

December 2022



CARNEGIE MELLON
UNIVERSITY

Dah-Varsity League Playbook

Policy Innovation Lab: Public Interest
Technology

CLIENT

ToyzSteam
CEO: Damola Idowu

CONSULTANTS:

Nahal Abdul Ghaffar
Oravee Smithipol
Meher Dhaliwal

Playbook: Index

About the Dah-Varsity Headquarters	1
Origins of the Dah-Varsity League	2
Hear it from the Dah-Varsity Universe	3
Inhabitants of Dah-Varsity Universe	4
Dah-Varsity Mission	5
Superhuman Powers	6
What's Your Superhero Character?	7
Dah-Varsity League: Mission Plan	8
Reboot Mission: Participant Evaluation	9-10
Mission Timeline	11
Mission Targets	12
Dah-Varsity Success Metrics	13
Mission Impact	14
The Recruit	15
Days of Future	16
Dah-Varsity: Mission 2.0 Unlocked	17
Consultants	18
Open Source Initiative	19



About Dah-Varsity Headquarters

Our founders are a father and son duo with an engineering, creative, and entrepreneurial background.

DAMOLA IDOWU (CEO)–Serial Hip Hop

Entrepreneur, Artist, & Journalist.

Enrolled full-time studying Mechanical

Engineering and Economics at

Syracuse University at 16. He won

Engineering Design Competition At

Howard University at 18. Created

Superhero Rap at 19 with Da Great

Deity Dah. Products will reach over 30

countries across 5 continents with

over 1 million plays on YouTube. At 26

pioneered the intersection of Hip-hop

and Business with Owners Illustrated

Magazine going on tour with 50 Cent,

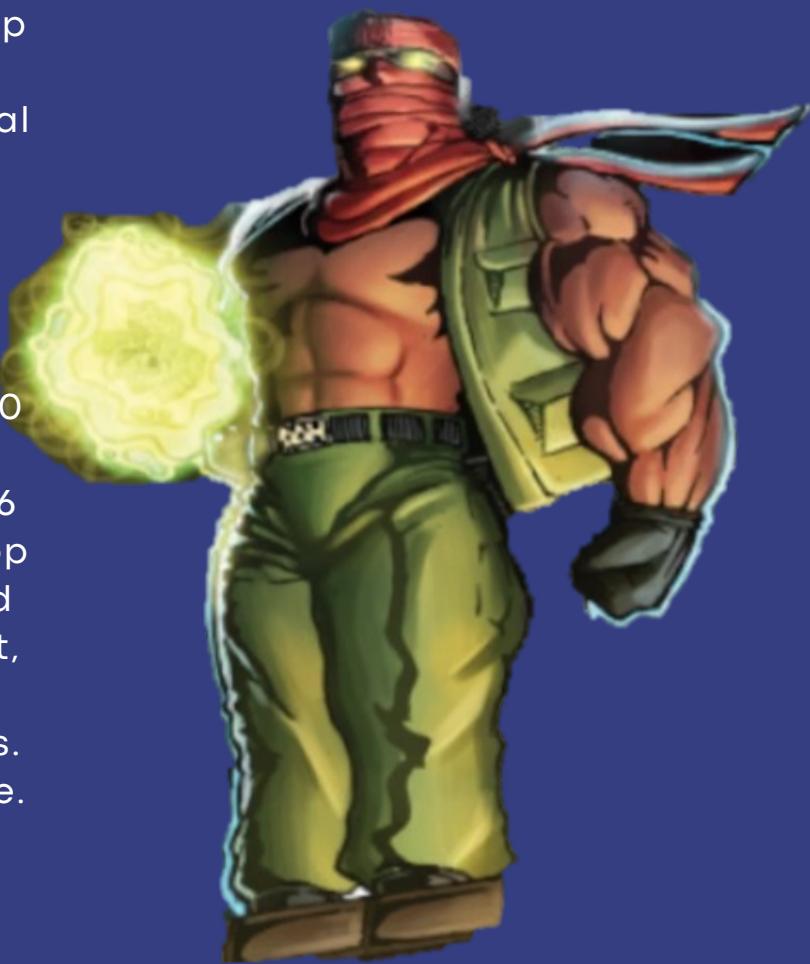
Jay-Z and Beyonce. Coining and

trademarking the term Hustlenomics.

It will reach over 20,000 points of sale.

He created the Hip-Hop and

technology magazine Toyz at 31.



WOLE IDOWU (CTO)- Carnegie Mellon
University Electrical and Computer
Engineering Grad with 2 Minors In Business at
Age 20. Thiel 20 Under 20 Finalist, CNBC
Documentary 20 Under 20 Transforming
Tomorrow, and High School Graduate at 15. EA
Games Employee at 18. He is also a current
software engineer.

