Summer Internship Programs

Summary of Findings

2016

Introduction

- 10 intern groups came to us with their very own project ideas, ranging from robotics to fashion to animation.

- This summer group had two months (20 hours per week) to plan out, learn, and cultivate their work with five hours of access to an expert mentor per week.

- Throughout this two month time period, we conducted pre, mid, and post interviews with students to better understand their experience with a self led project. The following slides are some major trends we found amongst these interviews.

Teamwork

86% of groups with 2 or more members improved their teamwork skills including:

- Group problem solving skills
- Communication skills
- Collaboration skills
- Learning to take initiative
- Developing trust
- Focusing as a group
- Learning to teach

"We actually learned about each other's way of handling criticism."

"We had to clearly understand and be in agreement about what each other was doing."

"At times it was hard to come to an end picture when we all had different visions in our heads."

"We depend on each other's skills a lot, and we've definitely grown in a sense of knowing what we are and are not good at."

Self Advocacy

Pre

Adults in my life trust me to drive my own learning

- 3
- 4
- 5

54.5% 40.9%
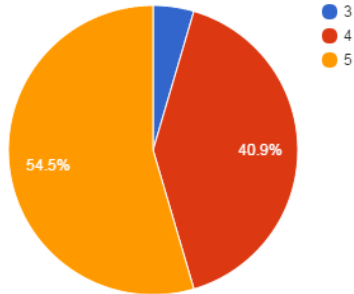
"They trust me when I say I need to take a day off ·rom school, or I need to take a certain course."

"My parents, when I was little, they used to pressure me into studying on my own, but they see now I should go at my own pace, instead of dictating how I learn."
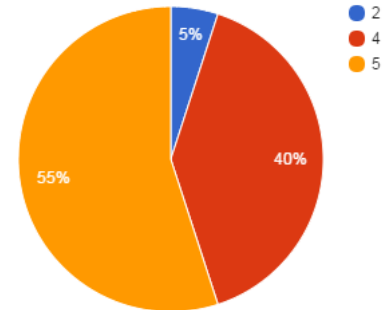
Mid

100% stated their mentor allowed them to drive thei own learning.

"She doesn't hand us anything which is ver important to me in my learning."

"Sometimes I want a little bit of help and guidance, but just a bit then I like to go out own."

Post

I feel comfortable driving my own learning.

- 2
- 4
- 5

5% 40% 55%

"Some things I want to learn are not taught in a normal classroom , so it takes a lot of guts to take it upon yourself to learn what you want to learn, sadly most people don't do that."

"There's a big difference between wanting to learn something and actually trying to learn it. Taking action over your learning."
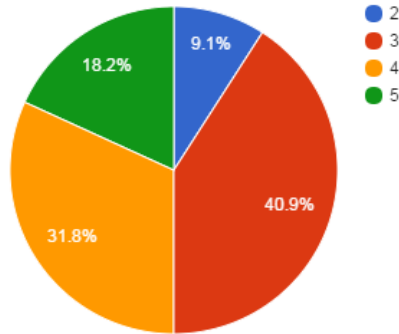
"You can have a lot of things provided to you but it's up to you what you learn and what you do with those resources."

"I think you learn best when you are learning something that you want to learn yourself."

Creativity

Pre

Post

How creative would you say you are in general?

Legend: 2, 3, 4, 5

9.1%
18.2%
40.9%
31.8%

How important is it for you to continue enhancing your creativity?

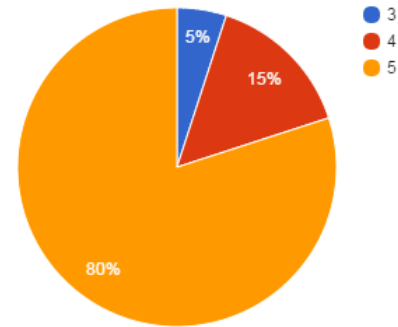

Legend: 3, 4, 5

5%
15%
80%

"This is the first time in my life I have been forced to think creatively."

"If you are not expressing yourself, how will you know who you are and what you are capable of?"

"I feel like it's very important for every job. To me creativity directly correlates to problem solving which is necessary for everything.

Ownership

- 84% stated there was equal ownership/everyone was a leader

"Each person is trying to tackle a certain thing from a certain angle."

- 11% stated they were the leader

"I feel like I am the leader. It is kind of an unspoken thing, I never formally took leadership. I was just the contact person for sending in the application, scheduling, etc... I am kind of the go-to guy."

- 5% stated someone else was the leader

At the start of the internships, we asked students to rate their experience in their project subject areas.

50% rated high experience

"I would rate it an 8.5-9 out of 10. I take art classes, I did AP art, we did a mural with the same girls in Auburn, this year I took graphic design classes, I get to be the teacher's TA this year which I'm excited about." - Large scale art

27% rated moderate experience

"I have my own sewing machine at home and I like to make pillows and covers but I thought it would be good to learn more about fashion because I want to learn how to make my own clothes." - Fashion

23% rated low experience

"1 out of 5, I've touched Unity before but that's it. I know coding but it's more specific than I thought." - Virtual reality

Perception of competence 2 of 2

Closing out the summer internships, 100% of interns stated feeling competent to take on another project in their subject area.

"Yes, a lot more competent. I feel like I have skills that are marketable in the areas of VR for future employment."

"Let's say I wanted to start another project, I already know the basics of how to approach it and I could do the hardcore stuff from there."

"I would definitely consider solving another problem using a similar approach- in robotics, technology, programming. Basically it seems that the field that we're working with is the most upfront way of tackling the problems of this century, and I would be glad to solve another one."

"I feel very competent. We can take that knowledge and expand. Hopefully we can keep going."

Moving Forward

85% of interns plan to continue seeking skills in their project areas

"I definitely want to learn communication and public speaking skills, if we present our work on the road."

"We want to find a drummer and a bassist, we're working on the marketing for that."

10% have found they want to explore different subject areas

"I want to learn about body language and music and dancing and other arts because I feel passionate about learning communications in different ways."

5% were unsure if they wanted to continue in their subject area

Conclusion

Overall, 95% of interns claimed this project helped enhance their passion.

"I became more passionate about art and it pushed something over the edge with how much I love it and how far it can go with emotions."

"I got a chance to actively exercise my passion and put my full effort towards making."

"It definitely opened a door in terms of programming at a professional level."

"It's helped me reach my dreams so that's pretty cool."

"I can really see myself doing something like this in the future."