Executive Summary

The Belding Community Youth Food Collaborative is a student-led, 12-week youth empowerment and market-based program for high school aged students. Student leaders applied to the program and were hired into the Leadership Team in early summer. Our five leaders took charge of 6 garden plots at the local community garden, and used them to gain horticultural and leadership skills over the course of the summer. The Leadership Team also utilized the Teen Market Garden curriculum to create a business plan for the produce and herbs grown. They brainstormed personas, and strategized ways to market their products to a variety of customers. Additionally, student leaders took part in a variety of healthy living seminars, ranging from yoga practice to cooking classes. All curriculum and seminar speaker decisions were voted on by the Leadership Team, as were all gardening decisions.

Summary of key impacts/outcomes

Youth measurably increase knowledge of organic agricultural and culinary practices
- Increase in food knowledge
  - Diversity of foods available
  - Harvesting and growing techniques especially for:
    - Heirloom tomatoes
    - Habanero peppers
    - Green beans
    - Sweet peas
    - Strawberries
    - Marigolds
    - Herbs: basil, sage, rosemary, lavender
- Food preparation knowledge
  - Garden vegetables
  - Red meat and chicken

Sustained or increased program activity
- Creation of market garden plan
• Creation of personas
• Garden club takeover

Youth from diverse backgrounds complete and benefit from the program
• Increase in healthy living
• Learned how to work with community stakeholders

Youth sustain learning and leadership outcomes long term

Key stakeholders/partners

Michael Ostrander        Belding High School Principal
Christina Dombrowski    Belding High School AP Environmental Science teacher
Tara VanWagoner          Owner of Con Apetit and guest speaker
Val Dawdy                Owner of Val Dawdy Fitness and guest speaker
Tim Flynn                Chef and guest speaker

Amount requested in additional funding

No additional funding is requested.

Brief project goals

• Youth empowerment
• Horticultural knowledge
• Leadership skills

Describe progress towards milestones as laid out in project timeline

The project proceeded on schedule with a slightly later than planned starting date. All proposed program activities were completed in the scheduled timeline.

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Achievements

One of the primary achievements of the BCYFC was the community connections built among the community and the University. Connections to the school, the community garden, the garden club, teachers, and the various workshop presenters were all forged and bolstered over the course of the program. Another important component of the program's success was the students' exposure to a wide variety of food stewards, including cooking enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and farmers in their community. Students were exposed to new ideas and developed increased interest in those ideas. Finally, a component of the program we did not measure but which we feel was highly important was the reinforcement of body positivity, mindfulness, and strengthened social connections among the students, who were all young women in high school.

Outputs

In spite of a late start on planting, the garden was productive and the students were able to gain experience with a variety of fruits and vegetables. At the time the program wrapped up, the group had harvested about 2 pounds of tomatoes with many more green on the vine; several pounds of a variety of herbs; almost a pound of habanero peppers with more that will be harvested soon; strawberries, beans, and potatoes.

Outcomes & Impacts

In our grant proposal we committed to the four following outcomes:

1. Youth measurably increase agricultural and culinary knowledge.
2. Sustained or increased program activity.
3. Youth from diverse backgrounds complete and benefit from the program.
4. Youth sustain learning and leadership outcomes long-term.
The program was successful on each of these outcome metrics. As measured by a pre- and post-program test, students increased their agricultural and culinary knowledge. Specifically, the test showed a 19% increase in knowledge of pollinators, and students demonstrated a 20% increase in knowledge of recipes using whole vegetables. Knowledge of proper composting procedures stayed constant from a 100% knowledge rate at the beginning of the program. Students also had an increased capacity to recognize common garden plants from a picture.

With regard to sustaining program activity, the key community partners made plans to integrate the Belding Community Youth Food Collaborative into fall projects. The school’s garden club decided to take over responsibility for the garden, with the BCYFC student coordinators taking the lead on the project during the fall. This demonstrates the leadership outcomes students experienced. Additionally, all of the workshop presenters and community partners expressed willingness and enthusiasm for continuing the BCYFC program next year. Students were making plans for integrating entrepreneurship and strategic planning skills into the 2018 iteration of the garden.

In terms of satisfaction, all students stated that they would recommend the program to a friend. Furthermore, students stated that the program had significantly impacted their lives in positive ways. Some student comments included:

"I expanded my love and knowledge of gardening."

"I learned so much about gardening and I made new friends. I loved it!"

"I actually know how to garden and compost now."