Origins of the Dah-Varsity League

Problem Statement

- How do we improve the access to STEAM education for marginalized communities?
- How do we scale the effort ?
- How do we collect data to track the impact of community engagements for ToyzSteam?
- How do we create pathways for mentorship for students? How can we engage students?

How Might We

Provide a platform to access near-peer mentorship and tutoring and identify communities which need this access to develop a pipeline of diverse talent in STEAM whilst capturing data.



Hear it from the Dah-Varsity Universe

"We are only around for so long, and everyone's dream and goal is to have a better future for the next generation. There is going to be some day, we are going to be old, the ones we have invested in are the ones who are going to be in charge."

"Many of them are eventually graduating from high school, but they don't have the basic skills the twenty-first century requires and if we don't do something to address that, you know, fundamental deficit, then we're not going to solve the problem, right?"

"If we don't have any representation, if we're not showing these opportunities on a broader scale, it seems less likely or less important. As a black man, I see rapping, NBA, etc. I didn't have STEAM/STEM people who I could look to or ask questions about."

"I think that [mentorship] is so important, honestly. On every level, you really see that having near-peer mentors is very effective for students if they can see someone who's a few years older than them. If you bring an example of somebody who is similar to you and you put it in front, you're more likely to feel motivated."

Inhabitants of Dah-Varsity Universe

Students of Color



About George

George is enrolled at a public school in Pittsburgh and is interested in higher education. He comes from a marginalized community in Pittsburgh. He aspires to graduate high school and be something in life.

Behaviors:

- Attends after school sessions for additional help
- Tutor has been assigned

Attitudes:

- Fearful of losing opportunity
- Self doubts himself

Why:

- Underrepresented at school
- Lack of motivation from community
- Recognizes differences in opportunities for him and other more privileged students
- Fearful of the system

Needs:

- Graduate with a 3.5 GPA minimum
- Gain admission to a college or university
- Build a network to fall back on and seek guidance and inspiration from

Challenges:

- Struggles with classes due to weak foundational education
- Social network in higher education is limited due to the lack of representation
- University admissions feel intimidating and alienating

Goals:

- Pursue a degree from a top university
- Seek mentors and community to guide him along this process

HOW MIGHT WE HELP?

HMW provide a platform to access near peer mentorship and tutoring?

Community Ambassador



About Mel

Mel is a third year undergraduate student studying computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. She has been able to attain her goals through consistent mentorship from her parent. She wants to make a difference in the community but also wants to save enough money for graduate school.

Behaviors:

- Always in search of ways to give back to people
- Passionate about teaching students hence has opted to be a teacher's assistant.

Attitudes:

- Hard working
- self-driven

Why:

- Believes in helping people operate at their potential
- Wants to give back to the community
- Wants to develop personal growth and unique development stories

Needs:

- Graduate with a 3.8 GPA minimum
- Find a job after graduation which contributes towards the society

Challenges:

- Hectic university schedules
- Free time spent looking for internships

Goals:

- Work for a renowned consulting firm
- Become a senior consultant 5 years
- Pursue a public policy degree

HOW MIGHT WE HELP?

HMW provide a platform to access communities which need near peer mentorship and tutoring?

Employer



About Sarah

Sarah is a woman in Tech in the Silicon Valley. She has been in the company for the past 5 years and has been consistently hiring software engineers. Her company aims to maintain a diverse workforce.

Behaviors:

- Advocates for a diverse workforce
- Recruits for internship and graduate programs

Attitudes:

- Self motivated
- Perseverant

Why:

- Believes that a diverse workforce adds to better and more innovative problem solving
- DEI is important for the company's reputation

Needs:

- Ensure the work culture is diverse and inclusive
- Merit based culture

Challenges:

- Difficult to find high caliber student of color in proficient in STEAM Fields
- Lack of direct access to BIPOC community
- As woman in Tech, faces barriers to progress up the corporate ladder

Goals:

- Increase the diversity in hiring pool for the year
- Advance in her career through promotion
- Ensure employees have the skillsets and training to progress in their careers

HOW MIGHT WE HELP?

HMW provide a pipeline of diverse talent in Tech?

Dah-Varsity Mission: Mentorship

In building and running an effective mentorship platform, it is integral to keep in mind the following 5 pillar framework:

- Design
- Attract
- Connect
- Guide
- Measure



Adapted from: <https://chronus.com/>



Superhuman Powers: Why Join the Dah-Varsity League?

Be a Change Catalyst

Be a Diversity Champion

Be a STEAM Ambassador

Be a Community Leader

What's your Superhero Character?



Superhero aka Mentor

Roles & Responsibilites

1. Commit to 5-10 hours over 5 weeks
2. Review college application essays or provide extra tutoring
3. Share your superhero journey with your sidekick, inspiring them!
4. Fill out monthly evaluations on you and your sidekick's progress.

