



PROGRAM REPORT 2020

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 talking with professionals of different industries. The camp also builds students' confidence about their future and what it might mean to live independently with a disability.

Two Virtual Camps in 2020

Innovation Week, June 1-5

For students who are interested in STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Endless Possibilities Week, July 9, 10, 13-17

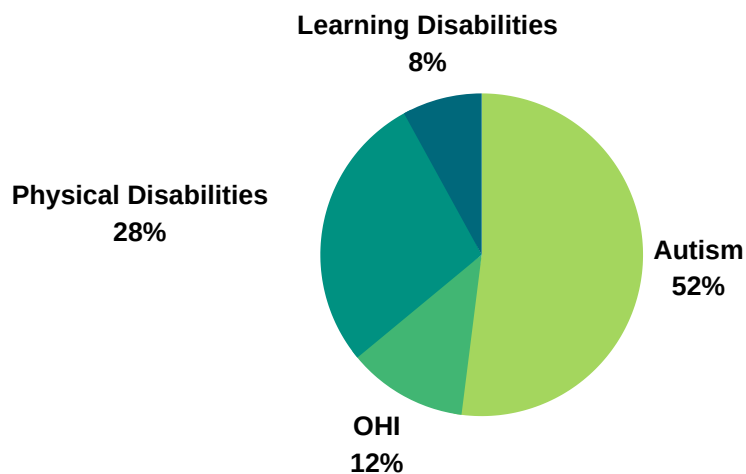
A combination of STEM, trade, and technical opportunities for students who are not quite sure what career to choose

25

Students Participated

12

Companies Participated



Disability of Students

The Decision to Move Virtual

As our community began adapting to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we never stopped planning for our students to "*dream big*" about their futures this summer. We knew we couldn't let the pandemic prevent our students from exploring careers with top companies in the St. Louis region. Our DREAM BIG Team and partner companies came together to create a plan to transform DREAM BIG into an engaging and interactive virtual experience that students could enjoy from the comfort of their own homes.

This summer's virtual DREAM BIG camp felt very similar to our previous in-person camps, with companies engaging our students for the first half of the day and the DREAM BIG team presenting independent living and disability pride-focused curriculum during the second half of the day. Even though students had to tune into Zoom each day instead of joining us in person, our campers were able to enjoy the traditional joys of any good camp: playing games, engaging with peers, and even participating in hands-on activities and experiments provided by our company partners.

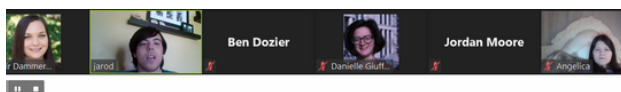
Making Changes After Week One

During week one, the DREAM BIG Team noticed students feeling fatigued towards the end of the week from the strain of participating in a highly engaging virtual experience. We decided that it was necessary to make adjustments to the second week of camp to ensure our students remained engaged, but not exhausted. The DREAM BIG Team implemented two extra half-days of camp, July 9-10, to spread out the curriculum so students could spend less time "plugged in" during the days our company partners presented. During these additional half-days, students were able to have in-depth discussions about self-advocacy, disability pride, and independent living. Students also engaged in their own career exploration through personality and career interest surveys. By implementing two extra days of curriculum, our students became more familiar and comfortable with one another and developed a better understanding of their own goals before speaking with companies.

Structure of DREAM BIG

Company Interaction

- Learning from employee's about their unique job opportunities and experiences
- Watching engaging videos from the companies and virtual tours of their facilities
- Networking with employees and asking questions

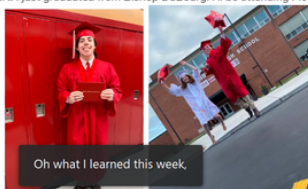


Introduction

My name is Jarod Ebert. I just graduated from Bishop DuBourg. I'll be attending Flo Valley Community College.

Strengths

- Responsible
- Reliable
- Kind/loyal



DREAM BIG Team Interaction

- Group discussions on transitioning to adulthood with a disability
- Learning from their peers
- Learning to "adult" with a disability: disability pride, self-advocacy, goal setting, financial literacy, preparing for college, and employment

Final Presentations

At the end of each week, students delivered a presentation to their peers and guests about what they learned during camp and how they plan to use and develop their self-advocacy skills.

