



Empowering the Young People of Today.

2024 - 25 Program Report

emPowerU

MOSAIC
LIFE · CARE

FOUNDATION

Letter from the President

Greetings,

Mosaic Life Care and the Mosaic Life Care Foundation are committed to the belief that healthy living involves more than going to the doctor. We recognize the habits of healthy living start early in our homes and schools. The Foundation's Healthy Tomorrow initiatives, including emPowerU Programs, support a continuum of health education that encourages the development of what it means to grow strong and well.

I appreciate the year-round efforts by Devran Brower, Program Operations Director, his incredible team of facilitators and dedicated volunteers. This was a record-setting year with over **4,000 participation days!** This, coupled with the tremendous survey results, validates what our programming means to the schools in our area. None of this would be possible without the tremendous partnerships with each of you, our regional education stakeholders. 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. You shape the learning environment. Together, we have a vested interest in the educational success of the youth in our region.

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. This savings per school equates to \$375 - \$3,675 depending on the program and the number of participants.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 academic year, the emPowerU learning opportunities are committed to collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. This is all part of the continuum of education encompassed within the Foundation's Health Tomorrow initiatives that begin at inspireU Children's Discovery Center and extend with the emPowerU civic engagement and high school intergenerational leadership programs.

I invite you to follow us on social media, @FoundationMLC, @emPowerUPrograms and @inspireUStJoseph to stay up-to-date with our Healthy Tomorrow programs. We are 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.

With warm regards,



Julie Gaddie, PhD



Julie Gaddie, PhD
President

Civic Engagement Immersions

Introduction

Since 2007, over 28,500 students have experienced the impact of our Civic Engagement Immersions.

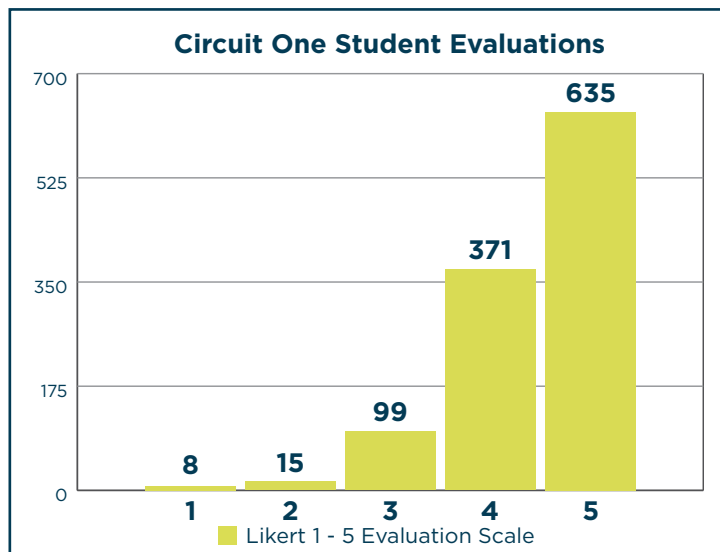
Since August 2020, this program is offered free of charge by the Foundation's Board of Trustees for the schools in our service area.

The Civic Engagement Immersions is dedicated to empowering youth to become catalysts for positive change. At the heart of our foundation's mission—"Building Healthy and Thriving Communities"—lies the understanding that our young people are essential to achieving this vision.

Tailored for students in grades 6-8, this program encourages them to discover their unique potential to make a difference and emphasizes the importance of taking action now. We firmly believe that through this program, they will gain essential skills and insights to affect meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

Circuit One

In Circuit One, students embark on an exciting journey to tackle pressing real-world challenges that impact our communities. With the guidance of professionally trained facilitators, participants engage in discussions and discovery, paving the way for innovative solutions. Once these potential solutions are identified, students must collaborate to reach a consensus on the most effective approach. The day culminates with student groups presenting their solutions to their peers and the emPowerU Council, comprised of regional community leaders.

