

## **Impact Report Burbank & Greater East Valley**



BATTLEBOTS OCTOBER 22, 2022

#### Overview

The KOLLAB YOUTH Workforce and Career Development Program was created for high school students ages 14-19. The program aims to help students to discover their unique strengths, interests, and aspirations and to build the skills they need for success in school, career, and beyond. Among other life-changing opportunities, the KOLLAB YOUTH program offers mentorship, field trips, internships, scholarships, and master classes led by industry leaders. KOLLAB YOUTH master class presenters and the KOLLAB YOUTH Advisory Board have curated a dynamic curriculum to support the development of soft, essential, and technical skills that are transferable and lead to lifelong success.

In response to community demand, KOLLAB YOUTH Workforce is expanding its offerings to include an elementary and middle school pilot program. The goal of the middle school program is to facilitate career exploration for underserved youth with a focus on business, STEM, and other emerging 21st century careers that are predicted to be high growth and high wage jobs.

On October 22, 2022, the Burbank and Greater East Valley Boys and Girls Club launched its first offering of the Elementary and Middle School Program with the BattleBots Experience. Centered on creating meaningful engagement for elementary and middle school youth, the program was designed with the following goals in mind:

Goal 1: Provide an Engaging STEM Experience

**Goal 2:** Increase Exposure to STEM Careers

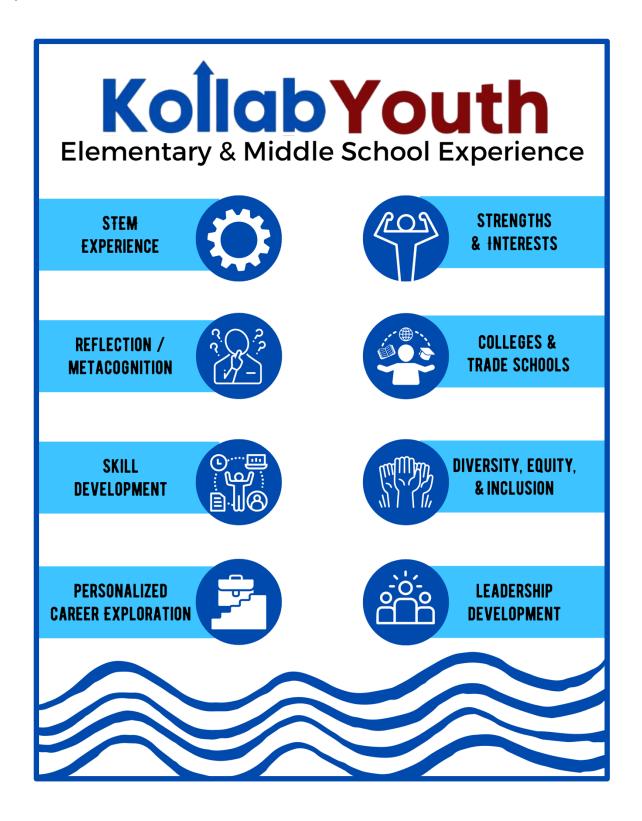
Goal 3: Connect Personal Strengths to Career

Goal 4: Develop Future-Proof Skills

This report details the progress made towards program goals and impacts of the Experience.

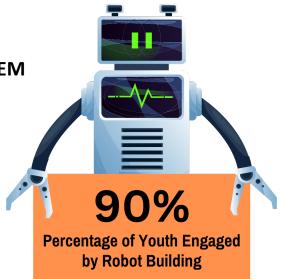
KOLLAB YOUTH drives economic opportunity for the most vulnerable youth—setting them on the path for success in college or trade school, the workplace, and life. The high school program

has proven its value in critical preparation of youth for future jobs and in serving as a catalyst for a successful launch towards their future. Expanding the program to elementary and middle school aged youth allows the program to increase its impact by exponentially increasing the number of Youth served. It also serves as the opportunity to connect Youth with their immense potential and the intentional efforts that will allow them to achieve their dreams.



**GOAL 1: Provide an Engaging Experience in STEM** 

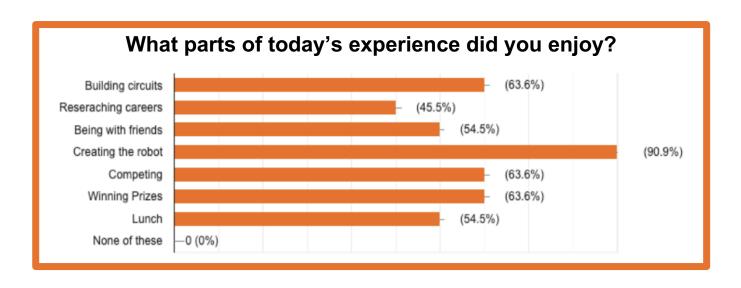
According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers earn 82% more than their non-STEM career counterparts. STEM fields have a projected growth rate of 10% - 30% over the next ten years. Given the high demand and high wage opportunities that exist in STEM, it is essential that Youth are given the opportunity to explore career connections in STEM areas.



