



dream
BIG

PROGRAM REPORT 2019

Program Overview

The DREAM BIG Career Camp takes students to a different company every day to help them shatter preconceived notions that limit their career options. Students are immersed in the professional world, spending each day at a new company. The camp also builds students' confidence about their future and what it might mean to live independently with a disability.

18

Students Participated

13

Companies Participated

Three Camps in 2019

Innovate

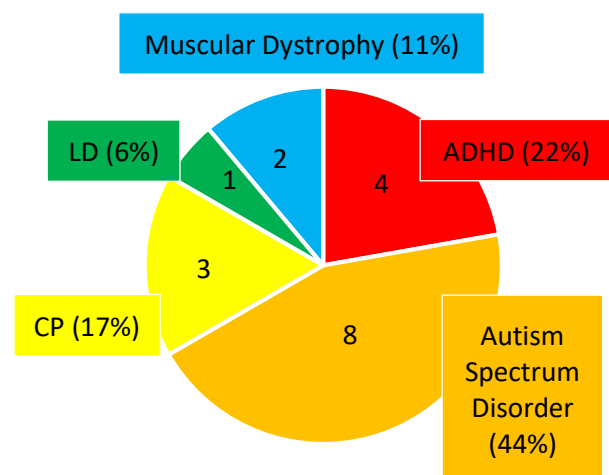
June 3 - 7: for those who are interested in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) careers

Hands On

June 24 – 28: for those who are interested in trade and technical careers

Endless Possibilities

July 8 – 12: for those who want to see what careers are available to them, but aren't sure what career to choose



Disability of Students

Activities in DREAM BIG

With employees from a company

- learning about their unique job opportunities
- engaging in behind-the-scenes tours
- networking with employees

With the Starkloff staff

- discussing how to advocate for oneself in college and on the job
- Learning basic skills for independent living

At the end of the week

- delivering a presentation on what they learned to parents and other campers

Learning topics covered by Starkloff Disability Institute

Students spend part of their day with the Starkloff staff discussing various topics including the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Independent Living | ▪ Personality Test |
| ▪ Financial Literacy | ▪ Problem Solving Techniques |
| ▪ Budgeting for Independent Living | ▪ Setting SMART Goals |
| ▪ Job Application Process | Disability Pride |
| ▪ Resume and Cover Letter | ▪ IEP & 504 |
| | College Safety |

Journaling to reflect their thoughts and feelings

For exploring their possibilities and interests, not only experiencing new things, but also reflecting their thoughts and feelings after the experiences is crucial. At the end of each camp day, students spent time answering questions for reflection.

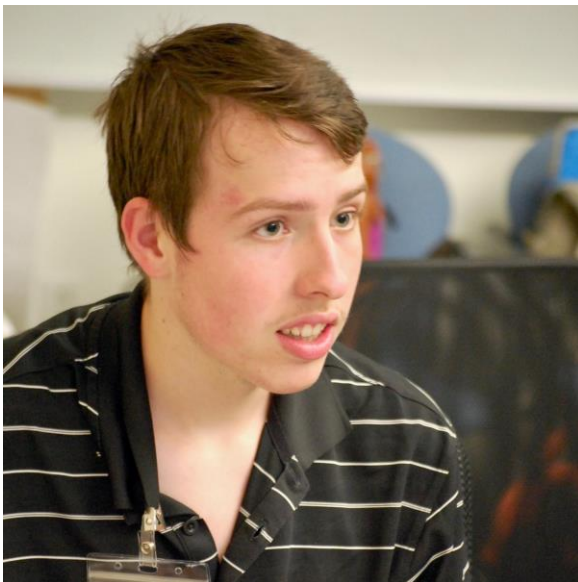
For example, students answered

- What does independent living mean to you and how will you achieve this? What aspects of independent living do you feel confident in and which do you still need to learn more about?
- In what area of the job application process are you most confident? In what area do you need the most improvement? What are some steps you can take to improve in that area?

