



2014 CCE Summer Internships

CATEGORY ARCHIVES: BUILDING A COMMUNITY LEGACY TOGETHER PROGRAM EVALUATION

CCE: BCLT Masrai Williams Week 6-8

Posted on **July 31, 2014** by **Masrai Williams**

Week 6-8: Data, Data, and more Data!

Hi guys,

I know it's been a while, but I felt like it would make a lot of sense to report on these three weeks in one blog. After collecting data from the Bronx and Orange county I have been doing a lot of data entry, database building, and follow-up process evaluations on the phone. The data entry has been pretty straight-forward, but it became particularly interesting as I learned how to code on SPSS. Being able to generate syntax definitely streamlines the process and makes data entry and eventually data analysis more efficient. What would normally take me three hours to manually do could take thirty minutes with the proper syntax. That's powerful!

The process evaluations consist of me calling up the youth and elders from the Bronx and Orange county that participated in the Building a Community Legacy Together program to get a sense of how the program went for them. We want to really know how we could improve the program to make it easier to accommodate into their schedules, to allow them to learn a lot from the program, and to make it an over all positive experience for them. So far I have been able to meet speak with all but 5 of the participants and everyone seems to have had a very positive experience with the program. It's really amazing to hear that there is a lot of learning, understanding, and dispelling of stereotypes for both the youth and the elders.

I have completed all of the data entry to date and will be waiting on the data from Genesee county to come in before I continue on this task. The process evaluations will hopefully be completed before I travel to Genesee county for their presentation. As I reflect on the past two months I'm moved by just how much I've completed and learned with Mrs. Schultz and Dr. Pillemer. Working with them on this project has helped me to gain a better understanding of the powerful effects of translating research findings into community programs. I can see myself applying a

translational research perspective in my future as I work towards pursuing a graduate degree.

In the next few weeks I will continue to work on the process evaluations as well as transcribing more of the interviews that we've received and that I've conducted. I will most likely combine those weeks into one blog as well. I can't wait to go to the Genesee county presentation!

Posted in **Building a Community Legacy Together Program Evaluation, Uncategorized**

CCE: BCLT Masrai William's week 4 and 5

Posted on **July 31, 2014** by **Masrai Williams**

Week 4 and 5: The Big Apple, Speeches, and Middletown NY!

These past two weeks were very busy and exciting for me. I traveled to the Bronx and Orange county to conduct interviews. I had to drive from Ithaca to Middletown New York which was about a three hour drive. It was the longest distance I've ever driven, the next longest being half an hour, but I was able to do it and I grew so much from that experience. I believe I can drive anywhere and I can't wait to drive up to Genesee county in August. I will talk about both experiences separately.

Bronx Summary:

The BCLT Presentation for Dewitt Clinton High School, which was hosted at St. Patrick's Home for the Aged and Infirm at 10:30AM on June 23rd, 2014, went very well. The youth met with Mr. Hill at Dewitt Clinton High at 9am to go over the course of events for the day. I enjoyed getting to meet the students ahead of time because it allowed me to make that initial connection that made interviewing them in the group interview much easier.



Mr. Hill ordered a lunch for all of us so I had the opportunity to get to know the youth a bit better before interviewing them. The interview went pretty well and they each seemed to focus on different aspects of the program. It was a pretty short interview, but it felt like they gave me as a lot of insight into how their experience with the program went. I collected secondary contact information and their availability to help make the follow-up phone interviews more efficient in the event that their primary numbers weren't reachable.

After the presentation the youth stayed to speak with their elders for a bit and I went to speak with Mrs. Kibassa to organize my interviews with the elders on at St. Patrick's for June 24th and June 25th If needed. We decided that I

would come in for 9am on that Tuesday to try to complete as many interviews as possible and I would complete the rest the next day is necessary. Her staff was very accommodating and thoughtful as they helped me to find and interview all but one of the elders that Tuesday. They found me a translator to help me with the final interview that was done in Spanish on June 25th at 9am. Interestingly enough I interviewed an elder who showed signs of MCI and Dementia that affected her ability to accurately express her experience with the BCLT program.



Bronx Presentation



Orange County Summary:

The presentation hosted at the Cornell Cooperative Extensions location in Middletown, NY, at 10:30am on June 27th 2014, went very well. I was able to get there early enough to see the students rehearsing for the upcoming presentation. The presentation was very organized, catered, and had at least fifty people present. The youth did an amazing job of capturing, and discussing the essence of their interviews. They nailed it. I was pretty nervous, but I went up to the podium to give my word of thanks and called the students up to shake their hand and to award them with the certificates. The students, staff, and crowd really appreciated this gesture.

I met with the students afterwards to interview them about the BCLT program. They took the time necessary to formulate responses and gave me wonderful insight into how the program went for them. Mrs. Sussman also asked a great follow-up question as well. The only problem that arose at the presentation was that the staff wasn't sure if the parents were allowed to record the presentation or not. We all eventually agreed to play it safe and requested that the parents wouldn't record the presentation and once they received confirmation that it was okay they would send the parents the CCE recorded version

Transportation:

Overall the Campus to Campus to the Bronx as well as driving the Cornell Fleet Car to Orange county were very good experiences. I really grew from having to drive three hours to and from Orange county and realized that with enough preparation anything is possible.