DREAM BIG Curriculum

During camp, students spent part of their day with the DREAM BIG team and other Starkloff staff discussing various topics including:

- Personality and Career Interest Surveys
- Self-Advocacy
- Disability Pride
- Independent Living
- College Readiness
- Networking & Job Searching
- Interviewing
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- Financial Literacy (Hands on Banking: Wells Fargo - November Champion)

Week 1 - Company Overview & Activities



Boeing

June 1

Students participated in a virtual learning experience where they engaged in a fascinating virtual factory tour of Boeing, asked employees questions during a Q&A panel with Boeing staff, and took part in a hands-on paper airplane activity.

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

June 2



The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center hosted two incredible activities that taught our students about the scientific method and how scientists analyze plant images with PlantCV software. Students also enjoyed a virtual tour of the Danforth Research Facilities and a Q&A panel with various scientists.

Bayer

June 3



Students enjoyed a presentation focused on Bayer's mission, interacted with a former SDI candidate who presently works at Bayer, participated in a hands-on exercise called Sugar Tower using sugar cubes, food coloring, and measuring tools. Campers ended their day with an insightful employee panel and Q&A.



Cigna

June 4

Students enjoyed learning about Cigna's mission and work during a virtual presentation hosted by Cigna employees. Students were also able to interact with employees and ask questions about Cigna careers during a Q&A panel.

Riot Games

June 5



Students participated in a virtual learning experience where they watched videos that highlighted the latest games produced by Riot Games, had an engaging conversation about the ecosystem of the gaming industry, and spoke with St. Louis employees in a Q&A panel. Students also reviewed the different classes of the *League of Legends* Champions and had to decide which class they belonged to based on their strengths.



Week 2 - Company Overview & Activities

St. Louis Community College - Culinary Arts/Hospitality.

July 13

Students engaged in a presentation focused on Culinary Arts/Hospitality careers and took a live virtual tour of the St. Louis Community College kitchen, allowing students to learn about the different equipment chefs use in the hospitality industry. St. Louis Community College also hosted a panel of professionals in the hospitality industry and spoke to our students about how the hospitality industry will be changing during and after the pandemic.



Clayco

July 13

Students enjoyed a live tour of the Clayco facility, interacted with several employees from a wide range of departments, and learned about the career paths and opportunities available in architecture, recruitment, safety, and technology. Students also got to catch a glimpse of some of the architecture software used by Clayco employees when designing buildings.





Mercy

July 14

Students engaged and interacted with Mercy employees while learning about Mercy's history, values, and mission. Students also discovered the many careers Mercy provides in the following departments: support services, marketing, virtual care, supply chain and food services.

**Boeing Horizon X at
Cortex Innovation Center**

July 14



Students participated in a virtual learning experience where they learned about Boeing Horizon X's history and mission, discussed the company's goals toward innovation, and were able to interact with employees involved in analysis and simulation, market development, and GS&S procurement.

Nestlé Purina Pet Care

July 15



Students interacted with employees within the following divisions: the Purina Institute, Digital Projects, Pet Welfare, and Talent Sourcing. Students had the opportunity to ask employees questions about their careers and experiences, and also enjoyed the Incredible Dog Show Performance hosted virtually from Purina Farms.



Centene Corporation

July 16

Students participated in a virtual learning experience where they learned about Centene Corporation's history and mission, and interacted with employees within Centene's HR, Information Technology, and Population Health departments. Students participated in a "pass the pencil" activity, and enjoyed an employee panel with those involved in ABILITY, an employee-led group focused on disability inclusion.

Centene at Cortex Innovation Center

July 16

Students learned about the history and mission of the Centene Corporation at Cortex Innovation Center, participated in two virtual activities taught students about how experience and design come together, and engaged with a panel of employees to ask questions.



Wells Fargo

July 17

Students participated in a virtual learning experience where they learned about Wells Fargo's history and mission, received a tour of the campus and trade floor, and interacted with Next Generation Talent & Financial Advisor Careers. Finally, students had one on one mentoring sessions with Wells Fargo employees.



Student Feedback



"I am more excited about my future goals, I have **more disability pride** and I am more **confident.**"



"I did learn more about **achieving my career goals...**"

"It really helped me open up more and not be shy to engage and ask questions. I **realized there are so many different opportunities open.**"



"I see that **having my own career can make my life better** and knowing what's going around the world."



