

The Role of Mentorship in the Development and Support of African American Youth Interest into STEM Careers

Al-Amin Aminu, Lauren Thornton Service-Learning Distinction Track East Carolina University Greenville, North Carolina 27858

Email:

aminua20@students.ecu.edu, thorntonl20@students.ecu.edu

ABSTRACT

- This collaborative effort has been designed to expose minority youth in the community to mentors, careers, and opportunities to gain exposure to fields in healthcare while also promoting health and wellness in adolescents
- As future healthcare providers training in the community of Greenville, NC it is important to our team to serve and give back to the community which allows us to grow and learn in our respective fields
- This camp allows students an enrichment opportunity during the summer months when they are not in school

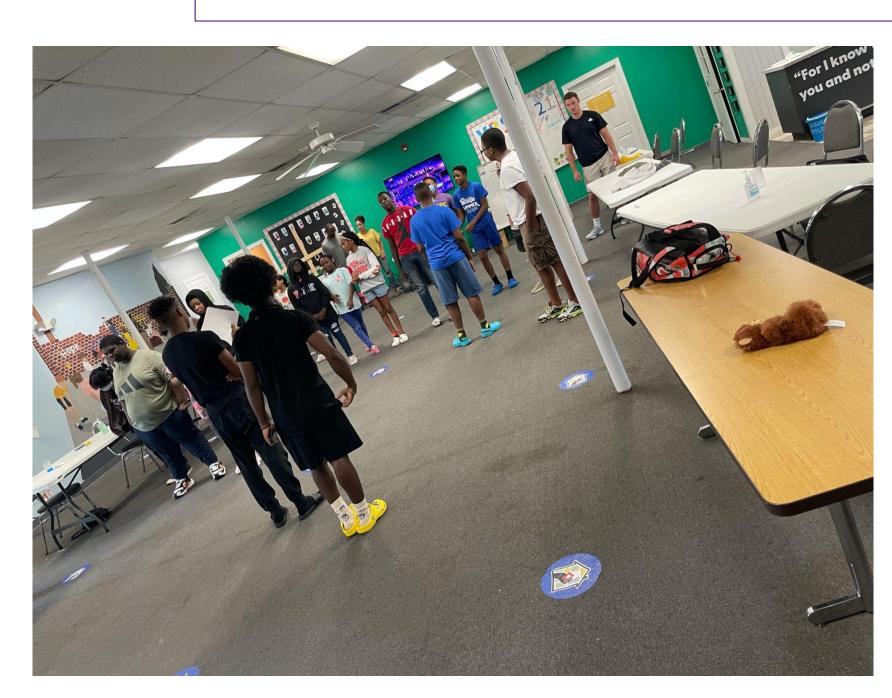
PROJECT GOALS

Our goal was to expose minority students to careers in healthcare through engaging activities while providing mentorship and academic support. In addition to:

- promote wellness and better health outcomes in adolescents
- Improve minority physical health and mental health through interactive programs and projects
- Develop culturally competent servant leaders for our communities
- Create workshops that emphasize racial reconciliation as it relates to healthcare

Identity & Leadership Development

Al-Amin Aminu, Lauren Thornton



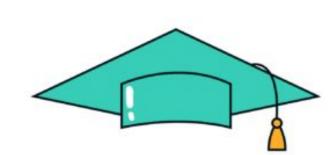


Career Exploration & Exposure





YOUTH WITH A MENTOR ARE:



55%

more likely to be enrolled in college



78%more likely to volunteer regularly in their



130%
more likely to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team



90%
of respondents reported being interested in becoming mentors themselves

Community Service





METHODS

- We worked with approximately 17-23 summer camp students ranging from ages 11 to 16
- We utilized interactive lectures, open discussions, and hands on learning activities to engage the students throughout the sessions

Students in our summer

program were receptive to the

learning activities and gained

valuable insight about relevant

health and wellness topics for

their age group

• Students also participated in direct and indirect service activities to benefit communities in need

RESULTS / DISCUSSION

We will begin adding in other community partners to collaborate for service projects. We will also continue to curate lesson plans for the fall that target our goals and maintain the project's mission and vision. The lesson plans will be assessed with frequent surveys to track student knowledge.

Future topics of discussion include:

- Education about disparities in care for African Americans
- Create workshops that emphasize racial reconciliation as it relates to healthcare
- Nutrition and healthy eating

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Building Hope Community Life Center, Melanin Healthcare Professionals, and our Student Volunteers, for making this project possible.