

emPowerU

Empowering the young people of today.

2023 - 24 Program Report



Letter From The President

Greetings,

Each year with our emPowerU annual report, I find myself sharing the tremendous news of our educational programming having another record-setting attendance. Each year, I also share my appreciation to each of you as our regional education stakeholders for your investment and your belief in our programming. This year is no exception.

This was another record-setting year of attendance for emPowerU programming and Mosaic Life Care Foundation continues to value the role each of you take in the education of our region's youth. I am honored to share the continued investment by our board trustees and the waiving of program participant fees for Civic Engagement Immersions and e2 Fellowship through 2025. This savings per school equates to \$375 - \$3,675 depending on the program and the number of participants.

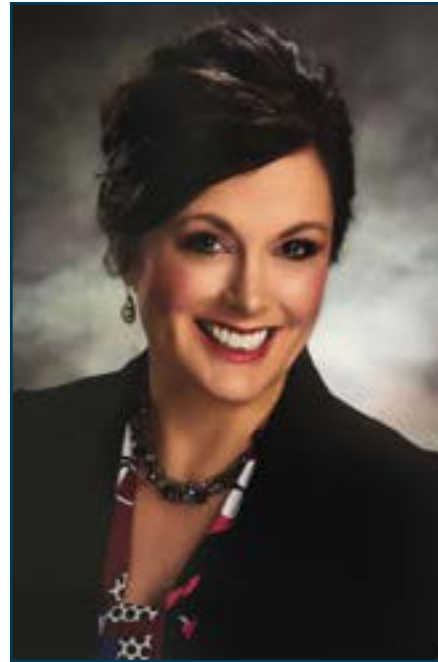
Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 academic year, the emPowerU learning opportunities will continue to spark collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. Additionally, please watch for additional communication from the Foundation about our Children's Discovery Center project. As we work to bring a best-in-industry experience to Downtown St. Joseph, MO, the input you have provided and your belief in this project has been invaluable. With a projected grand opening in late fall of 2024, we remain committed to our core mission while at the same time creating this opportunity to invest back into the community through enhanced education and health related initiatives.

I invite you to follow us on social media, @FoundationMLC to keep up-to-date with this project, our emPowerU programming, and the work of our mission to champion education, empower people, and ensure exceptional health care is available, right here in our region.

With warm regards,



Julie Gaddie, PhD



Julie Gaddie, PhD
President

A Message from Devran Brower

Greetings,

I am excited to share that emPowerU had another successful year as we had record-setting 3,880 program participation days, a 280 day increase compared to last year. We hope the students and adults who participated this year are empowered to make a difference in their schools and community. We appreciate all of you who partner with us to make this success possible.

At emPowerU, we remain steadfast in our belief that youth are key to a better future. If we want students to make positive, lasting impacts in the region, we must encourage them to think creatively and collaboratively, motivate them to use their talents and empower them to share their voices. We are fortunate to have a one-of-a-kind experiential learning facility and a fantastic team of facilitators to achieve our mission — and have fun while doing it. One student recently commented, "emPowerU was fun and a good way to help students feel confident in their ideas and know what to do to put their ideas into action."

I am confident that as you review this report, you will see the benefits our programs provide. Please take note of the high satisfaction rates shared by students and educators. We continue to evaluate and update our programs so they remain relevant to the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to grow the success of emPowerU programs.

Sincerely,



Devran Brower

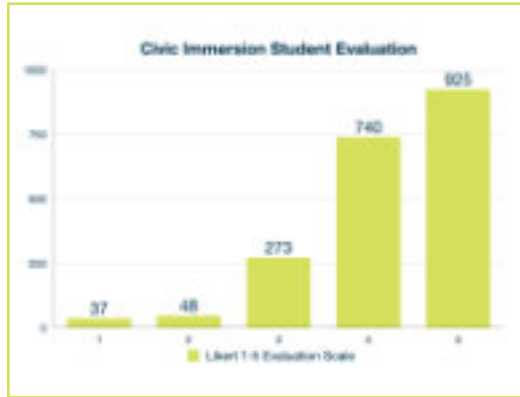


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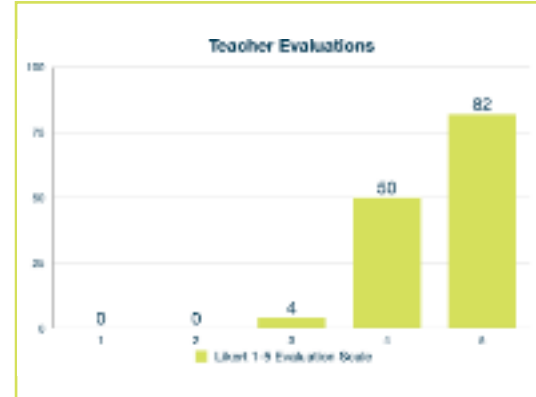
Civic Engagement Immersions

Since 2007, over 27,000 students have experienced the impact of our Civic Engagement Immersions.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees have approved funding to make this program free of charge through 2025.



4.2 average, 95.8 percent satisfaction, 2,023 surveys completed



4.8 average, 100 percent satisfaction, 64 surveys completed

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.

