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## Exploring Best Practices in UMSL's Collaborative Laboratory Internship and Mentoring Blueprint (CLIMB) Program

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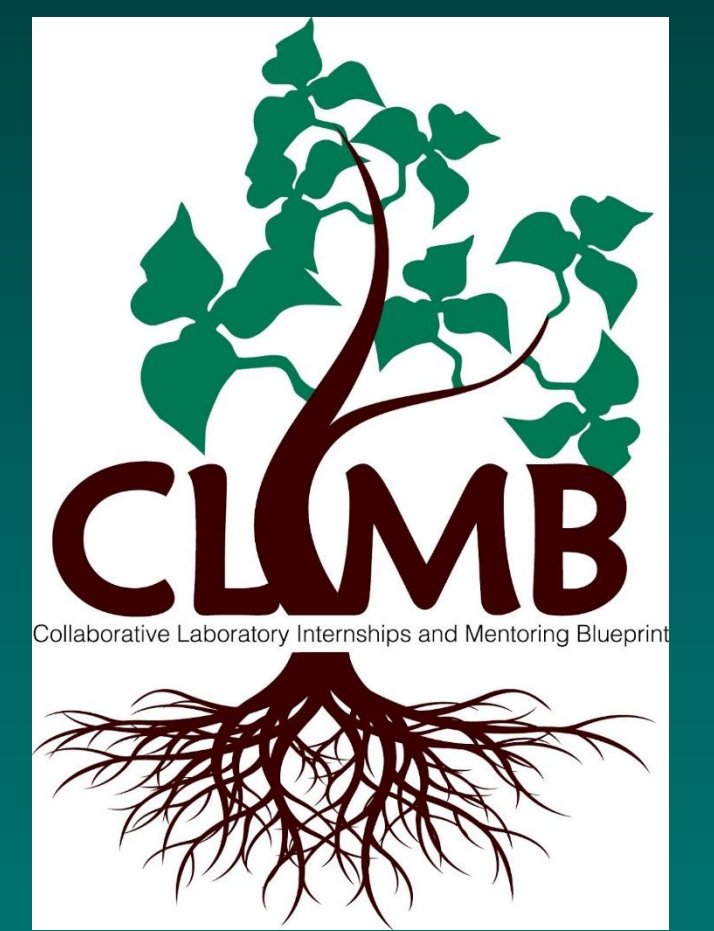
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# Exploring Best Practices in UMSL's Collaborative Laboratory Internship and Mentoring Blueprint (CLIMB) Program



## Introduction

The Collaborative Laboratory Internships and Mentoring Blueprint (CLIMB) was inspired by the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the Jennings School District's desire to address the opportunity gap among minority students in the St. Louis region. Since its inception in 2015, CLIMB has expanded to meet the needs of local students to reduce the opportunity gap facing disadvantaged local school districts.

## Methods

This mixed methods study was conducted using a questionnaire followed by a semi-structured interview issued to Jennings High School CLIMB alums to investigate:

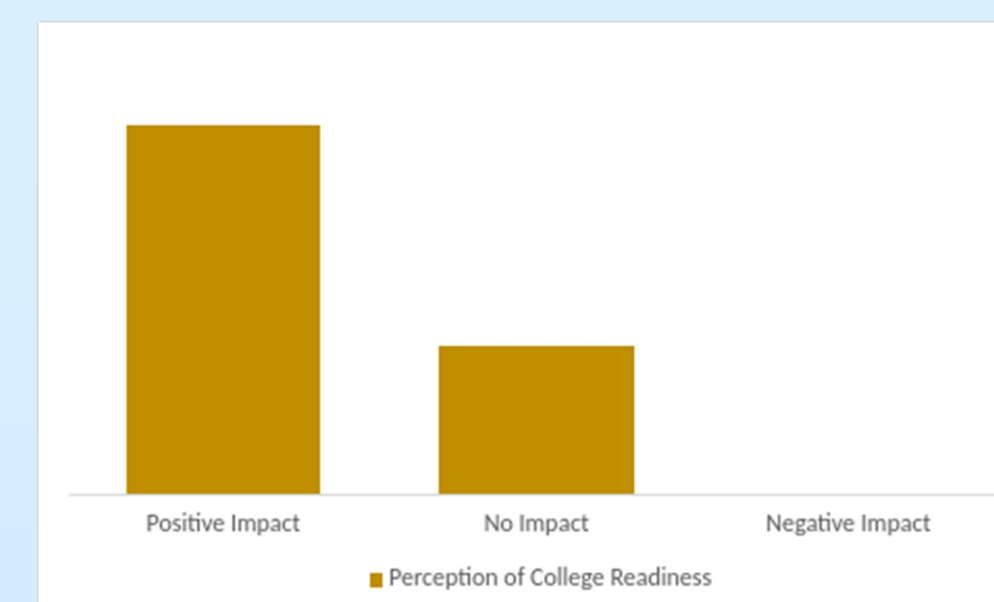
- CLIMB's impact on perception of college readiness
- CLIMB's impact on intended career paths
- Most impactful aspects of CLIMB's program



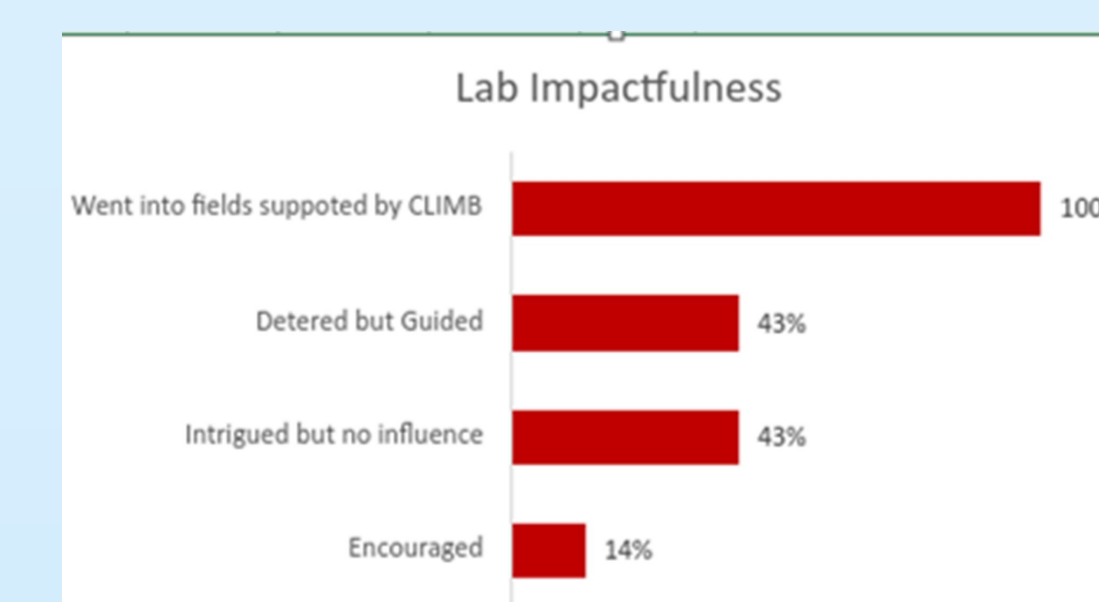
**Figure 1:** August Jennewein, 2019. Chain reaction. Retrieved from UMSL Daily. UMSL biology PhD student Andrea Trigueros (right), Jennings Senior High School students (from left) Morgan Stith, and Dakota Warren in Professor Patricia Parker's laboratory in Stadler Hall.

