



summercollab



20  
22

**SUMMERCOLLAB**

**YEARBOOK**





## **SummerCollab Friends, Partners and Supporters,**

Last year we asked you to join us as we created programs and environments where children could thrive on curiosity, grow through exploration, and tap into the power of their own voice. We worked to help students and partners discover a world of unlimited possibilities where learning happens with intention and joy. We challenged students, staff and partners to find YOUR magic while joining us in our efforts to accelerate learning across all aspects of our work.

In 2022, we welcomed cause-driven leaders to our team and realigned all of our programs as we relaunched a full summer of in-person programming. We rolled out our 2022-2025 strategic plan and worked diligently to tackle projects that will strengthen our work for years to come. We've continued to evolve and enhance our programs to meet the needs of our students, partners and communities. As you see throughout this report, the intentionally planned activities are driving gains in reading and social emotional learning across all of our programs.

Your continued commitment and support allowed us to move beyond the pandemic and meet the increased learning needs for kids throughout Delaware. While the pandemic only widened already established learning gaps, it also challenged us to envision new ways we can address systematic educational inequities. In 2023, we hope to enhance our year-round work by expanding some of our summer work to the school year and through new offerings that provide students with increased opportunities to try new activities, make their own choices, pursue their interests and continue to grow in academic and social emotional indicators.

As we look forward, we ask you to engage and connect with us in this work. We ask each of you to think about what you might do to advance our work and help reduce learning gaps for our students. Like all non-profits we need help with everything from donations, to program and event planning to thought partners. This is my 2023 challenge for each of you. How will you help students experience transformational learning that makes them excited to learn and grow? I look forward to engaging with each of you on this question as we intentionally work to reduce systemic educational inequities and advance new learning environments for our students.

Sincerely,

Kristina Woznicki  
Chief Executive Officer



# ABOUT SUMMER COLLAB



The Summer Learning Collaborative (“SummerCollab”) is a nationally-recognized organization that transforms educational outcomes for low-income children. By equipping community-based institutions and schools with curricular, academic, and organizational resources, we facilitate the execution of extraordinary summer learning programs. We employ and train top teachers, professionals, high school and college students to help them do it. In 2017, SummerCollab received the National Summer Learning Association’s Excellence Award for our innovative and impactful approach to making summer smarter.

Through our alliances with community partners, cultural institutions, and schools, we engage Delaware’s highest need youth in dynamic, effective learning that meet precise literacy deficits, grow critical thinking skills, and deepen sense of self. With your help, Delaware’s highest need youth will explore, learn and grow during the summertime.





# MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

## **Our Vision:**

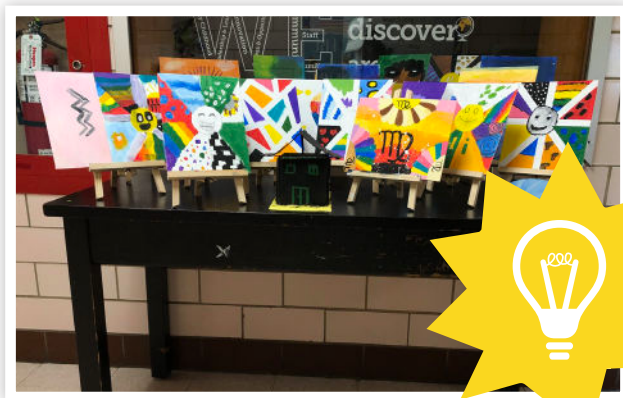
We envision a world filled with imaginative, confident, young people who believe in their unique talents, intelligence, and unlimited possibility.

## **Our Mission:**

We co-create youth programs that energize kids to love learning, play wildly, and believe in the power of their unique talents.

## **Our Values:**

- We are passionate, collaborative, and curious explorers.
- We strive to be vulnerable, persistent, and inclusive learners.
- We cultivate self-worth, self-discovery, and meaningful human connection.



# WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

Research shows that more time for learning is essential to catch students up and accelerate learning. **Summer learning** and **high-dosage** tutoring have emerged as two of the top K-12 funding priorities nationwide based on their impact on social, emotional, and academic success. **SummerCollab's programs meet both priorities.**

The unmet need is high...

Delaware families want smart, accessible out-of-school time programs.

