

Class Projects

JR. Leadership

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Our project, in a nutshell, is to identify and develop the strengths of the students in the Simon Youth Academy. Our group identified four areas that would help the transition into adulthood. One of them being helping them identify strengths that they may not have known about by using the StrengthsFinder evaluation that we all took at the beginning of our journey here at LSC. Some of the students were surprised by their outcomes, some not. Others did not initially complete the assessment but decided after our discussion on this topic that there is value in knowing your strengths. We even discussed how to develop strengths that were not identified during the evaluation. We also discussed with them that these strengths may grow or even change as they develop themselves in the future.

The next bucket, if you will, was discussing adulting responsibilities--mainly budgeting and making good money decisions. On this day we dove into a mock budget to help them understand how to successfully manage the money they are making to meet their needs. We also discussed wants and the difference between wants and needs. During this day we discuss goals and how to make sure that they are setting SMART goals. We also discussed interviewing and resume writing. We had the Ryobi HR generalist come in and speak about successful interviewing and making sure their resumes highlight their strengths and are written in a way to get them noticed.

The third day consisted of a discussion surrounding the labor market and how they can obtain careers both with a college degree and without. We had a panel of local businesses to come in and speak to how you can start a career right out of high school. The main goal for this day was to give them resources and knowledge that will allow them the opportunity to succeed without thinking they must go to college if that is not an option for them

The last day will surround the option to pursue further education. Ivy Tech will be a big part of this day. While some of these students may not pursue secondary education, they have options that allow them to train for a career without the crushing weight of huge college debt. We will be discussing with them the opportunity for scholarships, grants etc.

Each day we have utilized ice breakers which have certainly been the highlight of each day thus far. As stated earlier, this project has not only been fun but extremely fulfilling. We know that it is not possible to reach each one of these students on every level, but it is our hope that after this program we have given them at least something to think about. We believe that if we have helped one of these students be more successful, this project has been a success.