Student Feedback



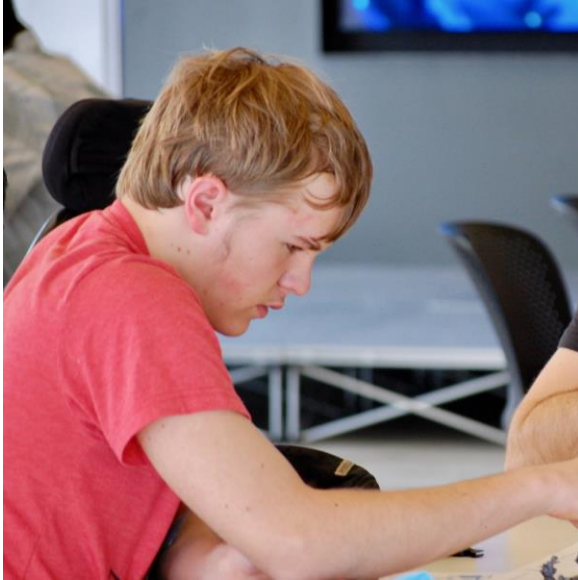
“There are a lot more options for people with disabilities or people who need assistance when finding careers.”



“A lot of these companies are a lot bigger than I thought they would be, and **there’s a lot of different jobs that are needed to make the company successful.**”

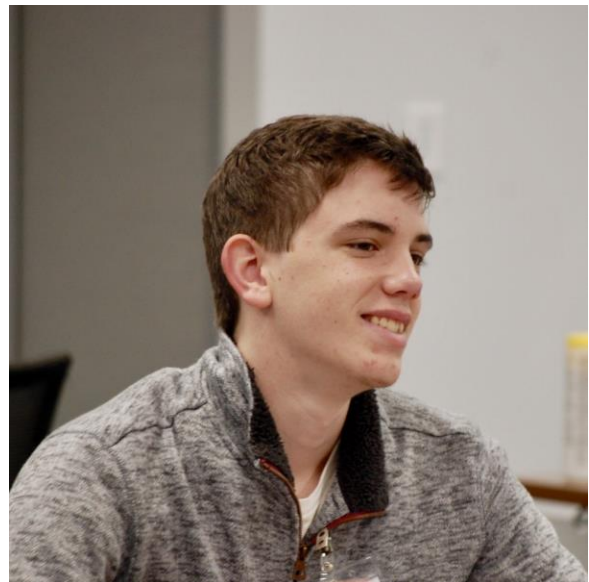


“The highlight of today so far was getting to walk around Centene and see how everyone worked as a team, and also to get to meet the staff. **The most unexpected thing about DREAM BIG so far has definitely been the number of opportunities.**”

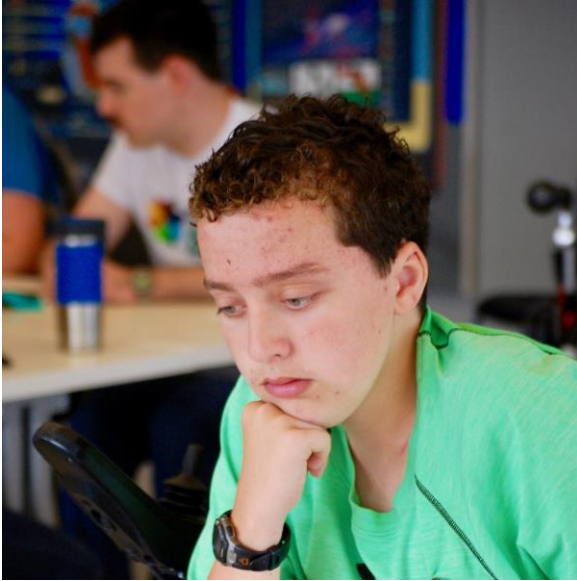


“At the beginning of the week, when I first started thinking about careers, I had one thing in mind. Throughout the week, **I have realized that you need to have more than two careers in mind because there are so many opportunities that exist.**”

“The biggest thing I’ve learned this whole week is that **no one’s going to be a professional just starting off, but with time and training, anything is possible.**”