Providing opportunities that allow Youth to utilize their strengths and skills while participating in various STEM activities allows them to make authentic personal connections to potential future pathways. The Elementary and Middle School Pilot Program launched with an engaging STEM experience: BattleBots.

In the experience, Youth created a human circuit to develop understanding of how electricity travels. This direct, shared, common experience laid the foundation for exploring various methods for constructing a robot that could achieve the desired results. Addressing the question: What is a robot? allowed Youth to expand their understanding of robotics across the professional international community. Ultimately, Youth designed and built a robot whose task was to outperform the robots of other collaborating groups.

After establishing their abilities in qualifying round, robots competed in head-to-head competition through a bracketed tournament to uncover the ultimate robot design. At the conclusion of the day, Youth responded to the survey question: What parts of today's experience did you enjoy? An astounding 90.9% responded that they enjoyed building the robot. Of all the days' activities, the least popular was researching careers, and even that caught the interest of nearly 50% of Youth.





Burbank & Greater East Valley Boys & Girls Clubs

**GRADES 6-8** 

300 E Angeleno Ave, Burbank, CA 91502

Saturday, October 22, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Includes Breakfast & Lunch

To Register, Email:

schaparro@kollabyouth.org

Kollab Youth

- Creative Design & Innovation
- Robot Building & Tournament
- Prizes Including Gift Cards!
- Personalized Career Pathways



CAREER EXPLORATION

Science Technology Engineering Math

#### Watch This!

Youth worked collaboratively with a partner to create the ultimate BattleBot. Robots needed to meet constraints, survive the qualifying round, and outperform the bots of other teams in an interactive battle. The energy and excitement were palatable.



#### **GOAL 2: Increase Exposure to STEM Careers**

At the conclusion of the STEM activity, Youth decompressed their experience and reflected on the skill areas where they excelled. These unique task skill sets were translated into points of interest for further career exploration.

Prior to the start of the experience, Youth were asked how many STEM careers they could name. After completing the career exploration exercises, the same question was asked of youth.

An analysis of the data revealed:



Prior to the BattleBots Experience, 57.9% of Youth could only name 0-2 STEM Careers



After the BattleBots Experience, 81.8% of Youth could name 3 or more STEM Careers

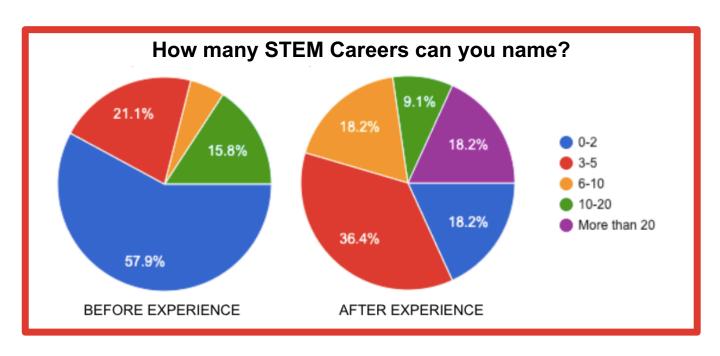


Prior to the BattleBots Experience, 0% of Youth could name 20+ STEM Careers



After the BattleBots Experience, 18.2% of Youth could name 20+ STEM Careers

Increasing exposure of the various careers that exist within different industries helps Youth to apply their interest to future career pathways while building understanding about the strengths and skills that are critical to different types of work.



Youth explored Career Cards that described key tasks of an occupation, desirable strengths, and job growth potential. From there, Youth researched one or more careers that matched with their personal profile. In-depth information was found on large scale posters around the workspace. To meet the needs of diverse learners and learning abilities, collections of on-the-job and day-in-the life videos sorted by industry sector were provided. Due to time constraints, Youth were asked to focus on one or two Career Cards. Many of the Youth spent a significant amount of time reviewing and reflecting on Career Cards before making a careful choice. One Youth requested a set of Career Cards to take home. Although the cards were meant for reuse in future experiences, the Youth's enthusiasm warranted ownership of a set.







#### **GOAL 3: Connect Personal Strengths to Careers**

Fostering authentic personal connections to careers begins with allowing Youth to discover their own strengths. As Youth decompressed their day

An analysis of the data revealed:



Prior to the BattleBots Experience, **42.1%** of Youth indicated they were not sure how their strengths and skills match with a career.