"I've seen **changes in my career goals.**"

“I didn’t necessarily find a new career I wanted to pursue but I have become **aware that many companies are willing to work with those who have disabilities.**”

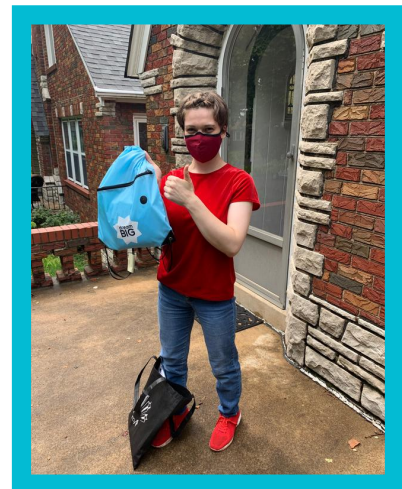


“I saw **everything I could do.**”

“I have **increased my knowledge** of the businesses around the city of St. Louis that **apply to my interests.**”



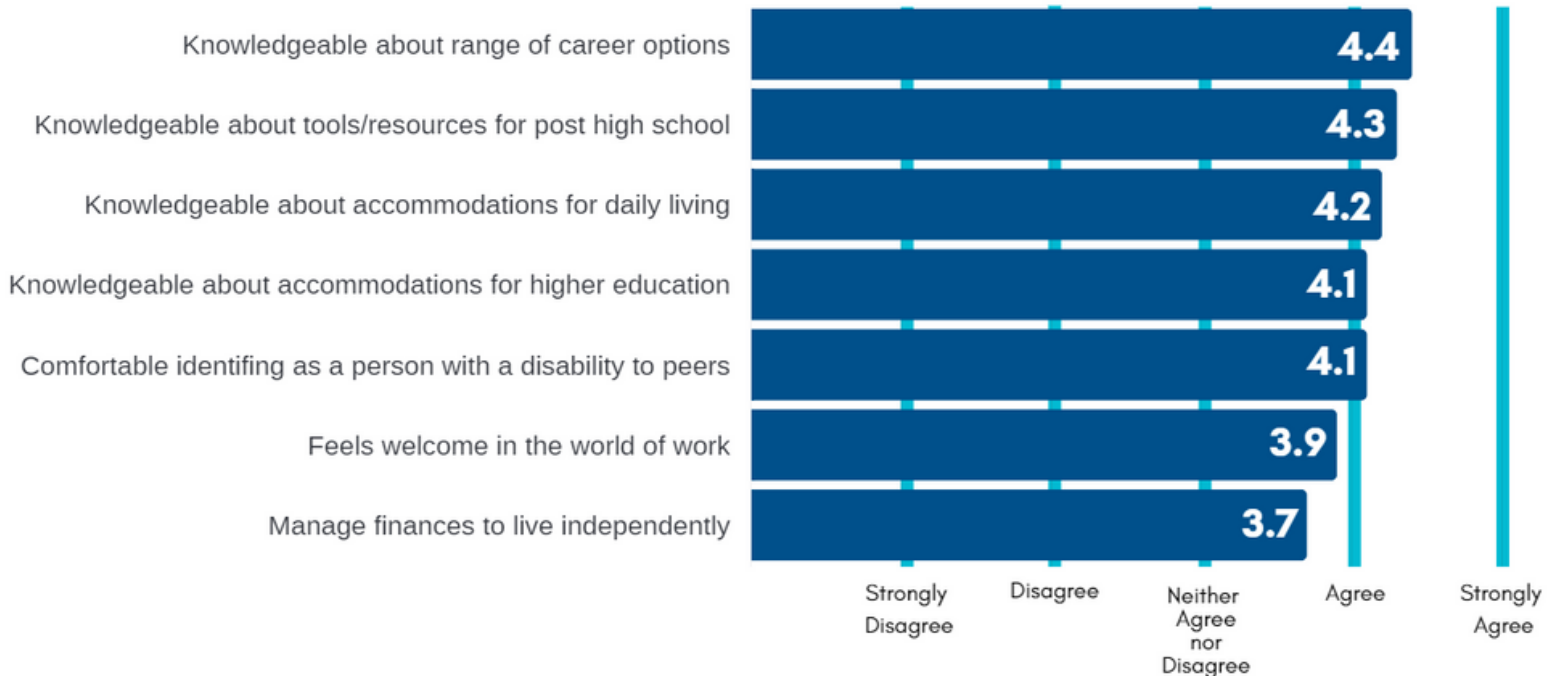
“I learned about some businesses out there that I have **never known about.**”



“I’ve discovered **more career paths.**”

Student Survey

CAMPERS FEEL...