## Results

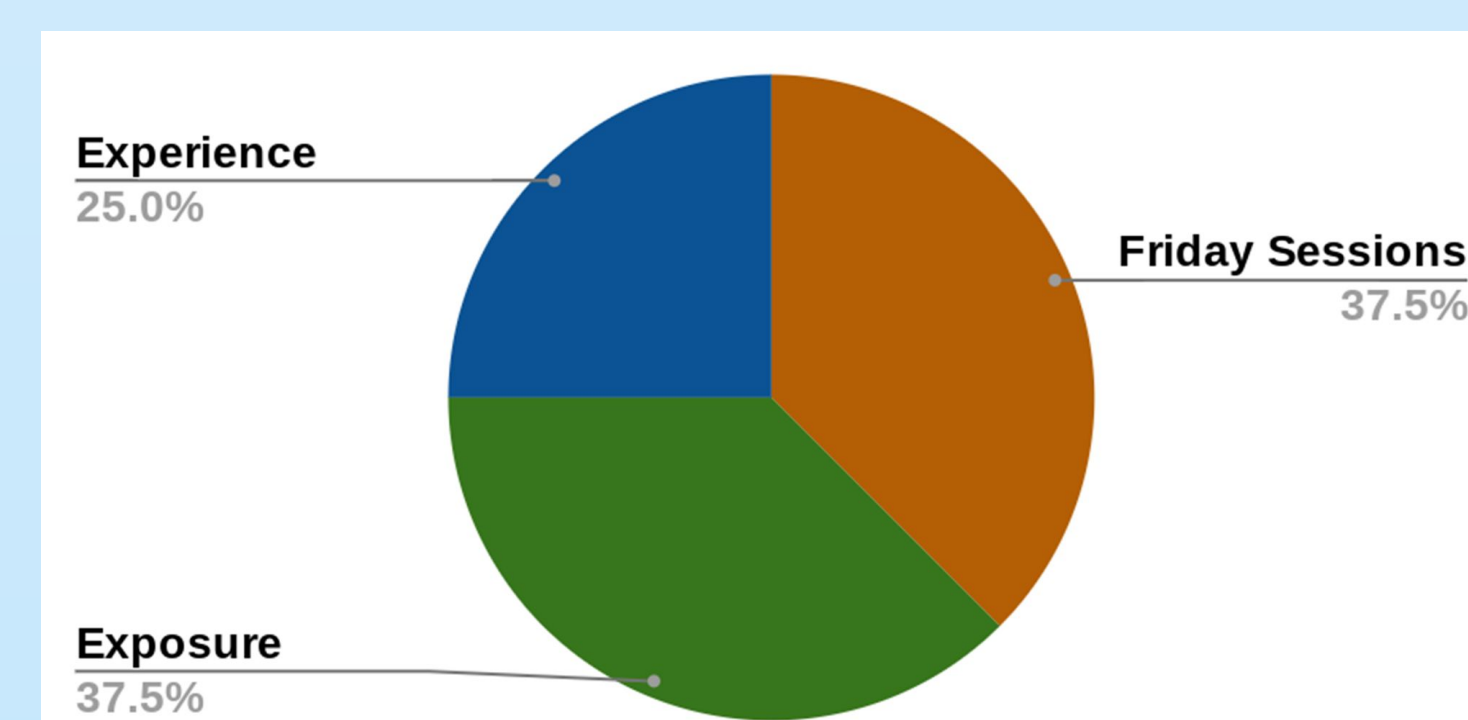
Experience with CLIMB resulted in a positive impact on students' perception of their college readiness.



Experience in students' assigned labs positively impacted students, even if students were disinterested in the lab's research focus.



CLIMB's Friday sessions were beneficial to students, but the exposure and experience of the program were the most impactful.



## Discussion

Our results demonstrate the usefulness positive impact of the CLIMB program. CLIMB's Friday sessions, which includes resume building, public speaking, and interview skills, help students to succeed in whatever path they choose. The exposure and experience provided by the CLIMB internship serves as a bridge to familiarize high school students with college experience and culture.

Although CLIMB graduates were not encouraged to change their original career plans, 100% of CLIMB graduates have majored in one of the fields supported by the program. With further research, the impact of new models and a larger sample size could be studied.

## References

Jennewein A. (2019.) Chain Reaction. [Image]. Retrieved from UMSLDaily.com

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Dr. Patricia Parker and all of the other leaders for developing CLIMB and supporting this project.