

The STEAM Internship Program for Leaders – Week 8

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Welcome to the last full week of our program. Yeah, I said last full week, I can't believe it's already week 8! Let me go through what we did this week. Lego Monday!! Alice Finch came to e-visit us all the way from the west coast. Our e-counselor, Destiny, interviewed Alice. Surprisingly, Alice and I had a lot in common; just like me, she likes rain, things that turn green, and snow once in a while. The time flew by and I was astonished to learn later on that Destiny's interview time did not exceed Hawa's, so Hawa still tops the interview chart, with Destiny ending second. As Mariella Pérez Pérez was not an e-counselor nor a student, her interview time didn't actually count. Alice's amazing work with Legos is breathtaking. When I saw her Lego artwork of Berk from "How to Train Your Dragon", I was like what??? How long did that take? And just how did she do that? Obviously, Alice is passionate about what she does. Alice's mission to increase diversity and equity in the Lego ecosystem of women and people of color made me really happy because my little brother really really loves Legos and at this stage, they are not aware of the race, ethnicity and gender roles but the idea that they would see more of themselves in the Lego ecosystem (including movies) makes me happy.

On Tuesday, Katelyn Serpe taught the EDsnaps STEAM Internship Program for Leaders students how to design their own website! What is more fun than creating your own website? Presenting website ideas to an awesome audience! Each team presented their amazing ideas about what their website would include, colors, etc, After these presentations, we moved into the coding itself. What's a website without code? Katelyn also taught us the history and the importance of coding, especially in the modern era. There's lots of importance to coding, you can code for passion, interest, or just for fun.

Are you ready for some warm-ups and movements?! On Wednesday morning, the EDsnaps students welcomed Olney Edmonson, a dance teacher from the New Victory Dance theater. Prior to Olney's workshop, we were asked to watch a series of short video's from New Victory Dance and I was in total awe. My favorite chapters were chapter 5: Dormeshia's tap-dancing mixed with jazz and chapter 4: the Mozaik dance. I was impressed by how Mozaik uses sound, their different backgrounds, and dance styles to create unique dances. Back to the workshop, Olney worked with us on creating our own movements with items that represent or tell a story about us. It was amazing to see everyone's unique movements with their respective item. You can honestly create your own unique dance moves even if you are not a professional dancer. After warming up and energizing our brains in the dance workshop, we needed to wrap up some unfinished business from week 7. Our teams presented their "new medicine pitch-board" based on Dr. C's workshop. As expected, each group did a remarkable job with their awesome new medicine name and its ability to cure many illnesses and diseases. Imagine a medicine that could cure any type of illness on earth?

Thursday was all about “The other side of the microphone”. The EDsnaps students did their very own first PODCAST! At first, I was nervous about the podcast because I wasn’t sure if I was ready but I reminded myself of the importance of this podcast: It gives the students voices and it’s important that everyone is heard because everyone’s voice does matter, even if it shakes. We each took our turn and everyone did amazing in the podcast. It was definitely a great moment to hear everyone take aways and favorite workshops during the program. After our podcast, we took turns asking Dr. C intense questions to prepare her for her own upcoming podcast. The questions were random and unexpected which means Dr. C will be more than prepared for her podcast interview.

How to save a buck using a down-to-earth financial approach - Happy Friday! Everyone needs to know the importance of financial management whether you are working or not working, in school, or not in school. Why? Because whatever job you pursue in the future, finance will be involved, and learning early-on how to save will also help later in your life/career. On Friday morning we met Ms. Joanne Spears, a financial advisor who taught us about balancing our finances, how to start a bucket list, how good debt helps you to establish good credit history, versus bad debt which incurs high-interest costs and the power of compounding, the process of putting money into an account every week or month and letting it grow into a long term saving. The exciting part! We did an exercise on the tales of two teens Kit’s and Kat’s budget, one teen was saving for long term retirement and the other was saving twice as much in her short term saving. From the exercise, I learned that it’s better to save money and only spend money on things you need and not want because the things you want are temporarily and usually give a few moments of happiness. Therefore just save, save, and save. Why? Because your savings will save you one day.

I definitely don’t want to say my farewell just yet. We have two days left in our 8 week Program, so don’t go anywhere as I will be back next week wrapping up our adventures. E-see you next week!