Campers feel knowledgeable about their future career options and how to successfully navigate post-secondary education and the world of work as a person with a disability.

Campers who participated in both Week 1 and Week 2 reported having more knowledge about managing finances to live independently after participating in the financial literacy workshop for a second time.

On average, campers reported to be satisfied with their overall experience in virtual DREAM BIG.

The DREAM BIG team will strive to enhance and guide the curriculum in order to help campers feel even more comfortable being a person with a disability who is transitioning from secondary to post-secondary education and, eventually, to a career.

Parent Feedback



“Better understanding of what he needs to figure out and do to **prepare for college.**”

“**Increase in self confidence**, self-motivated about future opportunities, more knowledgeable and curious about future options, etc.”



“He has been **more vocal about his dreams and career goals.**”

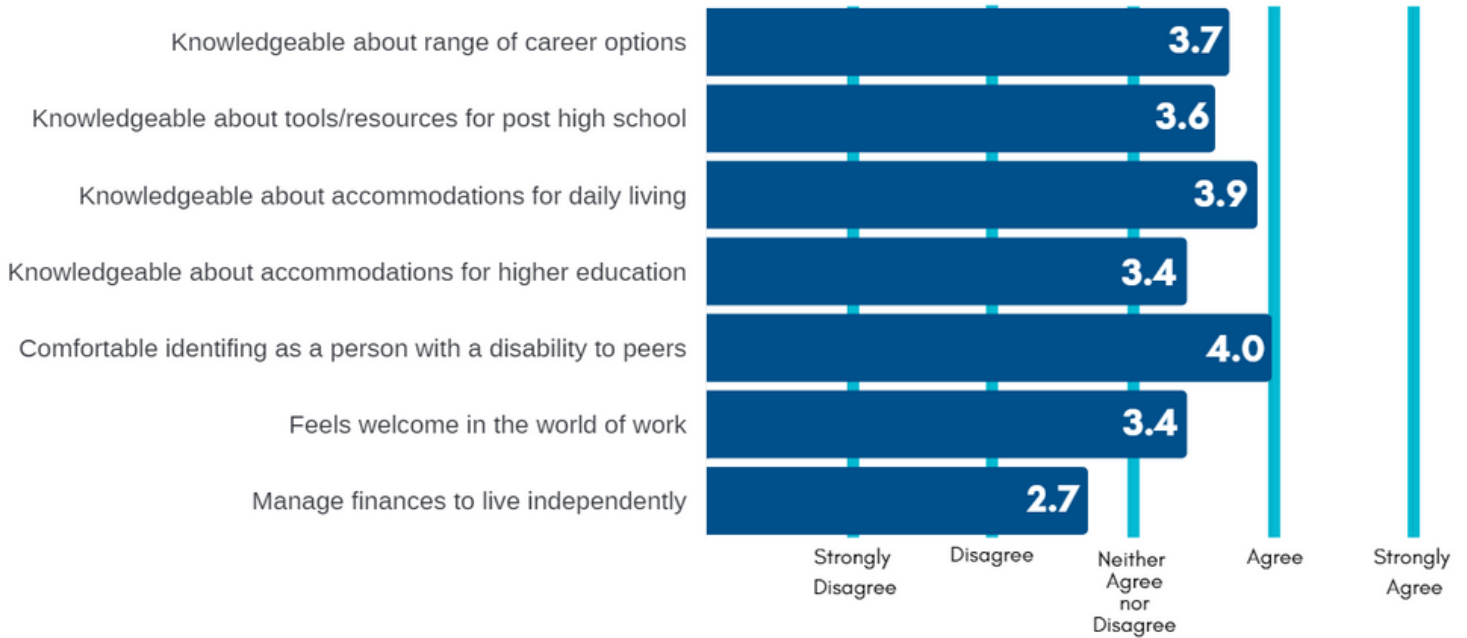
“An **increase in self advocacy & willingness to talk about goal setting**”

“He's becoming **more knowledgeable** about his disability and how he can **navigate his future** with this disability.”