- 75% of parents say that it is important to them that a **summer experience** helps keep their child from losing academic ground
- 97% of parents report that opportunities to **build life skills** was important in selecting their child's structured summer experience
- 97% of parents report that programs offering a **variety of activities** was important in selecting their child's structured summer experience
- 91% of parents support **public funding** for summer learning opportunities

**28,281 Delaware children (25%) are not in a summer program would be enrolled if a program were available to them.**

According to the CDC, **educational access and quality has health impacts** too. "Children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and children who routinely experience forms of social discrimination — like bullying — are more likely to struggle with math and reading. They're also less likely to graduate from high school or go to college. This means they're less likely to get safe, high-paying jobs and more likely to have health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and depression."



## 2022 PARTNERS

- ★ 4-H Claymont
- ★ 4-H Milford
- ★ AmeriCorps
- ★ Community Education Building
- ★ Delaware Afterschool Network
- ★ Colonial School District
- ★ Delaware Youth Leadership Network
- ★ Drama Kids
- ★ Freire Charter School Wilmington
- ★ H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club
- ★ Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center
- ★ Jobs for Delaware Graduates
- ★ Knollwood Community Center
- ★ Latin American Community Center
- ★ Neighborhood House (Southbridge)
- ★ New Castle Boys and Girls Club
- ★ PAL- Eisenberg
- ★ PAL - Garfield Park
- ★ PASS Educators
- ★ Reed's Refuge
- ★ Rodney Street Tennis Association
- ★ Salesianum
- ★ State of Delaware - Department of Education
- ★ State of Delaware - Governor's Office
- ★ Strive: How You Lead Matters
- ★ Traveling Treehouse-Philadelphia
- ★ United Way
- ★ Winners
- ★ YWCA





# SUMMER LITCORPS READING BUDDIES



Summer Literacy Corps provides 1:1 reading sessions to rising 1st-5th graders at their regularly scheduled camp site. Students meet with their Reading Buddy (Summer Literacy Corps Members) for 30 minutes a day, 4 days a week, for 6 weeks. The program helps students strengthen skills in reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, phonics, and phonemic/phonological awareness through a diverse set of high quality, grade appropriate picture books.

This summer, 17 incredible Summer Literacy Corps Members provided 1:1 reading acceleration to 163 elementary students. Our elementary students, and Corps Members diligently worked together by joining one another at their prospective summer camps from our partner sites- The Latin American Community Center, Hilltop Lutheran Center, Southbridge Neighborhood House, and Rodney Street Tennis Association. Our in-person model allowed us to have our Literacy Corps Members serve students in communities that had limited access to literacy and reading of diverse backgrounds.

While our Corps Members had access to a virtual learning hub where they would access the first 2 weeks of lesson plans, all of our sessions were held in-person. Corps Members were on site at camps to provide literacy instruction to our scholars.

Through the support and coaching of our seasoned Literacy Coaches, Literacy Corps Members provided targeted instruction to build up foundational skills while getting a head start on the skills needed for their next school year which supported the increase of background knowledge for our scholars. Each lesson focused on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary acquisition, fluency, and comprehension strategies. Our exciting curriculum took students through a reading journey across Space, Under the Sea, into the worlds of Music, Cooking, Sports, and Poetry- even writing and performing their original poems! Students saw themselves and their communities reflected in the diverse literature; paired with the excitement and mentorship of our Corps Members, students were ready to return to school feeling confident, capable, and excited to read!





# SUMMER LITCORPS DATA

**163**

**# of kids**

**65%**

Average daily program attendance

**65%**

kids who reversed summer learning loss

**54%**

kids who increased their reading level

**54%**

kids who saw gains of 3 months or more

**27%**

1-5 kids who saw gains of 1 year or more

## Reading levels increased between 1 to 1.5 grade levels

**93%**

students who enjoyed reading at the end of the program

**60%**

students who enjoyed reading books on their own at the end of the program

**46%**

students who enjoyed reading at school at the end of the program

**60%**

students who enjoyed reading with others at the end of the program

**55%**

students who felt they were "a good reader" at the end of the program

**47%**

students preferred fantasy books

**23%**

students who preferred nonfiction books

**30%**

students who preferred realistic fiction books

## Summer LitCorps Parent Quote



“Thank you for offering this program, this is our third session of Reading Buddies and my kids love it!”

***2022 Summer LitCorps Parent***

## Summer LitCorps Staff Quote



“This was my first year with SummerCollab and honestly it was one of the best decisions I made this summer. Being at LACC was special for me because I was working with children who are from the same area I grew up in. Seeing them warm up and improve their reading skills and enthusiasm over the past month was a sight to behold and made me not only proud of the kids, but proud of my city because I know the future is bright for it.”

