

Empowering the Future: The Impact of the Career Pathway Exploration Fair on Educational Attainment

The Feb 5

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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose & Description

The purpose of this project was to create and host a career exploration fair to increase educational attainment rates among adolescents aged 13-18 years old in Long Beach at the Ernest S. McBride Teen Center in the 90813 zip code

Social Problem & Focus Population

In 90813, 38.6% of adults over 25 have less than a high school education, more than twice the citywide average of 17.2% in Long Beach (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022a). The Feb 5 felt motivated to address the social challenge of educational attainment amongst the 90813 community by implementing an intervention for adolescents aged 13-18

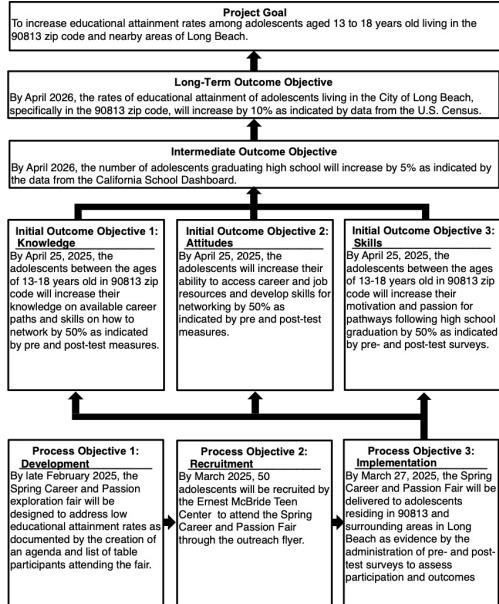
Scope of Social Problem

- Disparities between high school success in different zip codes brought heightened awareness to the issue of educational attainment in the 90813 community. Polytechnic High School (Poly), in 90813, has more BIPOC individuals as compared to Millikan High School, in 90815 (California Department of Education, 2023b)
- Millikan High School had graduation rates that were 8% higher than Poly (California Department of Education, 2023b)
- Schools in 90813 performed significantly lower than those on the Eastside of Long Beach. The community of 90813 faces several challenges that may be attributed to the negative academic performance of students. Crime, neighborhood conditions, economic stress, and a lack of resources are examples of challenges

Alignment to Specialization

This project aligns with child and family well-being as improving educational outcomes for adolescents that directly supports their long-term development and further strengthens family stability and equitable opportunities for future generations

PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES



METHODS

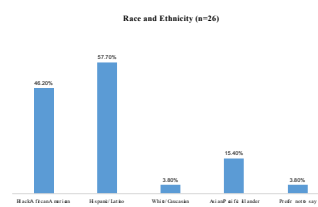
- A mixed-methods evaluation was conducted during the Career Path Exploration Fair through post-test paper surveys curated by The Feb 5
- Purposive sampling strategy was utilized by placing post-test paper surveys with detailed instructions on the top
- Surveys were provided at the fair exit prompting individuals to complete them prior to leaving.
- Responses were manually inputted by into a Google form to compile data and automatically generate a summary of responses
- Both a thematic and descriptive statistic data analysis was used to examine and summarize findings from the 26 post-event surveys completed out of the 50 participants who attended

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics

Table 1. Participant Characteristics (N=26)

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Male	19	73.1
Female	7	26.9
Race/Ethnicity¹ (n=26)		
Black/African American	12	46.2
Hispanic/Latino	15	57.7
White/Caucasian	1	3.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	15.4
Prefer not to say	1	3.8
Age (n=26)		
Mean	16.31	
Std. Dev.	1.59	
Min	12	
Max	19	



2020 American Indian/Alaskan Native, Multi-racial, Middle Eastern/North African, or 1 gender not to say were removed as no data was collected. Non-binary and prefer not to say were also removed, as no data was collected as well.

Quantitative Post-Event Survey Results

Table 2. Post Survey Responses to Outcome Questions on increasing knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards educational attainment (instead of educational attainment should it post-high school opportunities) (N=26)

As a result of today's career fair...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I learned about careers/resources that I did not know before. (n=26)	0% (n=0)	0% (n=0)	11.5% (n=3)	61.5% (n=16)	26.9% (n=7)
2. I understand the steps I need to take to pursue a career I'm interested in. (n=26)	3.8% (n=1)	3.8% (n=1)	19.2% (n=5)	53.8% (n=14)	19.2% (n=5)
3. I feel passionate about the career path I am considering after high school. (n=26)	0% (n=0)	3.8% (n=1)	19.2% (n=5)	30.8% (n=8)	46.1% (n=12)

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Qualitative Data from Post-Event Surveys

Themes	Participant Responses
Career Fair Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Meeting people and what they do" "Learning all the different career options out there" "Talking/Getting info about careers I didn't know" "Cool, free stuff, food" "I liked the energy everyone had and the positivity"
Favorite Table(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "LBCC, Photographer, 911, CSULB Police & internships, Long Job Corps Center, LBCC, Future LB, Officer of Mayor Rex, Hun Health, Parks and Rec, ROTC"
Wishes for future career fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "More jobs/talkative people" "Let more snacks" "More fun activity based booths" "Earlier, closer to when kids get out of school"

The Feb 5 at the Career Path Exploration Fair



Teens engaging with professionals



CONCLUSION

Analysis of Findings

- Results indicated an increase in participants' knowledge on available career pathways and steps needed to pursue a career
- The career fair heightened adolescents' passion for and awareness of different career paths after high school
- Areas of improvement included featuring agencies or individuals currently hiring, incorporating interactive activities at booths, and adjusting the event's start time to better align with school dismissal

Limitations & Improvements

- The surveys may not have fully reflected the range of participant experiences
- The post-event survey was limited to what the participants learned, and it was impossible to determine if participants knowledge, skills, and motivation had improved or if they had similar knowledge beforehand
- One strategy is to include a pre-event survey to gain clearer insight to what specific career pathways the participants are commonly exposed to and/or have knowledge about

Recommendations & Implications

Practice

- Career fairs can boost student motivation and goal-setting by making the connection between academic achievement and career options more tangible
- The Ernest S McBride Teen Center should maintain a partnership with the career representatives of the fair to ensure sustainability and create a network of professionals who can provide support and guidance to the adolescents from the 90813 community

Policy

- The City of Long Beach should begin to bring forward policies to address the systemic inequalities pertaining to BIPOC that live in disadvantaged areas of the city, such as the 90813-zip code, and begin to implement more educational equity policies to bridge the gaps that are found for those adolescents who reside in such areas

Research

- Expand research to explore how career pathway events impact motivation, school engagement, and post-secondary planning among male BIPOC students

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Ernest S. McBride Teen Center

Mission: To provide personal, social and recreational programs to teens in a safe and positive environment that will enhance personal and social skills, teach responsibility and leadership, and promote individual self-esteem

Name of Collaborator

Daveth, Yoak

Community Services Supervisor

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Daveth.Yoak@longbeach.gov

Contributions

- Assisted with the implementation of the fair by reaching out to his professional contacts to partake in the fair
- Provided a space for the career fair to take place, as well as tables, chairs, and decorative balloons
- Contributed to the success of the fair by providing the team with guidance and knowledge regarding adolescent needs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Ernest S. McBride Teen Center's staff for their time and support throughout this project. We would also like to thank Daveth Yoak, supervisor at the Teen Center, for his willingness to help us fulfill our project goals and for his selflessness in supporting both CSULB and the community. We are also extremely grateful to the donors of our GoFundMe page, and all the community agencies and representatives that were willing to take time out of their schedules to make this fair possible. Lastly, we would like to give a huge thanks to the adolescents who participated in the fair, who, despite the event being after school, attended with a positive attitude and were willing to ask questions and learn. We would not have been able to have a successful fair without this support. A heartfelt thank you to all!

RESOURCES

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Educational Attainment. *American Community Survey, ACS 5 Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1501*
<https://data.census.gov/tables?q=-90813%20s1501>