Parent Survey

OUR STUDENTS ARE...



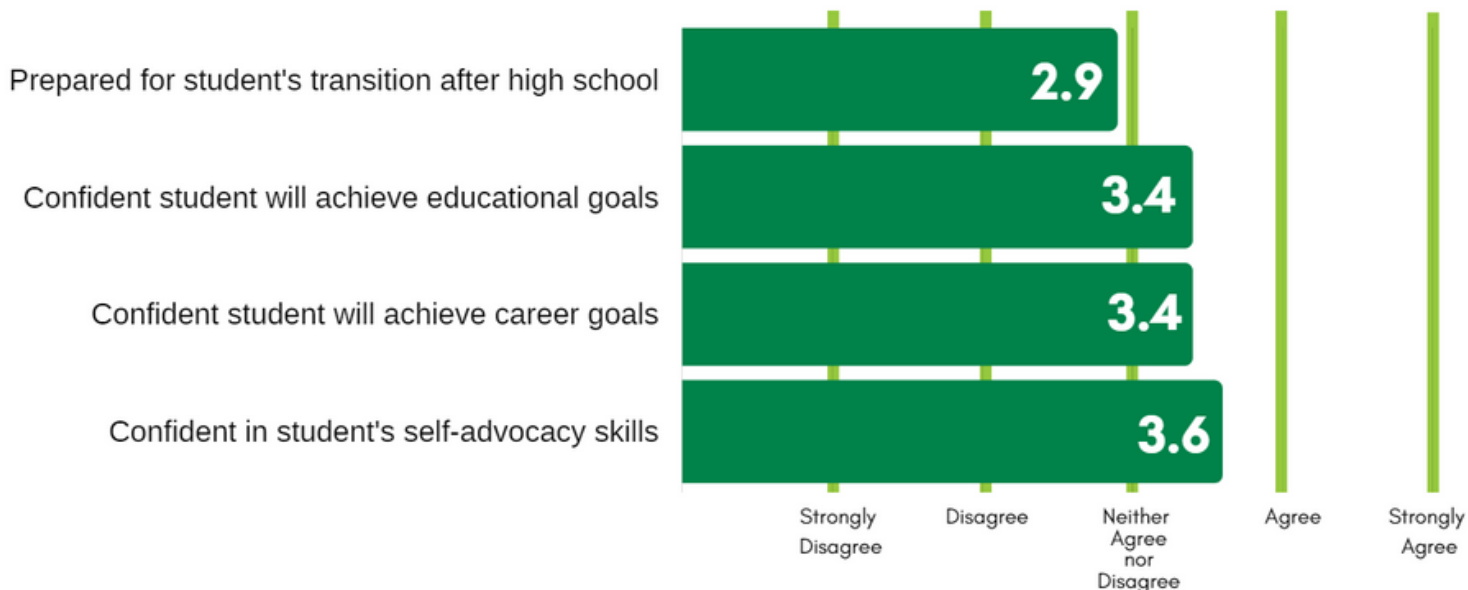
Overall, parents feel their students are knowledgeable about their future career options and how to successfully navigate post-secondary education and the world of work as a person with a disability, with the exception of being able to independently manage finances. Parents of campers who participated in both Week 1 and Week 2 believed their students' knowledge of a majority of the concepts targeted in the DREAM BIG camp increased after students participated in the sessions for a second time.

On average, parents reported to be overall satisfied with their students' experiences in virtual DREAM BIG.



Parent Survey

PARENTS FEEL...



Based on the information gathered after DREAM BIG camp, we believe parents would benefit from more direct sharing of information regarding the process of students with disabilities transitioning from secondary to post-secondary education and, eventually, to the world of work. The DREAM BIG team plans to develop and host parent informational sessions that will help parents be more comfortable with their student's transition process.

THANK YOU

The DREAM BIG team appreciates everyone's effort in making DREAM BIG Career Camp a successful virtual experience this summer! The transition in making DREAM BIG Career Camp virtual would not have been possible without our amazing corporate partnerships who supported our decision and all the hard work they put into making sure our students still received an engaging experience. We also greatly appreciate our donors and funding partners; without you, our students would not be able to DREAM BIG about their futures.