**Students earn 3-credits or semester stipend for being a superhero

Sidekick

Sidekick aka Mentee

Roles & Responsibilites

1. Attend all sidekick training sessions with your superhero
2. Map your journey to becoming a superhero too!
3. Fill out monthly evaluations on your experience



Dah-Varsity League : Mission Plan

For SuperHeros



Launch program at CMU
& UPitt



Students apply on Dah-
Varsity App Portal



Toyzsteam collects data



Launch in Marginalised
Communities



Students apply on Dah-
Varsity App Portal



Toyzsteam collects data

The Crossover: Match
Superhero & Sidekick on
Chronus



Tips

- Hire a project resource
- Conduct Campus drive for launch of the program

Reboot Mission: Participant Evaluation

Feedback built in the App

The Superhero

1. How do you feel about the program? Choose the emoticon most suitable.



2. What is going well?

3. What is not going well?

4. How is the sidekick's performance?

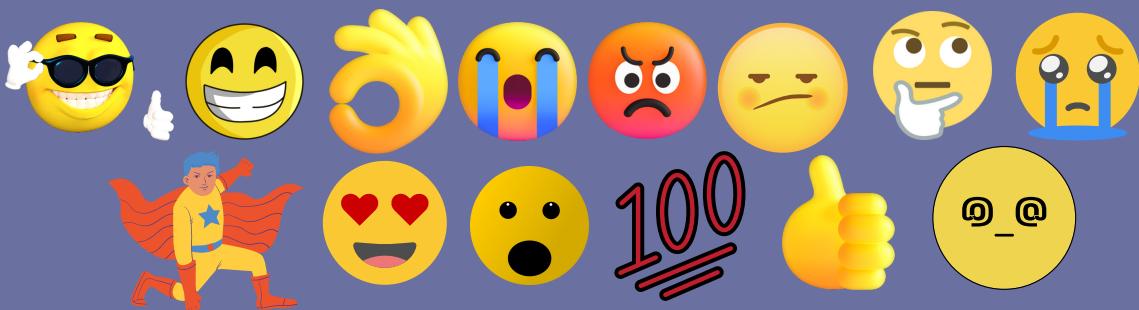


Reboot Mission: Participant Evaluation

Feedback built in the App

The Sidekick

1. How do you feel about the program? Choose the emoticon most suitable.



2. What is going well?

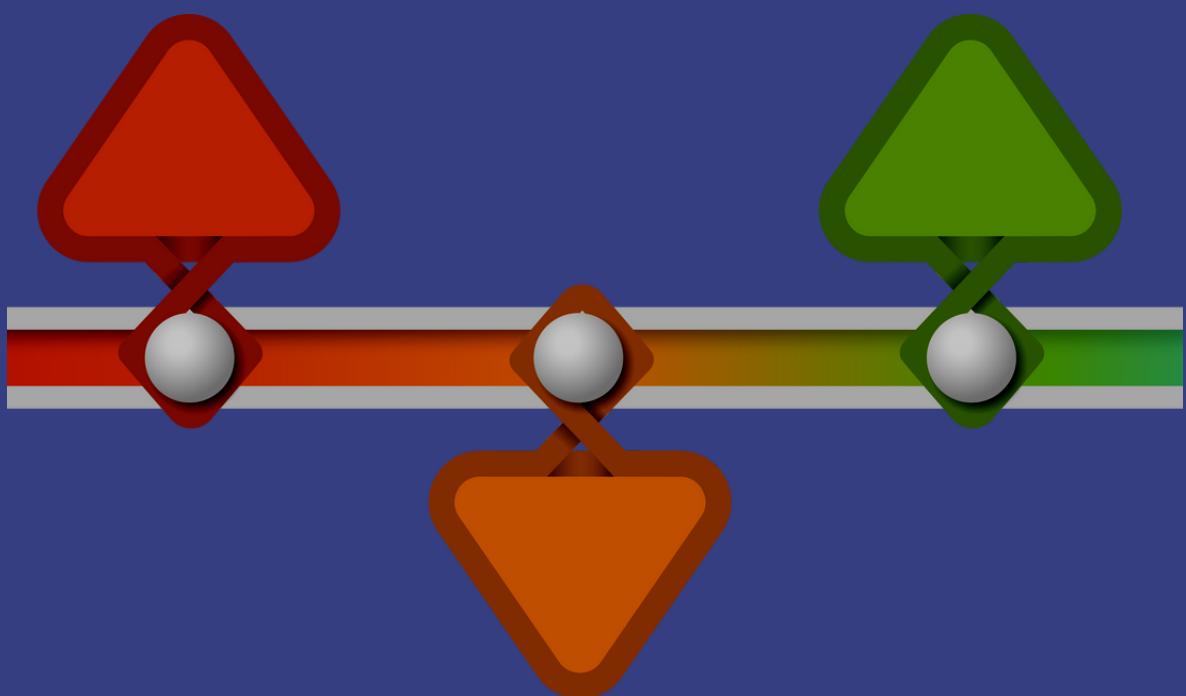
3. What is not going well?



