

Empowering the Young People of Today.

2025 - 26 Program Report

emPower U

INNOVATION CAMPUS

MOSAIC LIFE·CARE

FOUNDATION

Letter from the Director



Devran Brower,
Director— Program Operations

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 that the foundation for lifelong health begins in our homes and especially in our schools. The Foundation's Healthy Tomorrow initiatives, including emPowerU Programs, are designed to support educators like you in fostering well-rounded student development and creating meaningful learning experiences that help students grow strong and well.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the ongoing efforts of our outstanding team of facilitators and dedicated volunteers who partner with your schools. Building on last year's record-setting impact of more than 4,000 participation days, the continued strong engagement and positive feedback from students and educators alike affirm the value these programs bring to your classrooms and school communities. Your leadership, commitment, and willingness to integrate these opportunities into your schools make this work possible. We deeply value our partnership with you—as principals, administrators, and educators—and recognize the critical role you play in shaping environments where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are also grateful to our Board of Trustees for their continued investment in education, including the ongoing waiver of program participant fees for Civic Engagement Immersions and the e2 Fellowship. These savings—ranging from $375 to $3,675 per school—are intended to reduce barriers and support your ability to offer these enriching experiences to your students.

Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year, emPowerU learning opportunities will continue to emphasize collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication—skills that align closely with your instructional goals and student success outcomes. These programs are part of a broader continuum of learning within the Foundation's Healthy Tomorrow initiatives, beginning at inspireU Children's Discovery Center and extending through emPowerU civic engagement experiences and high school intergenerational leadership programs.

We invite you to stay connected with us on social media @FoundationMLC, @emPowerUPrograms, and @inspireUStJoseph for resources, updates, and opportunities to engage your students further. Together, we are building stronger, healthier communities while equipping students with the tools they need to succeed—both in school and beyond.

Respectfully,

Devran Brower

Director – Program Operations

About Mosaic Life Care Foundation

Mission

Champion education and empower people.

Vision

People inspired worldwide to build healthy and thriving communities.

Our Why

Mosaic Health System and the Mosaic Life Care Foundation 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.

Healthy Today

As a part of Mosaic Life Care, we know to transform community health we must continue to understand and advance the broader health of our region. The social determinants of health shape the context in which we live, work, and develop health behaviors. The Foundation works to advance health across Mosaic Life Care through philanthropic efforts to address the social determents of health which influence both the choices people have and the ability to make healthy choices across our region.

Healthy Tomorrow

Together, Mosaic and the Foundation are committed to Life Care. This is the understanding that healthy living involves more than going to the doctor. We recognize the habits of healthy living start early and last a lifetime. Through inspireU – Children's Discovery Center and emPowerU Innovation Campus children birth through high school learn practical ways to increase their personal health, influence family health, and become health-focused community leaders of tomorrow. A healthy tomorrow starts with empowering the young people of today.

Healthy Together

As Mosaic caregivers, we know we cannot create the healthy, vibrant communities we all want to see for our children and grandchildren alone. We are working together in communities across Mosaic Life Care to understand and improve our overall health. The Foundation values partner opportunities with schools, organizations, and you. We invest in scholarships and build ecosystems to address the workforce challenges facing healthcare across our region.

Together, we can create healthy, livable communities across Mosaic Life Care for generations to come.

Civic Engagement Immersions

Introduction

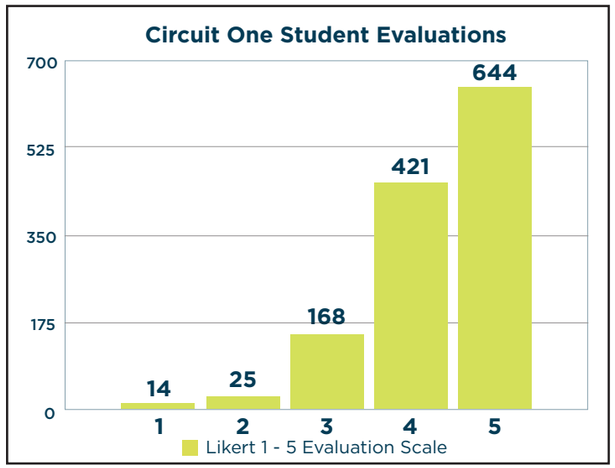
Since 2007, over 29,800 students have experienced the impact of our Civic Engagement Immersions.

Our program 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 to 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 effect 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.