"I really liked how our voices as kids got heard. I also liked how we got to be a leader and be able to present it to our class." - Savannah Student

"Today was amazing and was a great opportunity to make the future a better place." - Parkway Student

"I liked the way we learned real life situations. Each time in emPowerU theres a new topic that shows your strengths and empowers you." - Skaith Student

Circuit Two

In Circuit Two, the emPowerU facility is transformed into a region of diverse cities and towns. Students take on roles like mayor, broadcast journalist, or finance manager, and are given the exciting challenge of identifying and solving their community's biggest issues. Each Circuit Two experience concludes with a live presentation to the student-led assembly.

"As an ELA teacher, the emPowerU experience was phenomenal! The students are researching, collaborating, organizing information, and presenting information. The students are also introduced to the latest and greatest technology. I believe the students gained a great deal of confidence and had a wonderful experience here today! I also appreciate that many of the grade level learning objectives were targeted today." - East Buchanan Educator

21st Century Skill Development

Educators continue to rate the Civic Engagement Immersions highly, as evident by this year's 4.8 satisfaction average. Teachers find the program valuable as they see the levels of engagement and enjoyment students experience as they solve real-world problems. Additionally, they understand its benefit in relation to the Four Cs of 21st Century Skills: Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Communication.

2023 - 24 Educator Survey Results:

COLLABORATION

- Students worked to develop ideas and create solutions with involvement of all team members: 97 percent
- Students helped each other when help was needed: 98 percent
- Teams worked together to solve problems: 100 percent

CREATIVITY

- Students encouraged to think outside-the-box for possible solutions: 98 percent
- Students used idea generating techniques to develop several different ideas: 94 percent
- Students used imagination when shaping ideas into a solution: 95 percent

CRITICAL THINKING

- Students understood their task and brainstormed viable solutions to each problem: 98 percent
- Students evaluated effectiveness and possible outcomes of multiple solutions: 95 percent
- Students could explain new understanding gained in the project: 100 percent

COMMUNICATION

- Students shared contrasting ideas/opinions in a respectful manner: 94 percent
- Students provided useful feedback to their peers: 92 percent
- Teams led effective discussions, all ideas heard and valued: 98 percent

e2 High School 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 2023 - 24 academic year welcomed 39 participants from 13 schools. This year participants explored the impact of poverty on our communities and were challenged to improve school attendance and student engagement. The teams concluded that adjusting schools start times, building in brain breaks, and a more individualized approach to learning would all make an impact.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees have approved funding to make the e2 High School Fellowship Program free of charge through 2025.



Jump Starter Grants

We understand that funding can be a major obstacle for young people who want to leave a positive impact on their communities. That's why all of our Civic Immersion and e2 Fellowship participants are eligible to apply for a Jump Starter grant of up to \$10,000 to help fund their service-learning project. Since 2006, we've awarded over \$380,000 in Jump Starter grants for 68 projects across our region.

Past Jump Starter projects include:

- Providing backpacks with hygiene items and blankets for the homeless
- Beautifying schools
- Organizing community clean-up days
- Establishing community gardens
- Setting up a second-hand clothing and furniture store in a rural community

Competitive Jump Starter grants are available to emPowerU participants for student-led service-learning projects in communities throughout northwest Missouri and surrounding counties in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and across our region.



4.57 average, 97 percent high satisfaction, 136 surveys completed

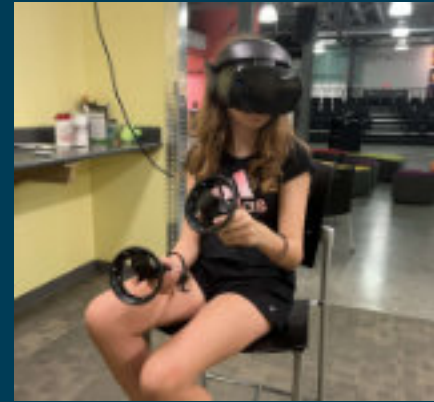
Full STEAM Ahead

In recent years, emPowerU has been committed to expanding our STEAM programs. We feel this is critical in our effort to build healthy and thriving communities, as STEAM careers are projected to grow at over twice the rate of others. Hands-on STEAM learning also cultivates collaboration, critical thinking, curiosity, decision-making, and leadership skills in an enjoyable and interactive environment.

Our STEAM programs are designed to excite kids in grades 3-8 about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. We are privileged to offer resources that kids might not have readily access in their schools.

STEAM Program offerings include:

- STEAM Field Trips - These trips are a great way for schools to provide their students with a full day of fun STEAM Activities. These field trips are grade-specific and include modules such as Hands-on Science, LEGO Robotics, Coding, Virtual Reality, and more.
- STEAM Summer Camps - Our STEAM Summer Camps are an exciting way to keep kids learning over the summer. Camp Invention is a one-week full-day camp done in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, where kids build creative inventions and lasting friendships. Additionally, we offer three weeks of our own half-day, week-long summer camps featuring Coding, Esports Rocket League, LEGO robotics, Minecraft Education, Virtual Reality, and more.
- STEAM After-School - Each spring and fall, we offer a six-week session of STEAM After School. This hour-and-a-half program is once a week and utilizes the same modules as our Summer Camps.





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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 health care is needed, we are dedicated to ensuring exceptional health care is available, right here in our region.

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