2019

Summer

Impact

Report

iBELIEVE
FOUNDATION

Be
The
Change

iBELIEVE
FOUNDATION

This quarterly performance report is composed in accordance with grant control number GOA2020001 between the State of Ohio, Development Services Agency and The iBELIEVE Foundation. This is the first quarterly report in reference to the 2019 program series commencing in June of 2019 and concluding in July. All submitted details reflect current project investments and outcomes to date.

As an authorized representative of The iBELIEVE Foundation (Grantee), I certify the information in this report to be true, complete, and correct.

Sign: Title:

Print: Date:

Founded in 2011, The iBELIEVE Foundation advocates on behalf of Appalachian youth and vies to close the college access gap that inherently affects the young population of the region. With a mission to provide development opportunities for 21st Century skills such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving; the foundation has been successful in increasing collegiate attendance among its participants throughout the previous seven years. Over three thousand student opportunity sponsorships have encouraged students from urban and rural schools to attend summer leadership workshops. iBELIEVE programs feature components of experiential learning and familiarize disadvantaged high school students with skills needed to positively impact their local communities and ultimately thrive as individuals after high school graduation.

97% of Americans believe our students need "real world" skills to be successful beyond high school, according to the Leadership Conference Education Fund, National Survey on Common Core (2015). Yet, Appalachian students attend college at rates as low as 35% - far below the national average of 63%, according to the Appalachian Regional Commission. The iBELIEVE Foundation aims to address the education resource gap for the 420 counties within Appalachia. iBELIEVE's unique programs provide real-world skills to the rising generation of student leaders. Programs are provided expense free to Appalachian students

Objectives:
- Provide participants with continual programming over the course of their 3-year involvement to develop and hone 21st Century skills, commencing with a 5-day, 4-night summer leadership camp.
- Increase 4-year collegiate attendance and retention for Appalachian and first generation students.
- Increase the number of educational opportunities available in all counties of the Appalchian region.
- Orchestrate the development of peer mentorships for student leaders both within and outside of the region, continuing throughout their college careers.
- Develop strong corporate and private partnerships that will foster future growth.
- Drive increased awareness and knowledge of the Appalachian region and its people.

Who attends?

Our programming is designed for high school students from Appalachian areas. We ask administrators to select students with leadership potential, students that could use a boost to become college-bound, or students who can make an impact on their school culture. We offer 3 years of summer programming, with Senior High 1 setting the foundation.

When is it?

Workshop is a five-day, four-night camp held on college campuses in June/July. Students arrive on Sundays and leave on Thursdays.

Why college campuses?

Because we care so much about college admission, we want students to experience our workshops in college settings. Our campus partners provide incredible contexts for learning.

What is the cost?

Attendance is 100% free for every student, including meals and lodging. Students are only asked to provide their own transportation to/from the workshop

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Our programs are based on concepts of experiential learning. We believe that all students have a natural potential for learning, and that meaningful learning involves the whole person, including thoughts and feelings. Knowledge that is self-discovered and socially-supported is the most meaningful, and is the most likely to make a difference in behaviors. Our programming puts these concepts into action, as we equip students with the interpersonal and executive skills that support back-at-school learning. Through individual and group activities, challenges, and moments for reflection, our delegates seize the opportunity to return to their schools and communities to become impactful leaders, and with the vision, drive, and skills to pursue their dreams!

Senior High 1:
- Designed for rising Sophomores
- Emphasis on building interpersonal skills, creativity, and problem solving

Highlights:
- Boundary Breaking: a student favorite activity for building interpersonal skills
- Presentation Night: delegate led creative presentations of workshop lessons
- Community Mindset: delegates learn that everyone can win if they adopt a different mindset

Senior High 2:
- Designed for students who have attended Senior High I
- Emphasis on building group dynamics, communication, and self-management

Highlights:
- Identify strengths and abilities in others
- Activities that promote group skills and group development

Senior High 3:
- Designed for students who have attended SH I and II
- Emphasis on servant leadership, accountability, persistence and growth mindset.

Highlights:
- Leadership in action: delegates create and deliver programming to SH I participants
- Speed networking: feature event with iCONNECT donors where delegates make connections and learn to give back

Summer Workshops 2019

BY THE NUMBERS

Total number of students that attended a workshop

1027

OH	WV
669	214

KY	TN
99	23

PA	NC
21	1

Total number of volunteer hours committed

9040

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Total number of volunteer opportunities created

226

Ohio Workshop Locations

5

Ohio counties that had students attend a workshop

35

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY	Columbus, OH
MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY	New Concord, OH
MARIETTA COLLEGE	Marietta, OH
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIV.	Youngstown, OH
OHIO UNIVERISTY	Athens, OH

