Development and Institution of a Virtual Platform for Physiology Camp

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“What?”

Physiology Camp

- Physiology Camp began in 2012 as a general science camp in Goldsboro, NC.
- Over the years, the camp has evolved and expanded to include all age groups and multiple groups such as Operation Sunshine, Third Street Academy, and Boys and Girls Club.
- The founding mission of the Physiology Camp is to promote interest in the healthcare field within the underserved population to increase the healthcare workforce and empower the minority, rural and underserved communities by increasing representation in the field.

“So What?”

The Impact of COVID-19 on Physiology Camp

- The COVID-19 pandemic forced many educators to change from in person delivery to virtual platforms.
- When comparing online learning to in-person learning, several studies show that students receiving online lessons reported poorer experiences than those receiving in-person lessons.¹
- Students in an online course may perform the same as their counterparts in a traditional classroom, however, literature shows these students’ satisfaction and educational experience suffers.²
- Although most studies focus on college level education, barriers for younger students include lack of internet access, internet capable devices, and shorter attention spans.
- In order to cater to different needs of younger students, studies show that online learning must include multimodal features such as animation, sound effects, and visual aids.³

“Now What?”

Development of Virtual Platform

- The heart of the camp is using anatomical models and healthcare equipment to engage the students and ensure that they are understanding the material being presented to them.
- To mimic that in our virtual “Distance Camps,” we have created an online curriculum with PowerPoints, animations, and activities for the students.
- Students will be able to sign up for camp at a time that works for them and will be led through the session by a graduate student in the healthcare field.
- With the launch of the Distance Camps, research will be completed to compare the knowledge gain from students participating in in-person camps versus those participating in the virtual camps.

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References: