



College of the Arts

2025 SUMMER BRIDGE CAREER EXPLORATION WORKSHOP

The program enrolled 23 students, and 21 students completed the workshop. One student had a pre-existing medical situation (foot surgery) that precluded full participation in program activities and withdrew on the third day. Another student had a family emergency and withdrew on the fourth day.

The program employed 6 student ambassadors, 3 translators, and 13 faculty and staff to execute a very robust schedule of activities that involved hands-on workshops on careers, multimedia storytelling, tv/film production, podcasts, and social media stories, trips to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, The Color Factory in New York, and Hinchliffe Stadium for a game in Paterson.

We routinely collect pre- and post-program data to gather feedback and gauge the success of the program as it relates to our short-term and long-term goals.

1. *Success Mindset*

We ask students to list five characteristics that can help them be successful in life, so see if there is a shift in their mindset about life and success in general. New terms, such as resilient, empathetic, patient, focused, and respectful, do appear in the most mentioned terms.



2. *Intent to Attend College*

There was a positive movement towards students' intent to attend college, with more students indicating they either "plan to go to college" or "are considering college" (from 14 to 19,) and all students moving from other options (including "trade school" and "not sure I can afford college").

3. Do I Matter to Others? Creating a Caring Culture

There was a positive upward trend in how many students felt they mattered to others before and after the completion of the program, from 10 students to 18 students. At the completion of the

program only 1 student reported that they did not feel they mattered to others (compared to 5 students at the beginning of the program).

4. Program Activities & What Resonates The Most

(What was your favorite activity of the workshop? Tell us why?)

Operating a camera	I loved learning operating a camera
Color Factory	Outstanding colors; fun in the ball pit
Check out publications in Instagram	We shared ideas about our creations in messages and pictures
Radio Station. I like all activities. TV Studio	I felt safe, it made me feel more confident in myself and I was able to learn to develop myself.
Doing radio and TV show	Some people couldn't listen to us and or family and it was fun to do TV
Learning about cameras and podcasts	I can use what I learned in the future for when I go to college
The trips	I went to new places I never went before and made memories
Being a host or being on the radio	I was with someone I knew so I was comfortable
Filming	Filming videos is good for me to work for celebrating and like moving around with a camera
Working with the cameras	You can see how everything works and BTS
I enjoy everything but my favorite is TV production	Just seeing and feeling it gives you the actual experience
Radio	Because I was able to feel the experience of being able to speak live in front of many people through a screen
TV production	I like it how we can see how it works
The radio show live and the camera working activity	I got to have so much fun being on live with music and being able to work on things just like

	on TV
The camera working and the Radio show	It was something new I've experienced and it was the best thing ever
Video production w/Professor Gantt (behind the camera)	It was fun and interesting
Radio 8 podcasting workshop	Normally I'm really shy to talk but it made me feel confident of myself
Talking to David (the Interviewing (sic))	He's a good person (Enjoyed it)
TV Workshop with Prof. Gantt	Because that's what I want to study in college
Field trip to NY	I was with my friends yapping and having fun
TV Studio	I really liked controlling the camera and be in the control room

5. *Most Valuable Thing(s) You Learned*

It is deeply revealing to see that students come away having gained both a breadth of technical skills, such as operating a camera or creating stories, and essential interpersonal skills, such as collaborating effectively in a team and challenging themselves beyond their comfort zones.

Controlling the camera at the tv studio and in the behind scene
...was about how to do journalism and storytelling
Learn how to speak in the radio, how to interview people and how to control the cameras
The different way of communication
I learned how to talk in the radio, how to take better photos and one to film
Step out (of) your comfort zone
...all the different loans and scholarships
...how much work it takes in order to put something on air/live
In the tv production, we got to see how it works
Knowing how a team works to make a video, whether it's news or interviews
How to get out my comfort zone and make new friends
To be comfortable with the uncomfortable
film making, control room, the Sam's Place food

Sometimes you have to do something you're not comfortable with
...how to work with the cameras
...that I have to be confident when I'm speaking to an audience. I have to be energetic and have a good mood.
...was to be on teamwork and meet new people, and the experience of staying in a college campus was great. I learn from everyone here.
Colors: communication without talking
Teamwork; compassionate; creativity
I learned to be more confident, to express myself, and I learned how to use cameras and interview people.
The best thing I learned was working as a team and giving my opinion (expressing myself) about research projects in class.

6. Overall Experience With The Workshop

The workshop received very positive overall ratings from students. Most students would not change anything about the workshop, with suggestions to make it longer and let them sleep a bit more! Most students provided comments that they loved the program ambassadors.

Outstanding	IIII III	8
Excellent	IIII IIII	9
Very Good	III	3
Satisfactory	I	1
Poor		0

7. Preparation & Planning for the Future

We pose a series of questions to capture the unique value the workshop experience brings to students. The data below is very positive:

- I feel better prepared to start school in the fall because I attended the workshop
- I would recommend the workshop to my friends
- The workshop helped me make some decisions about attending college
- The workshop helped me think about possible career paths

	YES	NO	I'M NOT SURE	(BLANK)	TOTAL
a.	IIII IIIII IIIII III (18)		III (3)		21
b.	IIII IIIII IIIII IIIII (20)		I (1)		21
c.	IIII IIIII IIIII IIIII (20)		I (1)		21
d.	IIII IIIII IIIII III (18)	I (1)	II (2)		21