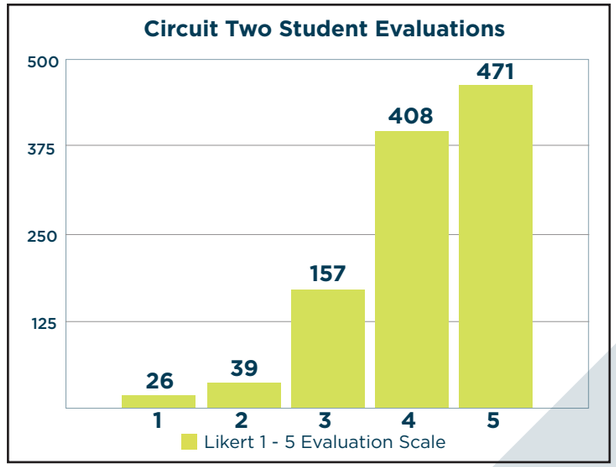
96.9% Satisfaction,
1,272 Surveys Completed

"I had a really good time here and really enjoyed getting to work through problems as a group. I loved the way that everything was run and I loved the advisors/facilitators who helped me finish this project." - Stewartsville Student

Civic Engagement Immersions

Circuit Two

In Circuit Two, the emPowerU facility is transformed into a region of diverse cities and towns. Students not only become citizens of these communities but also face the exciting challenge of identifying and addressing the most pressing issues within them. The students are then divided into teams which are tasked with developing different aspects of their communities solution. The day concludes with a student-led commissioners' meeting, where all cities present their solutions. This includes speeches from each city's mayor and news broadcasts produced by each community's media team.



94.1% Satisfaction,
1,101 Surveys Completed



Circuit One students presenting to the council



Students exploring community issues

> Seeing the students discuss and seek solutions for real world problems is the type of experience I work to recreate within my own classroom. The skills they practiced today will help them not only be successful in the future, but potentially make a positive impact on their community.
>
> - Pershing Teacher

21st Century Skill Development

Educators continue to rate the Civic Engagement Immersions highly as evaluations showed a **100% high satisfaction rate**, with an impressive average rating of **4.93**. 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.

2025 - 26 Educator Survery Results

Collaboration

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

Creativity

- Students encouraged to think outside-the-box for possible solutions: 100%
- Students used idea generating techniques to develop several different ideas: 100%
- Students considered the needs and interests of their audience: 100%

Critical Thinking

- Students understood their task and brainstormed viable solutions to each problem: 89%
- Students evaluated effectiveness and possible outcomes of multiple solutions: 92%
- Students could explain new understanding gained in the project: 100%

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: 93%

e2 High School Fellowship

This intergenerational leadership program enhances the skills of both emerging and experienced leaders. Each team consists of two high school students and one adult from school districts across our 31-county service area. Throughout the school year, teams meet on four designated days to learn about their individual leadership styles, examine regional challenges, and explore ways to drive change within their communities.

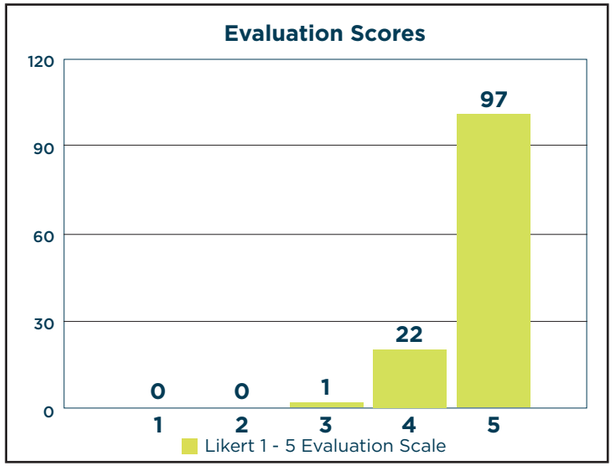
This year, we welcomed 39 participants from 13 schools. One of the highlights of this year's program was the involvement of community leaders Lee Sawyer and Laura Nold, who presented our teams with real-life ethical dilemmas they have faced on their leadership journeys. The dilemmas focused on ethics in medical healthcare and gender discrimination in the workplace. Working through these scenarios helps participants learn to navigate the tough challenges they will encounter in the future.



Lee Sawyer and Laura Nold - community leaders



e2 team discussion during presentations



120 Surveys Completed



Riverside High School team

Jump Starter Grant

We never want funding to be an obstacle to young people who want to leave a positive impact on their communities but understand it can be. That's why all of our Civic Engagement Immersions and e2 Fellowship participants are eligible to apply for a Jump Starter grant of up to $10,000 to help fund their community service-learning project. Since 2006, we've awarded over $399,000 in Jump Starter grants for 72 projects across our region.

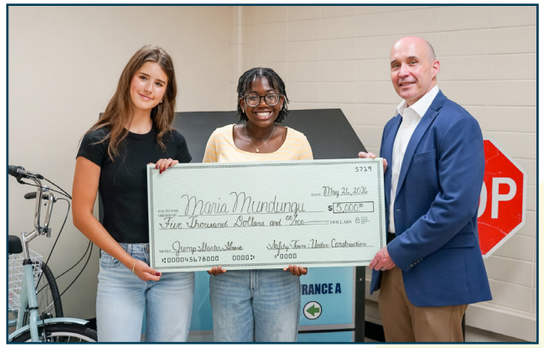
Impactful Jump Starter projects have included:

- Providing backpacks complete with hygiene items and blankets for unhoused individuals
- Multilingual resources/cultural space for a public library
- 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: Maria Mundungu, Central High School

After participating in the e2 Fellowship at emPowerU, Maria decided she wanted to make a long-term community impact by helping improve Safety Town. She has volunteered at Safety Town since the 8th grade and deeply values the positive impact it has on her community. Maria realized that by applying for and receiving a grant, she could secure the funds needed to enhance the Safety Town experience for local children. Maria was awarded her grant on May 26. We look forward to seeing the improvements at Safety Town soon!