This was definitely the highlight of my summer to be able to meet with many of the participants whose stories I listened to and transcribed in the past few weeks. I can't wait to go to Genesee county in August!

Posted in [Building a Community Legacy Together Program Evaluation](#)

CCE: Masrai William's Week 2 and 3: BCLT Project

Posted on **July 31, 2014** by **Masrai Williams**

Week 2 and 3: Data Entry, Conference Calls, and Interview Transcriptions.

Hi guys,

These past two weeks went by so quickly that I can hardly believe how much work I got done in that time! These two weeks were filled with a lot of data entry, a conference calls, and transcribing interviews from our Bronx and Orange county locations. The data entry was great because I was able to continue to use the skills that I've gained from my research experience in Dr. Brainerd's lab. Being able to create my own database in SPSS is a powerful skill that will definitely serve me well in the future!

It was a great opportunity to sit in on the conference calls because they helped me to gain a better understanding on the long-range implications and effects of our project. I was also able to continue to refine my professional conversation skills as well. Transcribing the Bronx and Orange county interviews was definitely a powerful experience for me. I listened to many of the life wisdoms that the elders bestowed on the youth interviewing them. A lot of what they said really resonated with me and reaffirmed that education truly is the vehicle to both freedom and success. I feel like I can already start to apply these life lessons in my own life and I hope that I will begin to reflect more on what I've learned from these interviews.

I also started practicing the interviewing questions that I will need to task the youth and elders at our Bronx and Orange county locations in the upcoming week. It's amazing to see how useful my counseling experience is fitting in with this internship this summer. All in all it was another fun and enriching week as a CCE intern on the BCLT project.

See you guys next week!

Posted in [Building a Community Legacy Together Program Evaluation, Uncategorized](#)

CCE: BCLT Masrai William's Week 1

Posted on **July 31, 2014** by **Masrai Williams**

Week 1: Nature Trails, Orientation, and SPSS

Hi guys,

I can't believe that the first week of my summer internship working with Dr. Karl Pillemer and Mrs. Leslie Schultz on the Building A Community Legacy Together program (BCLT) has already ended.

The internship is housed in BeeBee Hall, which allows me to take the beginning part of the nature trail to get to work every day. It's amazing that I get to incorporate a hike into my daily routine because it gives me the a chance to enjoy this wonderful summer weather. The orientation was a lot of fun because the staff at BeeBee Hall were very friendly, inviting, and helpful. I feel like there's a strong sense of community here and they're welcoming me in with open arms.



— Dr. Karl Pillemer

I have had the wonderful opportunity to work along side Mrs. Schultz to start to learn the ropes and expectations for the summer. My tasks for the summer will include data collection (by actually driving to the Bronx, Orange County, and Genesee County to conduct interviews), data entry, transcribing interviews, and hopefully data analysis! This is truly a wonderful opportunity for me to translate some of my skills I've learned in Dr. Brainerd's lab into a project that directly benefits a community. I also had the great pleasure of being present for conference calls, which allowed me to understand what goes on behind the scenes that allow programs like these to run smoothly.

I was also familiarized with my two main tools for the summer: my handy recorder and SPSS.

ExampleData001.sav [DataSet1] - PASW Statistics Data Editor

	Name	Type	Width	Decimals	Label	Values	Missing	Columns	Align
1	ID	Numeric	8	0	Participant IDen.	None	None	0	Right
2	Sex	Numeric	8	0	Gender (1, Female)	None	None	0	Right
3	Age	Numeric	8	0	Age	None	None	0	Right
4	Ethnicity	Numeric	8	0	Ethnicity (1, European American)	None	None	0	Right
5	Cl_Std	Numeric	8	0	Class Standing (1, Freshman)	None	None	0	Right
6	Fam_Income	Numeric	8	0	Family Income (1, 0 to 15,000)	None	None	0	Right
7	Candy	Numeric	8	0	Candy Consumed (1, Skittles)	None	None	0	Right
8	Stimul	Numeric	8	0	Stimuli Presented (1, Printed)	None	None	0	Right
9	Distraction	Numeric	8	0	Distraction (1, No Distraction)	None	None	0	Right
10	Recall1	Numeric	8	2	Recalled (Time1)	None	None	0	Right
11	Recall2	Numeric	8	2	Recalled (Time2)	None	None	0	Right
12	Skittles	Numeric	8	2	Du	None	None	0	Right
13	Printed	Numeric	8	2	Du	None	None	0	Right
14	Spoken	Numeric	8	2	Du	None	None	0	Right
15	CellPhone	Numeric	8	2	Du	None	None	0	Right
16	Lightbulb	Numeric	8	2	Du	None	None	0	Right
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Value Labels

Value Labels

Value:

Label:

1 = "Freshman"
 2 = "Sophomore"
 3 = "Junior"
 4 = "Senior"
 5 = "Graduate"

OK Cancel Help

I will use SPSS to build databases and for analysis. Mrs. Schultz taught me many interesting uses of SPSS, especially in analysis.

It was a great first week and I'm excited to see what this summer brings!

Posted in **Building a Community Legacy Together Program Evaluation**