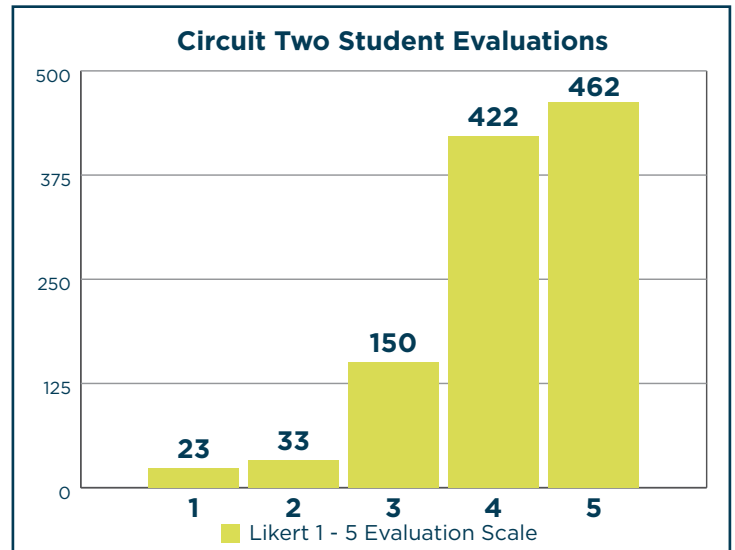


4.4 Average Rating, 97.9% Satisfaction,
1,128/1,216 Survey Completion

Civic Engagement Immersions

Circuit Two

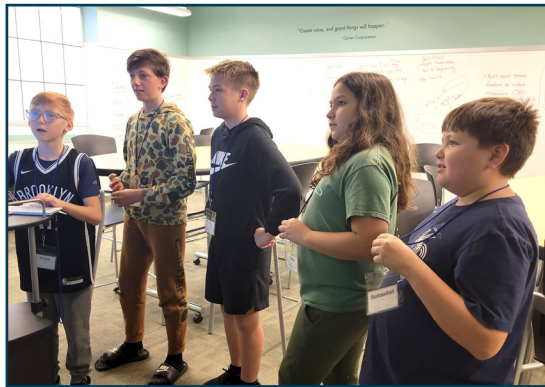
In Circuit Two, the emPowerU facility is transformed into a region consisting of diverse cities and towns. Students not only become citizens of these communities but also take on leadership roles such as commissioner, mayor, and lobbyist. They face the exciting challenge of identifying and addressing the most pressing issues in their communities. The day concludes with a student-led commissioners' meeting, where groups present their solutions, accompanied by speeches from each city's mayor and news broadcasts produced by each community.



4.16 Average Rating, 94.8% Satisfaction,
1,090/1,160 Survey Completion



Students exploring community issues



Students collaborating on community solutions



Student commissioners listening to presentation

“We have always loved our time at emPowerU! The facilitators do a great job leading productive lessons and also they work hard to include all students. Students are given an opportunity to research and use different forms of technology. As an ELA teacher, I love that emPowerU supports the MO standards of learning! Students are given an opportunity, outside of the classroom, to continue learning. It is GREAT to see the kids working together, researching important information and real world dilemmas, and also presenting the information to a council. I even heard one student say, ‘It’s so nice to feel included.’”

- East Buchanan Teacher

“

This experience was amazing and very interactive. I loved how all of my ideas were accepted.

-Bedford, Iowa Student

”

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.

2024 - 25 Educator Survey Results

Collaboration

- Students worked to develop ideas and create solutions with involvement of all team members: 99%
- Students helped each other when help was needed: 99%
- Teams worked together to solve problems: 99%

Creativity

- Students encouraged to think outside-the-box for possible solutions: 95%
- Students used idea generating techniques to develop several different ideas: 95%
- Students used imagination when shaping ideas into a solution: 99%

Critical Thinking

- Students understood their task and brainstormed viable solutions to each problem: 94%
- Students evaluated effectiveness and possible outcomes of multiple solutions: 91%
- Students could explain new understanding gained in the project: 97%

Communication

- Students shared contrasting ideas/opinions in a respectful manner: 89%
- Students listened to ideas presented by team members and asked clarifying questions: 92%
- Teams led effective discussions, all ideas heard and valued: 98%

e2 High School Fellowship

This intergenerational leadership program enhances the skills of both emerging and experienced leaders. Teams consist of two high school students and one adult sponsor representing schools in our 31-county service area. This year, we welcomed 45 participants from 15 schools.

The program meets four times throughout the academic year. Participants learn more about individual leadership styles, examine regional challenges and explore ways to lead change within their communities. E2 Fellowship culminates with ethical dilemma presentations by regional leaders.

This year, Clarence Green, EdD, Dean/Director of North Central Missouri College, Savannah Campus, and local community volunteer Carol Burns presented on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and literacy issues that affect our region.