After the BattleBots Experience, **81.8%** of Youth indicated they knew of at least a few careers that match with their strengths and skills.

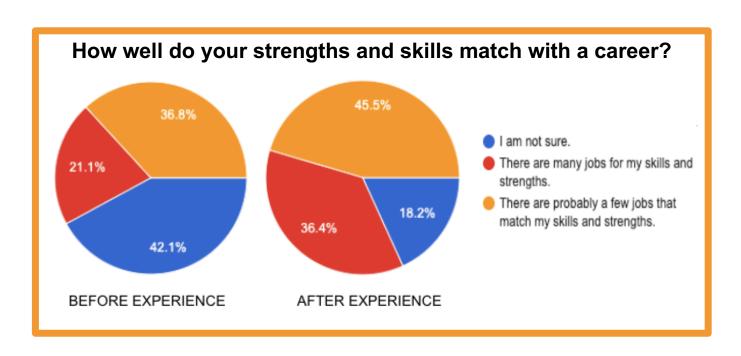


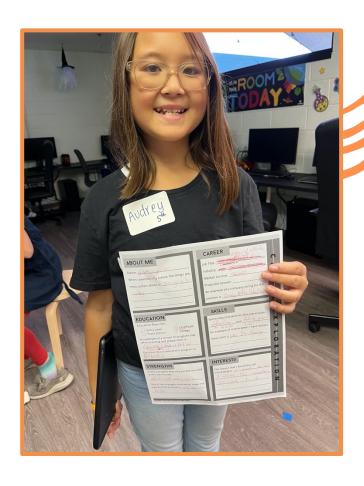
Prior to the BattleBots Experience, **21.1%** of Youth indicated they knew of many careers that match with their strengths and skills.



After the BattleBots Experience, **36.4%** of Youth indicated they knew of many careers that match with their strengths and skills.

Understanding one's individual strengths and skill sets establishes the self-awareness required to make authentic connections and informed decisions about future careers. In this experience, Youth participated in an activity that engaged unique strengths, skills, and interests. Youth walked through exercises that helped them translate these strengths and skills into tasks done in various work roles in industries of personal interest. Discovering that the exact thing you are good at is vitally necessary is a powerful element in unlocking a pathway to future work. The more Youth experience these connections, the more viable a sustainable pathway becomes.







The process in which Youth aspire to career requires a path of self-discovery. Each KOLLAB Youth Elementary and Middle School Experience has been designed to engage students in a STEM experience that highlights their individual strengths and skill sets. Youth led through exercises that help them determine how their strengths, skills, and interests appear in different work scenarios. In this way, Youth make authentic personal connections to career. This provides context and deeper meaning to the research portion of the experience day.

# What did Youth take away from this experience?

I will walk away with a new knowledge of engineering. This might not be much, but it is a lot for me because I am looking forward for engineering

I am wondering what other jobs I could do. I could be a different type of engineer.

### What else would you like to learn to do? Engineering a car.

Because I love creating with my imagination because it just gives me less stress doing something creative.

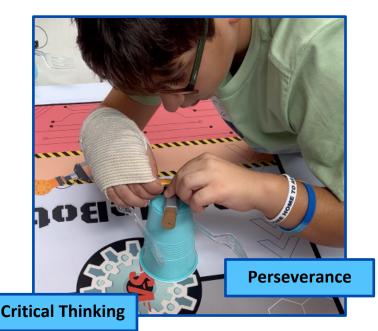
Now I want to learn how to make something even bigger than what I made today. Maybe even incorporate other parts or how to make a robot that can tell me when my mom is coming.

### **GOAL 4: Increase Exposure to STEM Careers**

Each step in the activity was designed to reinforce the development of essential soft skills. In today's rapidly evolving workforce, the critical factor leading to long term career success is mastery of 21st Century employability and life skills. The ability for young people to transfer these critical skills regardless of the environment demonstrates the flexibility and agility that is necessary to meet the demands of an ever-changing work landscape.

In the BattleBots activity, Youth built and practiced skills that reinforced their successful outcomes. Youth then analyzed their aptitude for certain skills and researched how they related to specific careers of their interest.











#### Conclusion

Since its inception, the KOLLAB YOUTH program has achieved many successful outcomes. Youth have been empowered to design their future through mentoring, skill building, and tangible experiences. As the program expands to serve Elementary and Middle School Youth, larger data sample sizes increase the ability to form deep correlative relationships between KOLLAB YOUTH activities, experiences, career exposure, and the inspiration they serve to provide as students define their own path to the future.

For more details about the KOLLAB YOUTH Workforce Development Program or to join the efforts in this amazing work, please contact:

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