Mission Timeline

1.Launch program in schools & Colleges: 2nd week of January on Martin Luther King Day

3.Run program for 6 - 12 months



2. The Crossover: Match Superhero & Sidekick:
4th Week of February



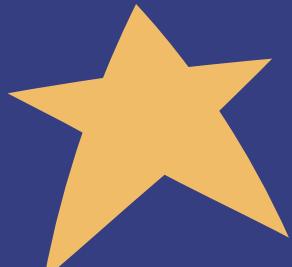
Mission Targets



Reach out to 300+ students



Receive applications from 50+ students



Inaugural class of 10 superheroes and 20 Sidekicks



Select inaugural class of 10 superheroes and 20 Sidekicks



Track program completion rate and outcomes for all students



Dah-Varsity Success Metrics

Number of successful superheros

Number of successful sidekicks

Number of school partners

User Engagement

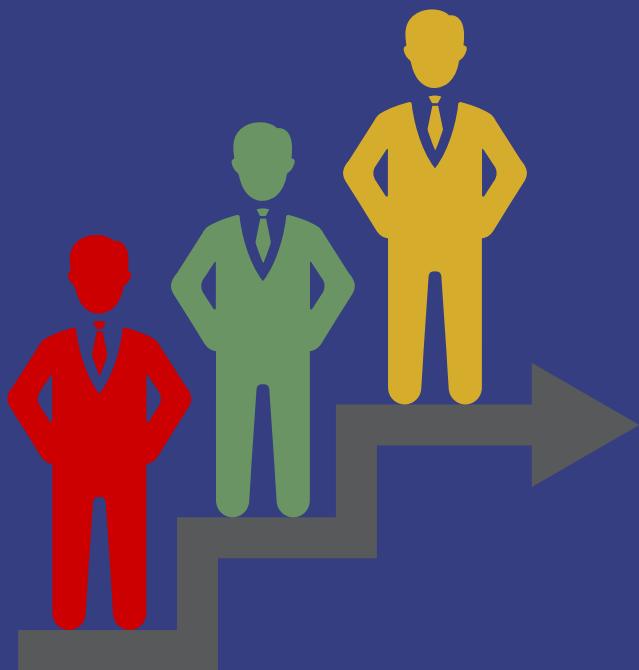


Dah-Varsity Mission Impact

Admission Rate to College

Job/Internship Recruitment

Est. Income to Community



Dah-Varsity League: The Recruit

December 2023: Hire Recruitment Coordinator



Jan 2023: Launch Recruitment after MLK Day with campus drives at local schools and universities



February 2023: Reach out to 300 potential superheroes and sidekicks, targeting 50 new app sign-up's



February 2023: Select inaugural class of superheroes and sidekicks, with a minimum of 30 total participants



May 2023: Evaluate outreach and retention for program. Make necessary changes and launch outreach for summer demo program.

Dah-Varsity League: Days of Future

January 2023: Pilot Dah-Varsity League in Pittsburgh



May 2023: Analyze data from participants. Connect with other potential educational partners.



June 2024: Launch Summer Demo in Pittsburgh and DC. Continue gathering data from college seniors.



Fall 2023: Launch Dah-Varsity League widely for STEAM mentorship connections.



2024 onwards: Continue program based on feedback and data. Measure longer term impact on communities.

Dah-Varsity: Mission 2.0 Unlocked

Way Forward for TOYZSTEAM:

- Interview High School students to test the prototype - we were unable to incorporate them in our research as they were less than 18 years of age. Hence, would be great to test the prototype and idea with the target audience
- Devise a scoring mechanism to capture the efforts and progress of Sidekicks, heroes, and superheroes
- Test the Third-party App (Chronus) for verify integration with existing Dah-Varsity App
- Hire a project resource through Handshake to manage the project end to end
- Design a standardised launch poster for Mentors and Mentees can be floated in Schools and Universities via career offices



Consultants



Name: Nahal Abdul Ghaffar
Role: Project Manager



Name: Oravee Smithiphol
Role: Policy Specialist



Name: Meher Dhaliwal
Role: User Researcher

Open Source Initiative

This Source Code Form is subject to the terms of the Mozilla Public License, v. 2.0. If a copy of the MPL was not distributed with this file, You can obtain one at <https://mozilla.org/MPL/2.0/>.

Link:

<https://github.com/NahalG/Policy-Innovation-Lab-.git>

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