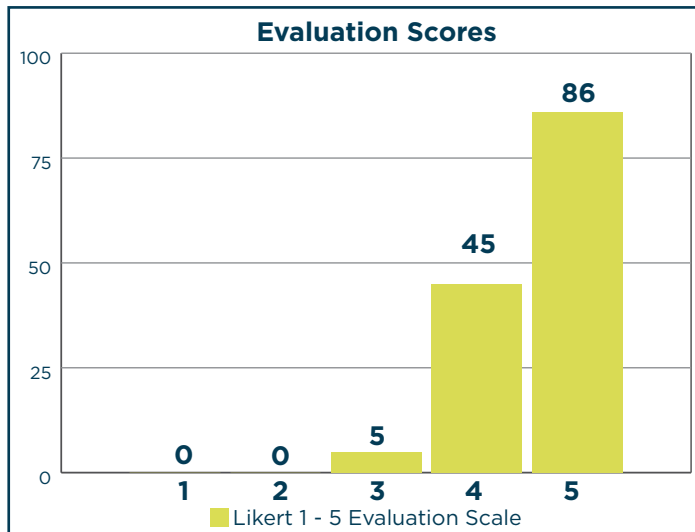
Dr. Green invited program participants to determine what value there is in having a DEI dedicated focus or DEI training within an organization. Mrs. Burns encouraged participants



Community leaders Clarence Green, EdD and Carol Burns presenting ethical dilemmas



e2 participants, 2024-25



4.60 Average Rating, 100% Satisfaction, 136 Surveys Completed

to present new ideas or viewpoints on literacy and the foundation it forms for a successful and thriving society.

Since August 2020, this program is offered free of charge by the Foundation's Board of Trustees for the schools in our service area.



Savannah High School team

Jump Starter Grant

emPowerU Civic Engagement Immersions and e2 High School Fellowship sessions encourage participants to consider how they can positively impact their communities. MLC Foundation actively reduces barriers to achieving this impact by offering Jump Starter Grants for up to \$10,000. Students are encouraged to apply for the funds to help complete a service-learning project they believe would result in positive results. Since 2006, 69 Jump Starter Grants totaling \$386,000 have been awarded. A few recent impactful projects include:

- Multilingual resources/cultural space for a public library
- Providing backpacks complete with hygiene items and blankets for unhoused individuals
- Organizing community clean-up days
- Establishing community gardens
- Creating a sustainable 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.

Recent Awardee: USD 429 6th Grade, Troy, KS

USD 429 sixth-grade students participated in the emPowerU Civic Engagement Immersions during the 2024-25 school year. These Troy, KS students realized the opportunity to help unhoused individuals. Their desire to create “CareBags” assisted those in need and also created positive awareness of their school’s character.

Each bag contained 16 essential items, including clothes, food, water, and hygiene products needed for daily life. On March 4, the students delivered their “CareBags” to the Red Cross in Atchison, KS, for distribution to the local homeless population.



Troy Middle School 6th grade students receiving grant

Life Skills

Life Skills Day was designed to empower students receiving special education services who have diverse cognitive abilities, equipping them for life beyond the classroom.

During their time at emPowerU, students engage in a variety of enriching modules, including Basic Automotive, Food Safety, Health Awareness, and a fun STEAM Workshop. This year, we proudly welcomed 42 students from six high schools.



Life Skills Day participant, Nick, enjoying a fun STEAM activity.

Take the LEAP **LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST MISSOURI**

Take the LEAP is a partnership program with Leadership Northwest Missouri designed to help students explore career options after graduation. Professionals from various fields, including unions, trades, the military, colleges, and small business entrepreneurs, discuss opportunities available in their careers.

The day concludes with a session on how students can make an impact as leaders. We appreciated beginning this partnership with LNM last year and look forward to expanding the program.

Nursing Camp **MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Nursing Camp is a partnership program with the Missouri Western State University Nursing Department. This program provides participants with exposure to the nursing profession and hands-on skills practice. Attendees rotate through engaging stations that include ambulance, transport nursing, IV/G tube management, and hands-only CPR.

Additionally, participants have the opportunity to learn from and ask questions to a panel of nurses. Last year marked the inaugural year of this program, and it attracted 44 students.

Full STEAM Ahead

emPowerU continues to be 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. Engaging in hands-on STEAM learning helps develop skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, curiosity, decision-making, and leadership in an enjoyable and interactive environment.

Our STEAM programs are designed to inspire kids in grades 3-8 to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. We are proud to provide resources that kids might not have readily access in their schools.

- **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.



St. Joseph Catholic Academy 5th grade students enjoying their STEAM field trip



STEAM Summer Camp group photo

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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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