Total cost for Ohio students
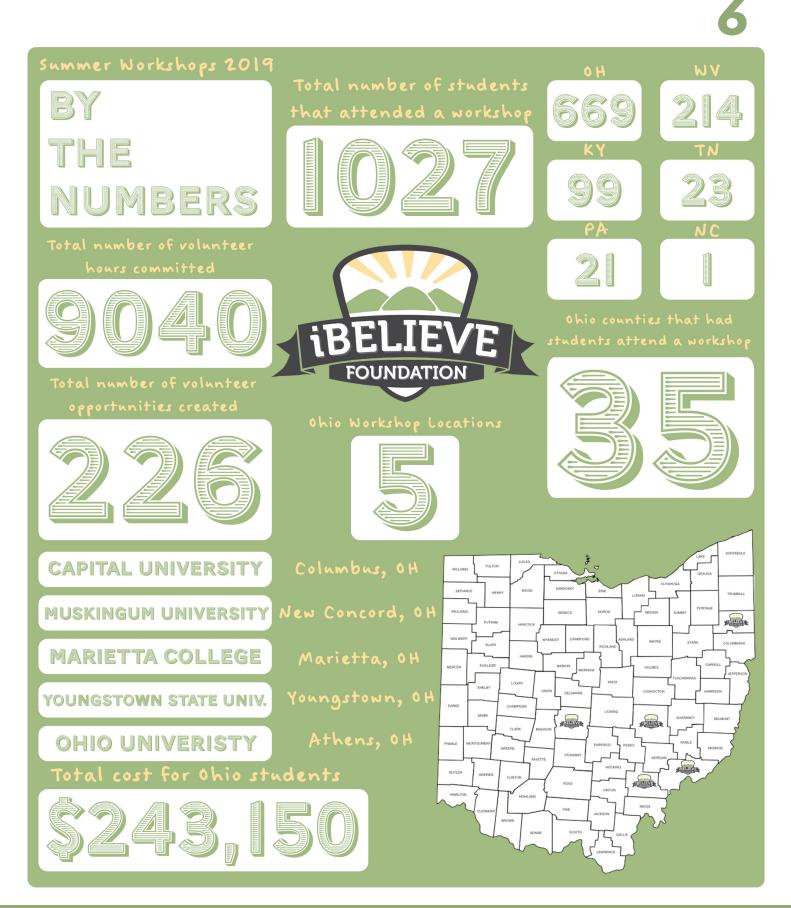
$243,150

The Data

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The iBELIEVE Foundation is committed to providing highly impactful, relevant, and enjoyable programming for the students who attend. We value delegate feedback and, when deemed to represent likely improvement, seek to implement appropriate revisions based on data collected.

Delegates are asked to complete daily feedback each evening. From this, directors and staff are able to gauge overall satisfaction levels, making note of viable suggestions and issues that need to be addressed during the week.

On the final day of the workshop, all delegates were asked to complete a final assessment of the week. *625 students submitted their responses.* The survey included the following questions:

1. *Which part(s) of the workshop did you enjoy the most and why?*
2. *If you could change one part of workshop, or one activity, what would it be and why?*
3. *In what ways do you feel differently (personal growth, personal connections, confidence, speaking skills, etc.) at the end of the workshop than you did when you arrived?*
4. *What could The iBELIEVE Foundation or iBELIEVE staff members have done to help you overcome this challenge or feel more comfortable during the week?*
5. *What are some positive takeaways you've learned at workshop this week and how will you apply what you learned in the workshop to your personal life, school, community, work, etc.?*
6. *What did staff members do that you found helpful, welcoming, inclusive and/or encouraging?*
7. *In what ways could staff members improve their facilitation of activities or improve their interactions & connections with delegates?*
8. *If a student was hesitant about attending an iBELIEVE Workshop next summer, what would you tell them in an effort to encourage them to attend?*
9. *If you were to recommend iBELIEVE to a school administrator to encourage students to attend, what would you say about our program?*
10. *Think about all the activities you participated in while you were at the workshop. Was there something that you wanted to do that was not available? Please explain.*

What did staff members do that you found helpful, welcoming, inclusive and/or encouraging?

- **30%** of delegates responded that staff were very engergetic, welcoming, and friendly.
- **21%** of delegates commented on their staff, in particular their council staff, were always encouraging & motivating delegates to meet new people, rise to challenges and get outside their comfort zones.
- 20% of delegates noted that staff were very supportive and helpful to their delegates no matter what they needed.
- **17%** of delegates commented on staff members being relatable, personable, and connecting with delegates by sharing their own thoughts and experiences.
- **16%** of delegates commented on staff initiating conversations and/or sitting with them if they appeared to be alone or not talking to anyone else.
- **11%** of delegates commented on staff members making sure that everyone was included, accepted and heard.
- **10%** of delegates said that staff were always willing to listen, and made their ideas feel important and heard.
- The remaining **10.2%** of comments combined included appreciating the staff members also participating in activities, being patient with their councils, being open-minded, serving as positive role models, and being able to differentiate between moments where it was OK to be over the top energetic and funny, and the moments where they needed to be more serious or meaningful in tone.