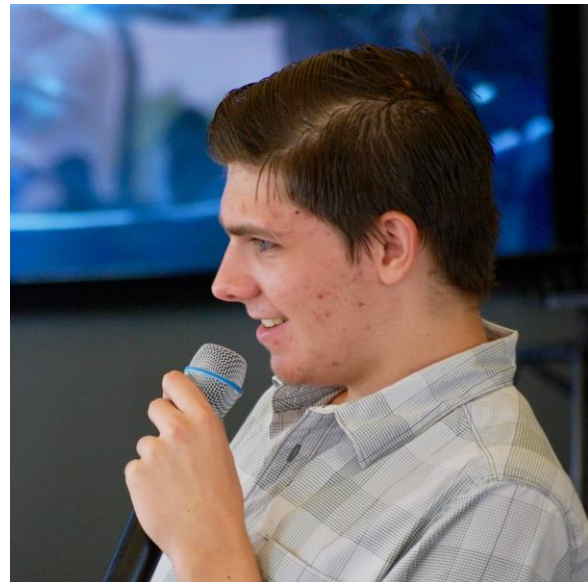
“The biggest thing I have learned so far about the workforce is that sometimes the workforce can vary in numbers and experience. **Sometimes you need a college degree, sometimes you need a high school degree. It’s been interesting to learn about all their stories.**”



"I think touring the factory was cool, and I enjoyed seeing how all jobs on the floor came together. I found it interesting that all the machines and **people have to work together to get the job done.** One take away is it requires lots of people to get one task completed."



"The coolest thing I saw on the tour was visiting the workshop, walking around, seeing the crew, and **realizing the smallest job can play a big role.** Even one mess-up can affect the whole crew."



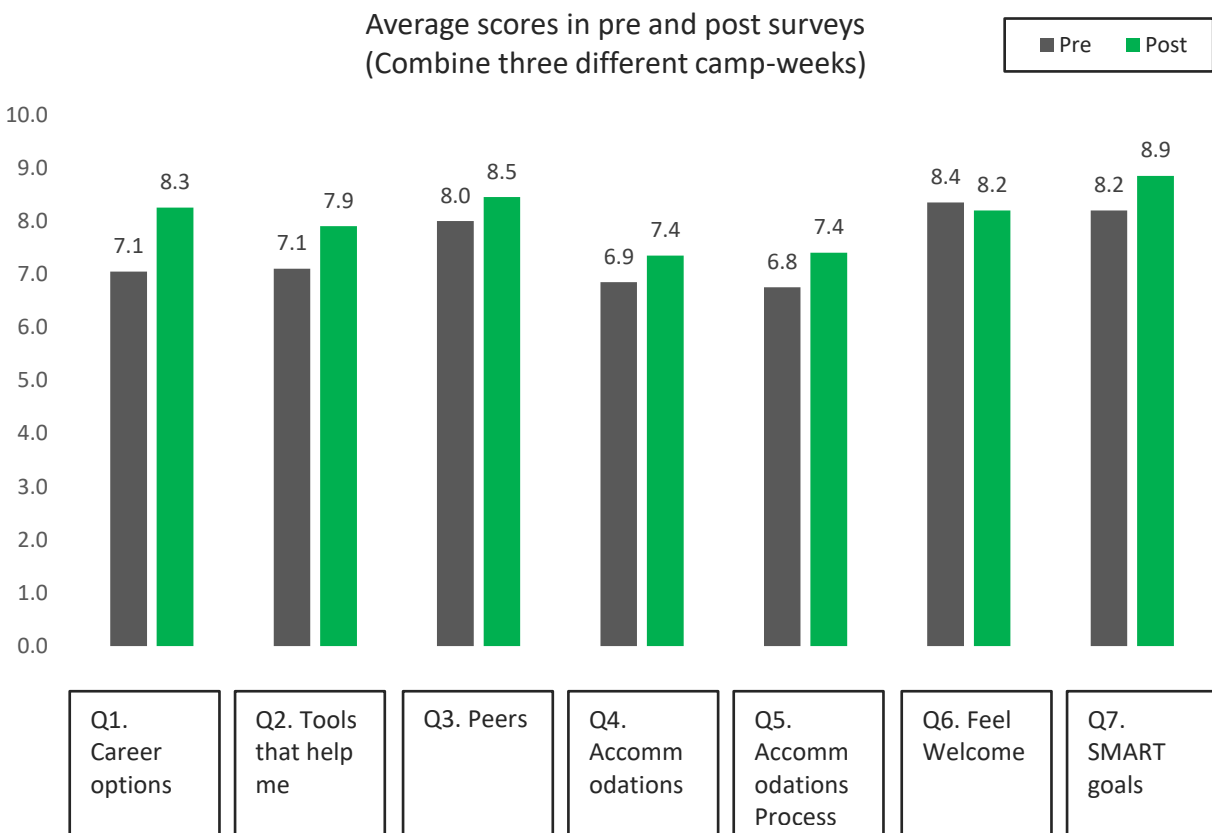
"The biggest thing I have learned from our afternoon sessions is that to **be a self-advocate, you really have to stand up for yourself. Self-advocacy does not always mean living alone by yourself.** It can also mean having others lean on your back, and help you grow as a person."

