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

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 for 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.

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.

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

PROJECT GOALS

- Identity & Leadership Development
- Career Exploration & Exposure
- Community Service

YOUTH WITH A MENTOR ARE:

- 55% more likely to be enrolled in college
- 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities
- 130% more likely to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team
- 90% of respondents reported being interested in becoming mentors themselves.

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

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