***2022 Summer LitCorps Member/Reading Buddy***



“It means a lot to me that I get to connect with a bunch of different kids, each special in their own way. And while I’m hoping to leave an impression on them, they are also making a big impression on me, with their constant kindness and willingness to learn.”

***2022 Summer LitCorps Member/  
Reading Buddy***



“I loved being part of SummerCollab program this year. I learned a lot about how to work with kids and mainly how to teach others. Teaching is an important skill to have and I am grateful to have had the opportunity I did this summer to work on it. The kids were lovely to work with and brought their positive attitudes and willingness to work with me. Summer Collab really has changed my life for the better. “

***Ashley Schnyder, 2022 Summer LitCorps  
Member/Reading Buddy***

## Summer LitCorps Scholar Quote



“I love reading with Ms. Megan, she was so fun and made me love reading.”

***2022 Summer LitCorps Scholar***



## TYLER'S CAMP

Tyler's Camps are SummerCollab's 1st-8th grade summer learning programs, which welcome students from diverse backgrounds and interests to engage in exploratory and educational programming. At Tyler's Camp, we execute inspiring, confidence-building experiences that fuel student motivation and success during the academic school year.

Tyler's Camp was founded as a place where student choice, voice and self direction are priority. Kids are defined by their interests and each one has their own unique sense of curiosity.

- Kids explore their passions, curiosities, and interests, whether it means painting, sculpting, music, performing in a play, dance or athletics
- SummerLabs feature STEM-centered programs that bring hands-on experiences with 21st Century Skills and technologies to campers

The summer of 2022 allowed us to expand our camps to include campers as young as 1st grade. We were able to continue with fully in-person programming through our ongoing relationship with Colonial School District. Programs were run at three locations:

- Eisenberg Elementary (4th-5th grade)
- William Penn High (1st-5th grade)
- George Read Middle (6th-8th grade)

The Tyler's Camp staff team provided an exciting summer experience for 205 campers this year. Literacy and social emotional learning were woven in their daily enrichment activities that included art, photography/videography, athletics, STEM, dance, cooking, and music. Allowing campers to choose the activities that excited them the most is truly what made this summer special. As Tyler's Camp looks to future summers, we are preparing to embrace camper choice by expanding their options and implementing a "Try It Out" Day where all campers can experience their options before making their choice.



# TYLER'S CAMP DATA



**205**

**# of kids**

**72%**

Average daily program attendance

**44%**

kids who reversed summer learning loss

**33%**

kids who increased their reading level

**23%**

kids who saw gains of 3 months or more

**6%**

kids who saw gains of 1 year or more

**Reading levels increased between .1 to 1.8 grade levels**

**89%**

campers who reported they made a new friend at Tyler's Camp

**65%**

% of campers who showed improvement in their growth mindset indicators

**77%**

campers who showed growth in at least one social-emotional competency area

**92%**

campers who engaged in at least 10 hours of SEL activities

**87%**

campers who reported that their Tyler's Camp experience made them want to learn more about a new passion.

**93%**

campers who reported that their Tyler's Camp experience will make them a better student this school year.

**100%**

responding parents who would recommend Tyler's Camp to a friend or family member

**95%**

responding parents who felt Tyler's Camp was an enriching experience for their camper

**95%**

responding parents who felt their camper enjoyed the Tyler's Camp activities

**88%**

responding parents who felt Tyler's Camp Staff Members were good role models

**88%**

responding parents who said that Tyler's Camp Staff Members encouraged their campers to try new things

**Cooking was the most loved/most popular activity offered**

## Tyler's Camp Parent Quotes



"Great camp. It was well organized. Thanks for giving my kids a great experience!"

**2022 Tyler's Camp Parent**



"Well organized and helpful, friendly staff. My girl LOVED every day of it."

**2022 Tyler's Camp Parent**



"I think it is a great experience for the kids and they get to try something new."

**2022 Tyler's Camp Parent**

## Tyler's Camp Staff Quotes



"I had a really great experience this summer! This was my first ever job so I was super nervous going into it. All of my bosses and supervisors were very easy to go to and always helped the best they could with making me feel confident and comfortable. I also had many great co-workers that were super helpful and supportive. I made many great bonds with the kids and now use the knowledge and experience I gained this summer to further myself in my teaching career. I hope to have the opportunity to come back again next year!"