Student Survey

Students were asked to rate themselves on a scale from 1 to 10 in seven questions. Higher scores indicate that students are more knowledgeable, comfortable about a topic in each question.

Overview

The following result shows the average of pre and post score for each question.

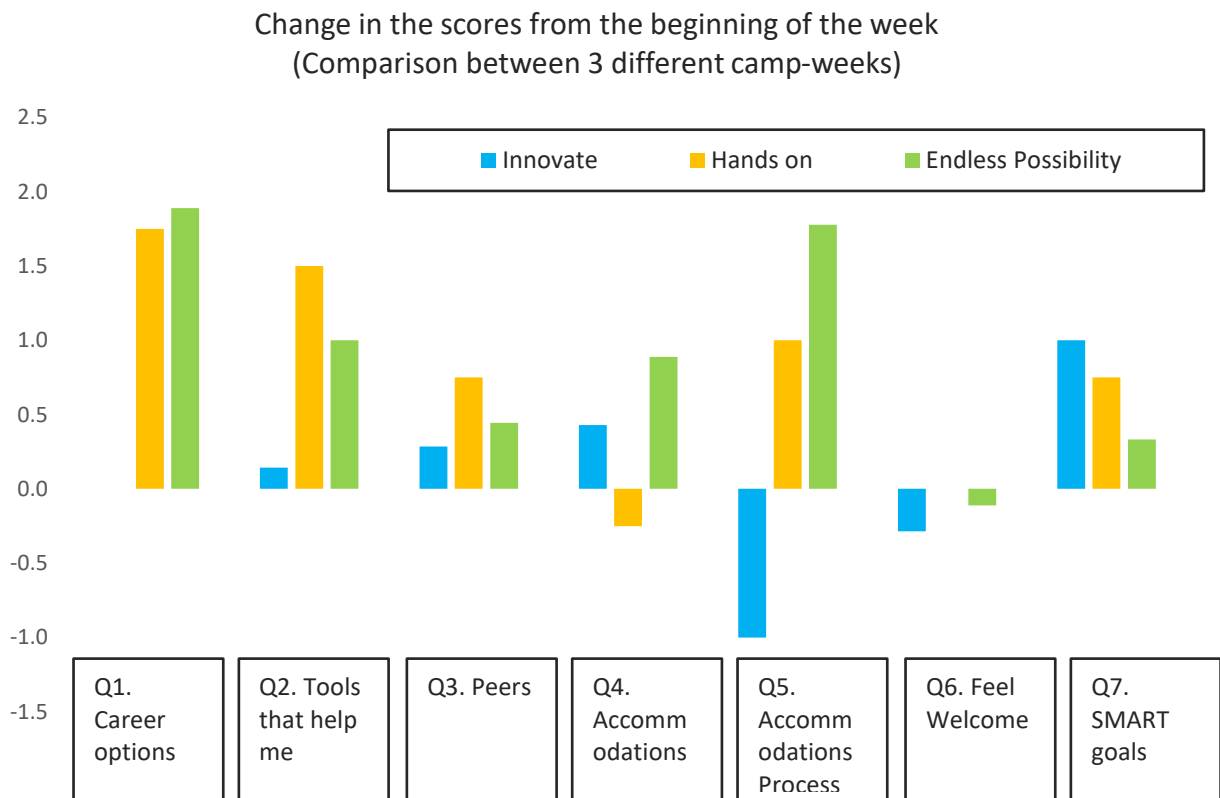


Questions asked to students

- Q1. I am knowledgeable about the range of career options that are available to me.
 Q2. I am knowledgeable about tools that will help me be successful in college or career (problem-solving, goal-setting, budgeting, independent living).
 Q3. I am comfortable identifying as a person with a disability to a group of my peers.
 Q4. I am knowledgeable about accommodations that I can use to be successful as a person with a disability.
 Q5. I am knowledgeable the rules and processes that I have to go through to get accommodations.
 Q6. I feel welcome in the world of work as a person with a disability.
 Q7. I can set SMART goals that will help me be successful in my chosen career.

Difference between three camps

The following result shows the average change in scores for each question between pre and post survey.



What we can think from the results

Overall, the results showed that students became more knowledgeable, comfortable about a topic in each question through the camp. Learning about various skills needed in workplaces might have led to the decrease of the score in Q6 (I feel welcome in the world of work as a person with a disability), but the average post-score was high as 8.2.

As for the results by different camp groups, the average score of Q5 (I am knowledgeable about the rules and processes that I have to go through to get accommodations) declined in "Innovate" week. This first week focused on STEAM careers, in which people generally need to gain technical skills before starting to work. Some students might have a concern about how to learn these skills with accommodations; however, SDI will work with students that have concerns to help them navigate the transition.

Parent Feedback

- He has greater insight about what he wants to do in the future.
