

A Multi-Perspective Case Study on Implementing a Novel College Student Coach Role in a Service-Learning Club: Oakland Academy Students in Action Team

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Background

- Service-learning is an educational approach encouraging students to address community-identified needs through service projects.¹
- Students in Action (SIA) is an initiative designed to empower K-12 students to design and execute service-learning projects.²
- We are assessing the implementation of a near-peer coach role to work alongside SIA teams through a case study of Oakland Academy.

Service Projects

Family Mental Health Night



Mental Health Open Mic Night

Perspectives

Coach

- Realized my passion for working alongside local communities.
- Gained qualitative research, mentorship, and grant writing skills.
- Helped foster public speaking and research skills among SIA students.

Enhanced service-learning opportunities

- Mentored students in writing and public speaking skills using content knowledge.
- Coordinated project events and invited local partners to enhance community involvement.

Advisor

- Recognized a community-identified need for more mental health education.
- Developed research, public speaking, and collaboration skills through this large-scale service-learning project.

Students

We would like to acknowledge the SIA students at Oakland Academy in Lafayette, IN, along with their advisor, Mrs. Lindsay Nunan, for their contributions to this collaboration.

- Enhanced benefits for all stakeholders in the service-learning process, including coaches in developing leadership and mentorship skills, advisors in expanding their educational impact beyond the classroom, and for K-12 students in expanding service opportunities through a new support system.
- K-12/University partnership created new funding and mentorship opportunities that would not have otherwise been possible.
- Provided SIA students the opportunity to develop a youth-driven, youth-focused service-learning project.
- Collaboration contributed to the successful execution of Oakland's most successful and impactful events.

Future Directions

- Our research can serve as a framework for the implementation of near-peer mentor roles in other service-learning programs.
- We will continue to explore factors that influence the successful implementation of this role, including those based on students' needs and group dynamics.

References



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