**Laina Fontello, 2022 Tyler's Camp Counselor & Governor's Fellow**



"I enjoyed being a camp counselor at Tyler's Camp. Usually, with certain jobs, you get tired of going or get in a "UGHH" mood before you go to work, but I was always excited to go to work. My site director also made the job as smooth as possible for us"

**Ka'Lissa Simmons, 2022 Tyler's Camp Counselor**



"My favorite memory of the summer was the end of the summer Showcase. It was the accumulation of much preparation and work from staff and students. Seeing the faces of all those involved made all the work worth it and personally satisfying as a new leader."

**Zachary Watchilla, 2022 Tyler's Camp Site Director**

## Tyler's Camp Camper Quotes



"My favorite activity would probably be drama and video. I love that class. In drama and video, we made our own movie. We got to do all of the filming and discuss what the movie would be about and then edit it. At the end of camp, during the big showcase, we got to show the movie. It was pretty cool."

**Brielle, 2022 Tyler's Camp Participant**



"My favorite activity this summer was cooking because outside of camp I never really got to do cooking before."

**Jaheim, 2022 Tyler's Camp Participant**



# COMMUNITY MENTOR NETWORK

Community Mentor Network (CMN) is a coordinated strategy that provides year-round targeted 1:1 social-emotional learning and mentoring support for students in first through eighth grade who have experienced unprecedented learning and socio-emotional loss due to Covid.

During the 2021-2022 school year, mentor-tutors met with their mentees in-person or virtual with one of our six community partner sites. Youth and mentors both grew as they worked through character development skills and concepts such as growth mindset development, responsible decision making, relationship skills, social and self-awareness. Academic tutoring was also incorporated as mentors provided homework help and read books with their mentees. The literacy lessons are designed to capture student interest and are tailored to individual reading levels.

The mentor-tutor team grew considerably once we shifted toward the summer as college students headed home to Delaware and schoolteachers looked for meaningful ways to share their expertise and passion for youth development. Community Mentor Network partnered with six summer camps throughout the state of Delaware to provide mentoring services to an additional 174 youth. Mentors met with their mentees for one hour throughout the camp day and created an engaging and empowering safe space, ripe for learning. During this time, students developed much needed social and emotional skills to aid in their transition for the following school year.

At the close of the summer, 80 campers registered to continue receiving the supportive work of CMN mentors for the upcoming school year. While many college level mentor-tutors returned to their out-of-state campuses, they have continued working virtually with the students they bonded with over the summer. The invaluable impact of mentorship has been felt and word has spread to friends, family, and neighbors as caregivers continue to register their children to be paired with mentor-tutors from Community Mentor Network.





# COMMUNITY MENTOR NETWORK DATA

**244**

# of kids

**72%**

Average daily program attendance

**41%**

kids who reversed summer learning loss

**31%**

kids who increased their reading level

**26%**

kids who saw gains of 3 months or more

**10%**

% of kids who saw gains of 1 year or more

**Reading levels increased between .1 to 1.5 grade levels**

**76%**

students who showed growth in at least one social-emotional competency

**39%**

students who showed growth in at least two social-emotional competencies

**53%**

students who grew in at least two social-emotional competencies and/or increase their reading level

**60%**

students who grew in Self-Awareness

**44%**

students who grew in Self-Management

**60%**

students who grew in Relationship Skills

**61%**

students who grew in Social Awareness

**59%**

students who grew in Responsible Decision Making

## Community Mentor Network Parent Quotes



“My child looks forward to meeting with her mentor every time. It’s great seeing her excited and happy.”

**2022 Community Mentor Network Parent**



“My son has a good level of maturity and is great academically but to see him become more responsible, self aware and to hear him talk about what he values, his goals and to come home and make a goal board is priceless. He loves meeting in person and looks forward to going. I have never had to rush him to get ready to leave out for a mentor session. He beats me to the door!”

**2022 Community Mentor Network Parent**

## Community Mentor Network Staff Quotes



“My first thought upon reflecting on my summer as a mentor for SummerCollab is: wow I am so blessed. It was amazing to be able to connect so deeply to a few of the youth. My first mentee offered up so much of herself during sessions that we were able to dig so deep into her identity. I loved how well I got to know her and I was also able to give her pieces of myself. I’ve absolutely seen her grow greatly over the summer as an individual. She’s learned the importance of communication and has become so articulate when expressing her feelings with those around her. I couldn’t be more proud and thankful for this experience.”

