — 22 Program Report



Letter From The President

Greetings,

I am pleased to share that this year, emPowerU had record-setting participation in program history. Mosaic Life Care Foundation greatly appreciates your investment in our work to champion education and empower people. We hope the 1,760 students who participated this year felt empowered to make a difference in their school and community.

We appreciate the Mosaic Life Care Foundation Board of Trustees and their continued support of schools in our 31-county service region. Program participant fees for Civic Engagement Immersions and e2 Fellowship continue to be waived through 2025. This savings per school equates to \$375 - \$3,675 depending on the program and number of participants.

The 2022 — 23 academic year promises to be one of innovative opportunities at emPowerU. Thank you for coming alongside Mosaic Life Care Foundation as we work in partnership to cultivate the next generation of educated, empowered youth leaders.

With warm regards,



Julie Gaddie, PhD



Julie Gaddie, PhD
President

A Message from Devran Brower

Greetings,

emPowerU is a one-of-a-kind experiential learning facility where students explore their role in building healthier lives and communities. It is a place where every voice is heard and all ideas are valued. It is a setting where students can connect and share new ideas. One student recently commented, **“This was a great experience for me. I learned a lot of new things and overcame my fear of talking in front of people.”**

The COVID-19 pandemic affected everyone more than we could have imagined. However, based on comments made by educators during their visit to emPowerU, I feel it may have impacted our youth even more than the rest of us. Many teachers shared that students are reluctant to share ideas and are finding face-to-face interaction more difficult in the classroom. One teacher commented, **“Our students need help and support with communication. I think communication is a skill in general students lack.”** Our team noticed emPowerU student groups were much more quiet than they had been in past visits. Our young people need to learn effective in-person communication, how to collaborate and think creatively. For these reasons, emPowerU programs are beneficial now, more than ever.

As you review our annual report, please take note of the high satisfaction rates shared by educators and students. I believe it will help you see the benefit of our programs. Registration for 2022 — 23 programming is open. I look forward to connecting with school leaders and growing the success experienced this year at emPowerU.

Sincerely,



Devran Brower



Devran Brower
Program Operations Director
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Civic Engagement Immersions

Three circuits engage students and empower them to use their talents and abilities to make a positive impact. Every voice is heard and all ideas are valued. Since 2007, over **25,000** students have experienced the impact of these programs.



Circuit One

Professionally trained facilitators guide participants through the discovery and discussion experience of Circuit One. Current engaging and relevant challenge topics set the stage for students to consider and come to a consensus on possible solutions. The full-day session culminates with student groups presenting their findings to their peers and the emPowerU Council that is made up of regional leaders.

A popular challenge topic this year was Stress and Anxiety. Educators selected this topic due to the high demands, academics, sports and COVID-19 impact among students.

Circuit Two

emPowerU transforms into a region of diverse cities and towns. Students work within an assigned job, such as mayor or broadcast journalist and are tasked with discovering their community’s biggest challenge. Live presentations to the student-led commissioners’ hearing include speech and video elements.

Funding from the **Leah Spratt Trust** made it possible for emPowerU to purchase new video equipment. Students assigned to the broadcast journalist role are now able to produce news videos in a professional studio environment.

“A strength I discovered about myself today was that I can talk to people I do not know. I also learned that I can stand up for my team and their ideas.”

- Civic Engagement Immersion Participant

Jump Starter Grant

Competitive Jump Starter grants, up to \$10,000, are awarded to emPowerU participants who pursue and complete community services projects within our service region.

Recent past examples include:

- School Beautification, Abby Parks and Griffin Weber, Troy High School, \$4,435.50
- Hygiene Backpacks for the Homeless, Ivan Chatfield and Ella Ham, Bessie Ellison Elementary, \$3,500
- School Playground Enhancements, Kim Dilley’s Sixth Grade Class, Edison Elementary, \$6,129.21

Making a Difference

When Discovery Middle School eighth grader, Molly, visited emPowerU, she was shocked.

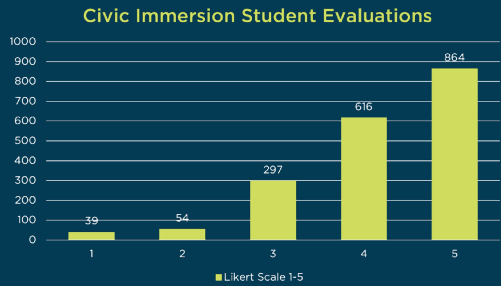
Initially, she was not looking forward to the teamwork component of the day-long field trip. She thought back to her past field trip experiences and did not think it would be fun. That quickly turned into a feeling of amazement as she saw how well her group could collectively discuss, collaborate and formulate thoughtful solutions.