- A little more sure about his future.
- Knowledge of opportunities that do not require a 4-year degree. Exposure to workplaces and team settings.
- 10 stars Team Dream Big ☆
- Talking about careers with animals
- He seems excited about looking for a job and being able to take classes while figuring out
- Talks about careers a bit more. Will talk about certain experience he had in Dream Big out of the blue.
- He is definitely excited about hearing about different employers. His continued participation will build his confidence and find his path.
- Her eyes have been opened to other possible careers. She was dead set on a career that was going to be very tough, and she is at least considering other options.



At the presentation at the end of the week – Students had an opportunity to deliver their presentation parents, corporate partners, peers, and camp staff.

Company Overview and Activities

Innovate

June 3 –
June 7

for those who
are interested
in STEAM
(Science,
Technology,
Engineering,
Arts, Math)
careers



Bayer Crop Sciences

Students extracted the DNA from strawberries, explored Bayer's facility, listened to the presentation about Bayer's mission, and enjoyed a networking event.



Washington University Occupational Therapy School

Students listened to a presentation on OT, and programs available for students interested in OT, and explored the Health and Wellness Center at Paraquod and toured the gym.



Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Students explored the exhibit and enjoyed a hands-on activity of playing the piano using fruits connected to wires and a Raspberry Pie, a small computer.

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Boeing

Students toured the Prologue Room, where they had an opportunity to learn about Boeing, worked on STEM hands-on activities such as a flight simulator, and went through five mentor rotations with Boeing employees.



LaunchCode

Students listened to a presentation about information on apprenticeships available to try programming, participated in an interactive activity focused on sorting information, and practiced programming using Python.