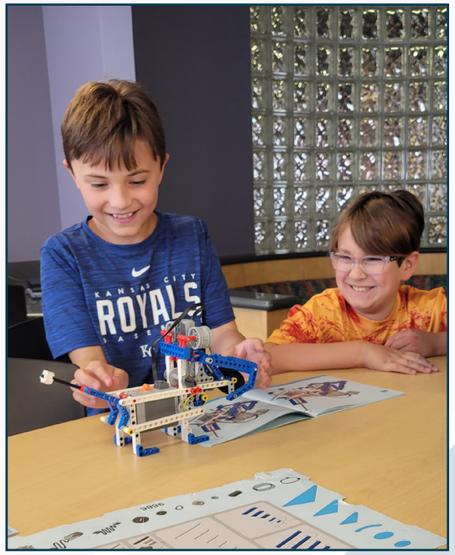


Devran Brower, Program Operations Director, presenting Emaline and Maria with their Jump Starter grant

Full STEAM Ahead

At emPowerU, we are committed to delivering high-quality STEAM programs, as we recognize their essential role in building healthy and thriving communities. With STEAM careers projected to grow at more than double the rate of other sectors, investing in these programs is a smart, forward-thinking decision. 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 specifically designed to inspire kids in grades 3-8 to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. We take pride in offering resources that enhance their education and address any gaps that may exist in their schools.



Summer camp kids enjoying LEGO Powered Machines

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.

Life Skills

Life Skills Day was designed to empower special education students with 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 26 learners from four high schools.



Life Skills Day participant learning about food safety

Take the LEAP

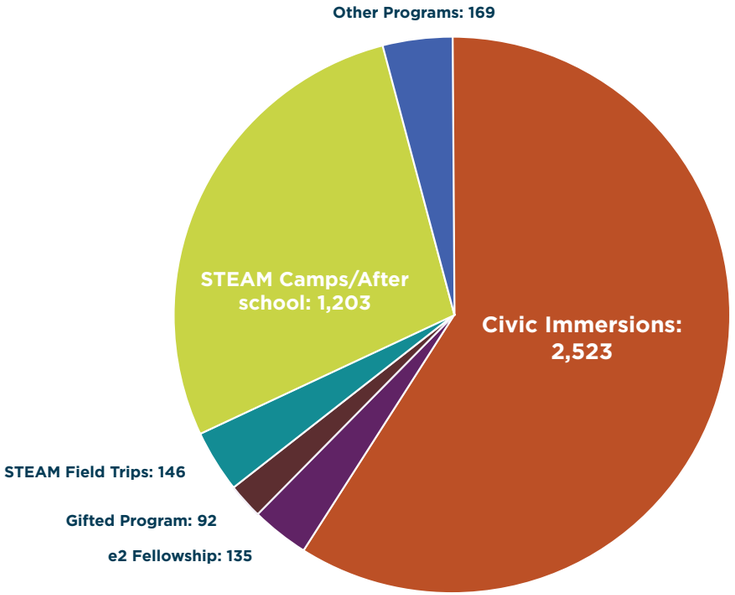
Take the LEAP is a partnership program with Leadership Northwest Missouri designed to help students explore career options after graduation. Professionals from various fields, including unions/trades, the military, colleges, and small business/entrepreneurship, discuss opportunities available in their careers. The day concludes with a session on how students can make an impact as leaders. Last year marked the second year of this program at emPowerU, and we look forward to continuing to grow it.

Nursing Camp

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. This was the third year for this program, and it attracted 60 students.

Our Impact:

FY26 Participation Days by Program



Educational Programming Committee

Julie Korell, Chair
Lynthia Andrews Bowman, DO
Ronda Chesney
Bobbie Cronk
Jeanne Daffron, PhD
Robin Hammond
Sarah Jenkins
Val Jones
Laura Nold, DNP
Linda Gray-Smith, PhD
Kailee Smith, JD
Stacia Studer, EdD

MLC Foundation Staff
Devran Brower
Jill Courtney
Christina Lund
Katherine Patterson-Paronto

As you plan for the 2026–2027 academic year, we encourage you to take the following next steps:

- **Schedule your programs early** to secure preferred dates for emPowerU experiences.
- **Identify student groups or classrooms** that would most benefit from civic engagement and leadership programming.
- **Collaborate with your team** (teachers, counselors, and administrators) to align programs with your academic and social-emotional goals.
- **Register for Civic Engagement Immersions and the e2 Fellowship** to take advantage of waived fees.
- **Connect with our team** to explore customized opportunities that best fit your school's needs.

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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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