

The STEAM Internship Program for Leaders – Week 1

Ami Konate, *e-Counselor*

The EDsnaps STEAM Internship Program for Leaders is a program offered to female-identifying high school students that runs on a daily basis from 10-12 noon. Due to the pandemic, students, counselors, visitors, and speakers meet through Zoom where they learn valuable tools and lessons for their personal and professional lives. The goal of the program is to expand students' professional and personal experience and value.

My name is Ami Konate and I am an e-Counselor in this program. In 2017, I started as a rising college-student in the EDsnaps Program. I have been working with EDsnaps since then and I am currently part of the 2020 Internship Program where I work as an e-Counselor. The thought of being a counselor online seemed a bit strange to me at first but if I can describe it in one word, it would be FUN. I'll be writing these weekly recap blogs to take you along with us for this exciting journey!

Wednesday 6/24, 10 am EST: The wait is finally over! Dr. Susanne Cappendijk (aka Dr. C) launched the STEAM Internship Program for Leaders with the theme *“Turning Overlooked Into Looked In: Past, Present, and Future Women of Impact”*. The program started with the future women, counselors and students, introducing themselves. Then we shifted our focus to the projects: creating a calendar, making a video, writing an interactive story, designing stamps and more. After the break, we welcomed Carol Colmenares and Mariella Perez Perez who prepared us for their workshops next week: the creation of a video, can't wait.

On Thursday, Mary Alonso taught us all about creating a Mood/Trend board. One of my favorite advice from Mary was “Do what makes your heart beats fast”. For me personally I feel like this advice applies for almost anything you want to do in life. During the breakout session, our student teams came up with their own fashion brands, and then presented their trend boards to the whole group. There were some amazing and creative ideas, with some of the groups choosing to design for existing brands like Macy's or Uniqlo, with other groups creating their own brands from scratch and showed us so many shades of beautiful colors. Later on, the students will use these techniques to create their own calendar pages featuring their past, present, and future women. Mary also gave our students some advice about future careers. One quote that really stood out to me was when Mary was talking about why she went into the fashion industry. She said “What is it that makes your heart beat faster?” and encouraged us to use that to realize our passions and interests.

For our first e-Fieldtrip Friday, we e-traveled to the Yogi Berra Center where we learned all about momentum, energy, and kinetic energy. We got to apply our new knowledge by throwing our own softballs made out of socks, stress balls, or whatever we had lying around the house. Then, we learned all about stride and found out how to calculate our own stride. The unforgettable part? We had the opportunity to see and talk with Yogi Berra's granddaughter Lindsay Berra who gave amazing life and career advice to our students. Listening to Lindsay and her experiences in life gave me a strong confidence that I am in control of my life and that hard work will lead to success. What an incredible way to round off our first week!