

The “So What” Learning Series: Lessons on Leadership Pilot Program  
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ABSTRACT

Community involvement and leadership skills aimed at our youth are paramount in our local communities. The purpose of this project was to create a pilot summer leadership series aimed at teenagers (12-18 years old) within the cities of Aurora and Denver, Colorado. Our main aim as a pilot series was to determine our youth's needs and find ways to implement a curriculum that was easy to understand, age-appropriate, creates a sense of purpose and self-efficacy, and is overall beneficial for the individuals who took the course. The initial program was a once-a-week course that lasted for four weeks. Pre- & post surveys were given at each session to gauge the student's perspectives on the leadership lessons and see the areas we need to improve on as we work towards a complete curriculum. An analysis of the program's impact was measured by the feedback provided by the students and evaluated in three categories (1) Feasibility and Program Satisfaction, (2) Program Effectiveness in meeting Learning Objectives and (3) Implementation Barriers. Overall, the feedback that we have received indicates that community involvement and leadership skills aimed at our youth is a gap that needs to be bridged in their curriculums and a necessity in our local communities.