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Idaho 4-H STAC positively impacts college and career readiness

AT A GLANCE

Youth who attend the Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention (STAC) have greater tendencies to put thought into decisions about future career and college plans.

The Situation

Only 45 percent of Idaho high school graduates go on to post-secondary school, according to the Idaho State Board of Education. Because of this, there is a need to address career and college readiness in youth. STAC fills this gap. Over 180 teens from across the state attended STAC this past year. STAC is held on the University of Idaho campus during the last part of June every year. "The Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention is an opportunity for youth to experience college life, explore career opportunities and prepare for a lifetime of success with other Idaho teens." With this mission, University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development needed to know that they were meeting the needs of the youth and preparing the teens of Idaho for the future.

Our Response

Throughout the four days of the convention in 2019, youth (delegates) participated in activities geared towards career development and decisions about college or post-secondary education. This year STAC offered youth a wide variety of activities including career tours, keynote speakers, campus tours and multiple workshops. Youth attended workshops on college scholarships, probiotics, resumes and interviews,



Delegates from the 2019 Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention. Photo credit: Carrie Johnson.

architecture; first aid; leadership development; library maker lab; exploration of dance; exploring college majors and careers; ROTC; apparel, textiles and design; and more. Career tours included Gritman Medical Center, downtown locally owned businesses, Pape Machinery, Latah County Courthouse, Inland Broadcast Radio, Interstate Aviation, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and WSU Veterinary School. The purpose of engaging youth in these activities during STAC was to help them gain knowledge and skills that will enable them to make more informed decisions about college and career choices.

Program Outcomes

At the 2019 STAC, over 180 delegates attended, with the highest percentage (32 percent) of participants

being age 15. The delegates represented all four districts in the state. There were 96 first-time delegates participating in 2019. There were also 54 delegates participating from the Build Your Future Program. The Build Your Future Program is designed to reach underserved Idaho youth who are not currently involved in 4-H with college and career readiness education.

We used the 4-H Common Measures 2.0 to examine the impact of STAC participation on future planning. As shown in Figure 1 below, most delegates reported that STAC had helped them develop and make informed decisions about college aspirations.

In addition, as shown in Figure 2, most delegates reported that their participation in STAC helped them

develop and make informed decisions about career possibilities.

Further, we found half (50 percent) of the delegates were considering attending the University of Idaho after high school.

The Future

Given the successes of the 2019 STAC meetings, we plan to continue to provide an emphasis on college and career readiness. Moreover, we will work with the teen planning group to identify other topics and workshops that will help them in their futures. For instance, should we add information on college application and/or activities to research colleges?

Figure 1. Impact of STAC Participation on Student Decision Making for College and Career

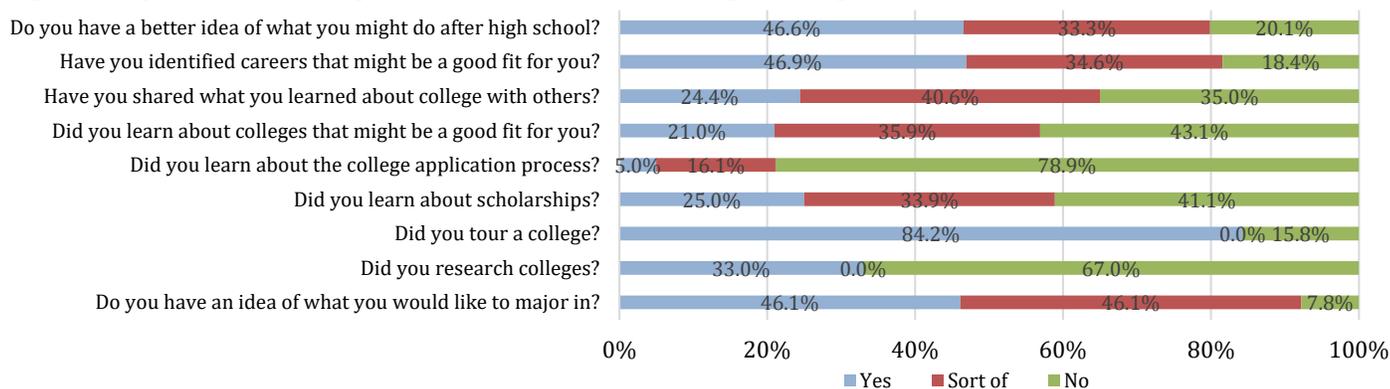
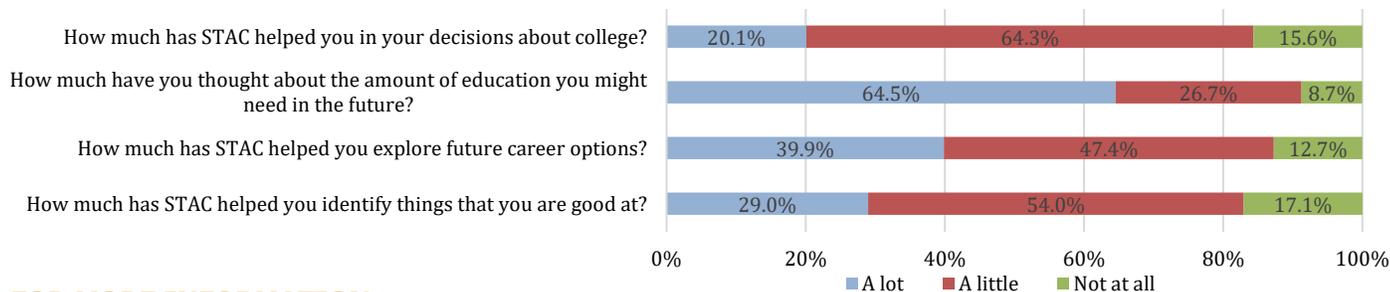


Figure 2. Influence of STAC Participation on Student Future Planning



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49-19-ndalton-stac • 11/19