“My group could share our different ideas and opinions, learn from those and build off of each other,” Molly said. “It made our research and presentation better.”

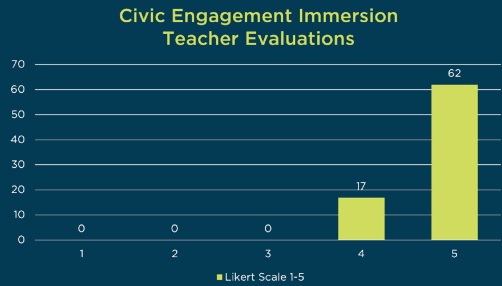
Molly’s group presented on the challenge of leaving a digital footprint. She said that she is going to be more careful on social media and share what she has learned with her family and friends.

“I feel like I can do more because I’m here,” Molly said. “It makes me feel like I can do more outside of emPowerU and in our community.”

Funding from the Edward F. Swinney Foundation made it possible for Molly and her Discovery Middle School peers to experience emPowerU.



4.18 average, 95 percent high satisfaction, 1870 surveys completed



4.78 average, 100 percent high satisfaction, 79 surveys completed

21st Century Skill Development

Educators find our Civic Engagement Immersions valuable. Students enjoy solving real-world problems through teamwork and critical thinking. Teachers continue to rate the program highly with regards to its relation to the Four Cs of 21st Century Skills: Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Communication.

2021 — 22 Educator Survey Results:

COLLABORATION

- Students worked to develop ideas and create solutions with involvement of all team members: 93.7 percent
- Students helped each other when help was needed: 100 percent
- Teams worked together to solve problems: 100 percent

CREATIVITY

- Students encouraged to think outside-the-box for possible solutions: 94.9 percent
- Students used idea generating techniques to develop several different ideas: 94.9 percent
- Students used imagination when shaping ideas into a solution: 92.4 percent

CRITICAL THINKING

- Students evaluated effectiveness and possible outcomes of multiple solutions: 93.7 percent
- Students could explain new understanding gained in the project: 97.5 percent
- Students understood their task and brainstormed viable solutions to each problem: 100 percent

COMMUNICATION

- Students shared contrasting ideas/opinions in a respectful manner: 91.1 percent
- Students provided useful feedback to their peers: 84.8 percent
- Teams led effective discussions, all ideas heard and valued: 93.7 percent

e2 Fellowship

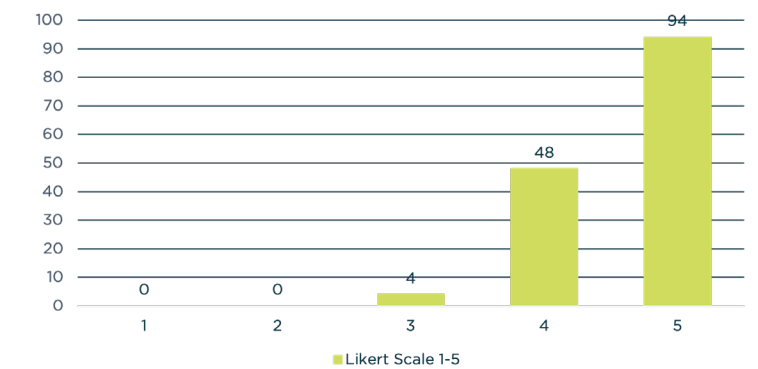
This intergenerational leadership program enhances the skills of emerging and experienced leaders. With four meeting days during the school year, high school teams from our 31-county service area gather together to learn about their own leadership styles, examine regional challenges and explore ways to implement positive change.

The teams are made up of two high school students and one adult sponsor. The 2021 — 22 academic year welcomed 14 teams including first time participant Bedford Secondary School from Bedford, Iowa. Regional challenges examined included poverty and education effectiveness. Ways to implement positive change for these included empathy toward differences among peers and regional partnerships for student internship opportunities.

One student participant commented, ***“Not only did I learn about leadership, but I was able to assess myself in order to understand how I can be a leader.”***



e2 Fellowship Participant Evaluations



4.61 average, 97 percent high satisfaction, 146 surveys completed

STEAM at emPowerU

STEAM field trips provide an immersive setting to spark an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. These day-long experiences target grades 3 — 7. Activities include hands-on science experiments, coding drones, LEGO® robotics and virtual reality exploration.





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Mosaic Life Care Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity committed to building healthy, thriving communities for generations to come. We believe in championing education and empowering people to live their best lives. When healthcare is needed, we are dedicated to ensuring exceptional healthcare is available, right here in our region.

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