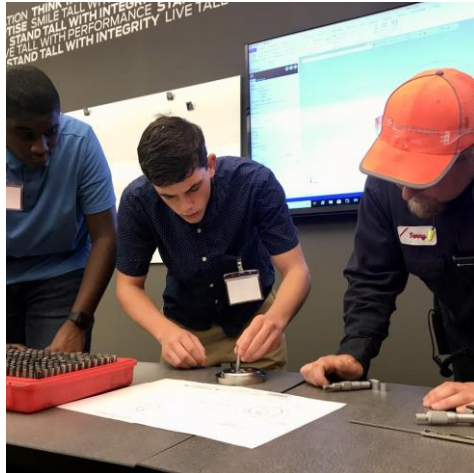
Riot Games

Students enjoyed a hands-on activity to plan a robot game to learn the importance of how to balance the difficulties in a game. Riot Games employees explained their career paths and their journeys to how they got to Riot Games through a panel discussion.

Hands On

June 24 –
June 28

for those
who are
interested in
trade and
technical
careers



Nestlé Purina

Students, putting on safety gear including glasses, hats, gloves, yellow vests, and earplug toured the factory, heard from the employees about welding, assembling, quality control, and trade school.



Centene Ferguson Claims Center

Students listened to a presentation on what the claims center does, toured the facility, and went through mentor rotations with Centene employees.



Boeing

Students began the day touring the F-18 assembly line, toured the Prologue room, and participated in a speed-mentoring session, learned about the program at St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley.

Hands On

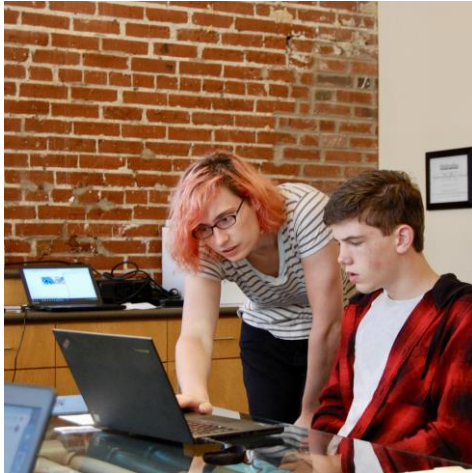
June 24 –
June 28

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Bi-State Mechanical Facility

Students visited the Bi-State facility, which completes maintenance for trains and buses, listened to a presentation about how trains have automatic protective systems which were designed to help regulate the speed of trains and make sure they run safely with the help of operators, and toured the facility.



Savvy Coders

SavvyCoders is a bootcamp designed to help people find careers in computer programming. The program is designed to help people learn the in's and out's of website and computer programming from start to finish prior to finding a career. Students had an opportunity to learn html, css, and JavaScript through a hands-on activity.

Endless Possibilities

July 8 –
July 12

for those who want to see what careers are available to them, but aren't sure what career to choose



St. Louis Community College Culinary Arts

Students listened to an introduction to the kitchens as well as what programs St. Louis Community College Culinary Arts School offered and prepared the meal for lunch to practice what jobs in the culinary world would be like.



Express Scripts

Students toured the pharmacy, the usability lab, and observation room. The usability lab is designed to look at how accessible and easy it is to navigate the website. Students also participated in a mentoring session through a panel of employees and interns.



Nestlé Purina

Students listened to a presentation from a researcher in the Purina, toured the exhibit to learn more about the science and molecular structure, watched the Incredible Dog Show, and listened to a presentation about workforce diversity in the morning. In the afternoon, students toured the facility to learn how cat litter is made, the testing process for cat litter, and the sensory lab.

Endless Possibilities

July 8 –
July 12

for those who want to see what careers are available to them, but aren't sure what career to choose



Centene

Students toured the Centene headquarter building. They explored the office in Human Resources of an employee with a mobility disability. They saw the accommodations he uses to complete his work which includes a dictation software on his computer. Students also participated in a speed-mentoring session.



Bi-State Development

Students had an opportunity to ride the train downtown to the 8th and Pine station to commute to the Bi-State Development Agency. For the majority of students, this was the first time they experienced Metrolink. At the Bi-State, students enjoyed hands-on activities such as creating social media posts about their experiences on the Metro train with employees from the marketing team.



Cortex – Centene & Boeing Horizon X

To see the culture of the Cortex, students toured the 4020 building. Students noticed different companies have offices in this building, versus at other companies that just house one business. They also heard about experiences from employees at Boeing Horizon X and Centene, who work at Cortex.