**2022 Mentor-Tutor**



“This was a wonderful experience working with young students as a mentor. The wonderful thing is not just the social/emotional growth made by the mentees, but also for the growth I’ve personally experienced. Infinite love, joy and gratitude for this experience.”

**2022 Mentor-Tutor**

## Community Mentor Network Mentee Quotes



“My mentor helps me grow by teaching me different things and to always think positive.”

**Gizzelle, 2022 Mentee**



“With my mentor, I have a chance to talk about how I’m feeling and what I did that day.”

**Amira, 2022 Mentee**



# COLLAB CONSULTING & CAPACITY BUILDING



SummerCollab helps community centers and partners execute Out-of-School Time programs serving low-income youth by offering comprehensive training opportunities for front-line out-of-school time staff. Our vendors offer a variety of staff development packages that meet the diverse priorities of our partners. We work with each partner to design and run a program that meets their needs. Partners have the option to select additional support services that will meet local requirements and manage the completion of obtaining their qualifications.

During the summer of 2022, we had the opportunity to partner with United Way and the Governor's office through the Governor's Fellows Program. During this partnership, 39 high school students were trained in topics that included a variety of games and camp songs, the importance of summer camp, exploring their "why" and vision, being a professional role model, growth mindset, camp staff expectations, positive behavior management, self-care, developmentally appropriate practice, and best practices for safety/supervision. Once camp counselors were trained, they returned to their respective camps across all counties in the state of Delaware to engage in paid positions as Day Camp Counselors. This allowed programs to expand their capacity for low-income youth.





# CONSULTING AND CAPACITY BUILDING DATA

**100%**

**27% increase from pre-training**

participants who left training with a thorough understanding of what it means to be a Governor's Fellow

**22%**

participants who left training with a better understanding of what it means to be a professional role model

**27%**

participants who left training with a greater understanding of youth development milestones

**100%**

participants who ended training feeling confident in their ability to manage camper behaviors

**100%**

participants who ended training feeling confident that they had the skills to keep campers safe and engaged

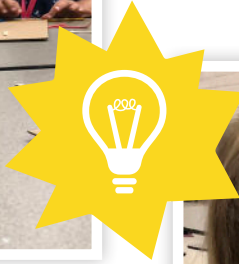


# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INFO

SummerCollab's transformational work in the community is only possible through our talented, committed, and passionate workforce. Each year, we employ and train hundreds of local community members, from high school students to veteran teachers, all of whom are essential to fulfilling our mission.

Our workforce development aims to place into work and upskill community members at varying levels of professional experience. In our network, they take on roles that will enhance summer programming at partner agencies and our own programs with the potential to unleash positive outcomes for kids. This entails targeted recruitment through schools and civic organizations, and precise training on both specific content areas and general best practices.

We specifically recruit a young workforce from the same community we serve. This has the dual purpose of key professional development for an underserved population, and provides our children with role models to whom they can relate. We also prioritize engagement with rising school leaders, who gain critical administrative experience and a deeper connection with their kids/community. Through our current programming, those in the community are given a multitude of options in which they can join the SummerCollab team while positively impacting youth. Whether you have a passion for working in small groups with youth on social emotional or literacy activities or a desire to care for larger groups of campers as they explore new learning opportunities.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DATA

139

Team Members

**4,362**

hours of training

**25%**

of team members were Delaware High School Students

**30%**

of team members were currently pursuing a college degree

**15%**

of team members were Delaware certified teachers





# LOOKING FORWARD



Though our past programming has focused primarily on summer, we know that in order to truly make an impact on a child, and our community, we must extend our reach. As such, our current growth plans are centered on deepening our partnerships with schools and community-based agencies in order to form an ecosystem where school, after-school, home, and summer camp are working cohesively to meet our kids' needs.

### **2023 Goals:**

- Serve 500 youth through Tyler's Camps.
- Provide LitCorps Reading Buddies to 450 kids throughout Delaware in conjunction with community partners.
- Connect 200 youth with near-peer and community based mentors with a focus on social emotional learning and academic acceleration.
- Learning opportunities to all out-of-school time spaces.
- Extend collaborative program/consulting services to the tri-state area to share our learning and magnify our impact.

# OUR FUNDERS





# OUR BOARD

Jessica Baum  
Russ Brown  
Antonio Buddington  
Catherine Lindroth  
Anthuan Maybank  
Matthew Peterson  
Dounya Ramadan  
Ananya Singh  
Andrea Valentine

# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Shanice Orji  
Jen Reid  
Anthony Strickland  
Kara Swain  
Kristina Woznicki