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In what ways do you feel differently (personal growth, personal connections, confidence, speaking skills, etc) at the end of the workshop than you did when you arrived?

- **52%** of all respondents mentioned they had gained confidence. Specifically, delegates mentioned an increased ability/willingness to be themselves, meet and interact with others, and share their personal opinions.
- **50%** of respondents identified personal growth as an outcome of the week. This included many areas, among which were the following:
  - Ability/desire/motivation to make a positive difference
  - Adopting a growth mindset, Positive outlook, Open-minded
  - Improved group skills, Self-awareness/Self-acceptance
  - Accepting of others, Trust
  - Taking positive risks, Overcoming adversity
  - Social Skills, Managing stress/emotions
  - Self-empowerment
  - Vulnerability
  - Feeling loved/supported
- Personal Connections were named as a personal highlight for **18%** of those surveyed. This included feeling connected to others at the workshop as well as the ability to make connections with others.
- Finally, improved Speaking Skills were noted by **12%** of respondents. While most referred to large group communication, others spoke of being able to share their ideas more clearly, feeling more outgoing, and willingness to initiate conversations with others.

What are some positive takeaways you've learned at workshop this week and how will you apply what you learned in the workshop to your personal life, school, community, work, etc?

- The most frequent response (**18%**) was acceptance of others. Specifically, delegates mentioned an increased desire to be less judgmental towards others, to befriend people outside of the regular friend group, be willing to listen and accept others for who they are, and overall be kind to everyone regardless of differences.
- **16%** of delegates who responded identified Leadership Skills as an outcome of the week. This included many areas such as:
  - Communication skills (both in small and large group settings)
  - The desire to become a leader for change in their schools and communities
  - Strengthened confidence as leader in their school or community
- Self Acceptance/Self-Worth was named as a personal highlight for **14%** of delegates who responded. Specific examples included delegates having more pride in who they are, their stories, and where they come from. Overall, most delegates felt a general sense of more love for themselves.
- Finally, Personal Connection was noted by **12%** of delegates who responded. These delevgates mentioned things such as, feeling like they belong, being accepted by others, making lifelong friendships, and being surprised that you could grow so close to complete strangers in five days.

"It is truly a life changing experience. It can be that thing in your life to spark more positive change than you ever anticipated. You won't regret it."

"You will feel uncomfortable, but that's the point. Branching out is one of the best things you can ever do for yourself."

"It is truly a life changing experience, and you can never really explain the greatness of iBELIEVE. You can only experience it."

"The experience is like none other. If you're scared, that's the perfect reason to go. Learn about yourself and others around you. You won't regret it."

"You never know what this could do to you. Be fearless and take positive risks. It could just be the best week of your life."

"It's life changing. The lessons learned are lifelong, and the people met are truly incredible."

"This week was the best thing I've ever experienced. It is scary at first, but the only thing that rivals this week was workshop last year. You do learn a lot, but you have a ton of fun doing it and the activities are amazing."

2019 Summer Program
Participating Ohio Schools

Western Region
Adams: Peebles, West Union
Brown: Georgetown
Gallia: Gallia Academy, River Valley
Highland: Fairfield Local, Greenfield McClain
Jackson: Jackson, Oak Hill, Wellston
Lawrence: Ironton, Symmes Valley
Pike: Piketon, Waverly
Ross: Huntington, Unioto
Scioto: East (Sciotoville Community School), South Webster, Valley
Vinton: Vinton County

Central Region
Athens: Alexander, Athens, Nelsonville-York
Hocking: Logan
Meigs: Eastern, Meigs, Southern
Monroe: Monroe Central
Morgan: Morgan
Noble: Shenandoah
Perry: Crooksville, New Lexington, Sheridan
Washington: Belpre, Fort Fyre, Frontier, Marietta, Warren Local, Waterford

Eastern Region
Belmont: Barnesville, Bellaire, Bridgeport, Martins Ferry, Shadyside, St. Clairsville, Union Local
Coshocton: Coshocton, River View
Guernsey: Buckeye Trail, Cambridge, Meadowbrook
Harrison: Harrison Central
Holmes: Hiland, West Holmes
Muskingum: Bishop Rosecrans, John Glenn, Maysville, Philo, Tri Valley, West Muskingum, Zanesville

Northeastern Region
Ashtabula: Lakeside, Pymatuning Valley
Carroll: Malvern
Columbiana: Beaver Local, Crestview
Jefferson: Buckeye Local, Steubenville
Mahoning: Austintown Fitch, Boardman, Campbell Memorial, Sebring McKinley, Struthers
Trumbull: Howland, Maplewood
Tuscarawas: Indian Valley, Newcomerstown