

## **The STEAM Internship Program for Leaders – Week 4**

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It's Monday 7/13, 10 am EST; welcome back to the fourth week of our EDsnaps STEAM Internship Program for Leaders! This Monday, our Women of Impact visitors were two polar explorers: Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen. Thoraya, one of our students, was responsible for the amazing interview with Liv Arnesen. Liv, who grew up and lives in Norway, stated that her dream of skiing the South Pole started when reading a book from her school library when she was only 9 years old! Imagine how many people's dreams could start with a book if we encouraged reading from a young age? The first time I read a book was when I was in middle school and after reading that first book, I wish I had learned about reading much sooner. One of my favorite take-aways from Liv's story was that if you meet someone or read about something that makes your heartbeat go a little faster or makes the blood run faster in your veins that is something important to you. It doesn't matter if your friends or family don't like it, you just do it. The best way to do this is turn off your phone or just have a walk in the park or forest. Djeneba, another one of our students, interviewed Ann and what I took away from that interview is to not take yourself too seriously and laugh with each other because that will help you remember the joy of what you are doing. Liv and Ann showed us many pictures of the journey and shared many inspiring stories of true friendship.

Tool Tuesday! I've never been a fan of Tuesdays, but after Lisanne van Engelen, the EDsnaps Project Manager, taught us how to use ArcGIS, I am looking forward to every Tuesday. Geographic Information Systems, aka GIS, is used for collecting, managing, and analyzing spatial data. We learned about ArcGIS Storymapping so we could apply it to our story that we will be presenting later on. Lisanne walked us step by step through how to create our own story map and I think by the end of the workshop, everyone was an expert, including me! Before Lisanne's presentation, I would've never actually imagined that I would have been able to learn how to navigate through a story map on my own because online learning is not my type of learning. By taking notes, going through it together, and asking questions about what you don't understand, online learning becomes exciting. I also believe that in order for learning to be fun and exciting, the teacher has to be passionate, patient, and caring and that's how we had such a successful learning day because Lisanne has all those qualities.

Visiting us on Wednesday were Arita Baaijer and Tamara Morgan. Arita is a desert explorer. I've never met someone who explored the desert, therefore I really enjoyed having Arita over and hearing her talk about her experiences. Listening to Arita talk about her decision of quitting her job to start an adventure that she has a deep feeling about was perhaps the most impressive takeaway I got. I feel like many people get those little voices in their heads and they want to follow their hearts so badly, but they are scared about what society, their friends, or their family would think of them and therefore they later end up regretting not taking the chance. Without a doubt, I know for myself, I'd be thinking about this type of move for years before I would make such a life-changing decision. Tamara Morgan from our field trip last Friday to Adaptive Design joined us next. We learned more about Tamara's journey and her

personal life story from her interview with our student Ashley. Throughout the whole interview, I was growing more and more motivated by each word Tamara used; her strength and kindness towards others, herself, and the world is truly remarkable.

You can't spell STEAM without Engineering: On Thursday we welcomed Maria Victoria Diaz, an electrical engineer who builds devices for blind-deaf people to help guide them in life. Amber, one of the research interns at EDsnaps, started us off with her interview with Maria. We learned that engineering is a field dominated by men, but that more women should join engineering because they can be good at skills that men may struggle with. Amber's interview with Maria was more of a friendly conversational tone than a formal interview, which I really admired because it made the atmosphere relaxed. Maria taught us that constantly working hard is what makes your dreams become a reality. My favorite take-away from Maria Victoria was that "you don't have to be the smartest in the class, you just have to work hard toward your goals". The satisfaction of solving a problem is what motivated Maria to start working on adaptive technology. She wanted to create devices for people she feels connected with. Maria showed us a video titled *Feeling Through*, created by Doug Roland. To me, this title means being able to feel or connect through someone. As soon as the movie started, I wanted to know how it was going to end. I was so anxious and so pleased that it was so heartwarming; it's that type of movie that you can't stop watching over and over again because it's so emotional, valuable, and different.

On Friday, we did a workshop with Dr. C! The goal of the workshop was to create one collective poem using the number and letter of the day and the number of the week. The game consisted of 6 numbers, 9 letters, and 1 art project. The name sounds scary, but the game is actually really fun. For the first activity, the counselors and the students paired into 4 groups of 3-4 and then were given 6 numbers by Dr. C with the goal to reach the number of the day applying only the four basic operations - without a calculator! The group who gets the number of the day using those 6 numbers or gets the closest to this number is in the lead! Activity 2 followed the same instructions but now the teams needed to reach the number of the week. When Dr. C mentioned that we shouldn't use calculators, my mind was not happy. I thought my team was going to be last immediately because math is not my strongest subject, even the basics of math. But it's times like this when teamwork pays off because we can help each other in areas we are not strong in. The third activity was working with the letter of the day in our same groups. We had to write down all of the words that we could think of that started with the letter "A" and sort them into groups based on the length of the word. Our last activity for the day was to create a free-style collective poem. This poem had to have a length of 4 lines containing the letters and numbers from activities 1-3, and let's just say the results were amazing. I never thought that poems could be made through numbers, now I can't wait to start writing poems for my next English class! This week marks the 4th week of our program and I can't wait to share with you what we have coming next week! Till then.