All of these measures encourage optimism that the program will have a long-term impact on the students and the community. Impacts on the students’ leadership skills are implicated in
their commitment to lead fall activities in the garden, and impacts on the community are implicated in key stakeholders’ plans to support future iterations of the project. True long-term outcomes and project impact will be measured in a three-month follow-up survey of key stakeholders.

Remaining Project Plan

The final steps of the project are to perform a three month post-program survey to measure long-term leadership and learning outcomes and to wrap up the financial component of the program. Reimbursements for program leads and the student stipends have not yet been paid due to fiduciary process challenges. Funds for the continuation of the project are not requested.
Aaron Mininger

CONTACT INFORMATION
email: mininger@umich.edu
phone: (734) 707-8570
address: 121 College Place #2
         Ypsilanti, MI 48197

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Artificial Intelligence, Interactive Task Learning, Cognitive Robotics, Interactive Agents, Cognitive Architectures

EDUCATION
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI USA
Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering (in progress)
Expected Graduation – spring of 2018

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI USA
M.S.E., Computer Science and Engineering
2011-2013

Grove City College, Grove City, PA USA
B.S., Computer Science
2007-2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI USA
Graduate Student Instructor
EECS 592: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
Fall 2016

Grove City College, Grove City, PA USA
ACM Tutor, offering free computer science help
2010-2011

PUBLICATIONS


Breana Ostrander

510 N. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
ostrabre@umich.edu
(616) 894-2440

Education

Master of Social Work Candidate
University of Michigan
Social Policy & Evaluation
Expected December 2017
GPA: 4.0/4.0

Bachelor of Sociology & English Literature
University of Michigan
August 2013

Relevant Experience

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Project Director
Belding, MI
May 2017 - present

- Founded a youth leadership and horticultural program for high school students
- Developed and administered program through all phases: program development, hiring, program implementation, and program evaluation
- Hired and supervised five (5) student leaders through 150 + hours in the garden, producing 100 + square feet of produce
- Implemented youth empowerment and market models while adhering to target timelines

Community Technical Assistance Collaborative
Community Evaluator
Ann Arbor, MI
May 2017 - present

- Provided evaluative consultation services to community and nation-wide organizations looking to build capacity and address gaps in services
- Created logic models, evaluation reports, and scopes of work
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Depression Center, Military Support Programs and Networks
Research and Evaluation Intern
Ann Arbor, MI
January 2017 - present

- Coded, analyzed, and transcribed key informant interviews in NVivo and Microsoft Excel as part of a strengths-based assessment
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- Assessed, trained, and directed upwards of 1500 volunteers per month, advancing the Food Bank’s ability to send out over one million pounds of food per week

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Fair Labor Committee
Founding Member
May 2017 – present

University of Michigan
School of Social Work Student Union
Student Representative
December 2016 - present

University of Michigan
Project Community
Peer Facilitator
January 2012 – May 2013

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May 2017

Dean’s Honor List

Ginsberg Center Service Cord
May 2013

Certifications

Trauma-Based CBT
July 2017

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March 2017
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May 2018

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Milwaukee, WI
May 2015

Sarah Lawrence College
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Bronxville, NY
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- Spent month leading up to the Data Dive collecting data sets and preparing presentation pitch given at the event

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- Catalogued historical blueprints for Milwaukee Road Map Project in Microsoft Access database

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Officer - Society of American Archivists – University of Michigan Student Chapter; Ann Arbor, MI – 2017-2018

Skills

Languages: Familiarity with Python, SQL, HTML, CSS
Standards: MARC, DACs, EAD, MODS, METS, and XML
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Shelby Andersen-Holt | 4798 Washtenaw Avenue | Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108 | (308) 708-9327 | shelbyah@umich.edu

Education

University of Michigan | Master of Social Work Candidate | Projected - Dec 2017 | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Concentration in Social Policy & Evaluation in Community & Social Systems | Community-Based Initiative in Detroit Scholar | Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00 | Global Independent Study | Community Evaluation of Clean Water for the World’s Water Purification Intervention in Guatemala | May 2017 | Quiche, Guatemala

University of Nebraska at Omaha | Bachelor of Arts, International Studies | May 2014 | Omaha, Nebraska
Middle Eastern Studies, International Nonprofit Management & Leadership | Minor in Islamic Studies | Magna Cum Laude | Cumulative GPA: 3.76/4.00 | Study Abroad | Ataturk University | Jul 2013 | Erzurum, Turkey

Skills & Certificates

SPSS | R | Microsoft Office | Publisher | Evaluation, Reporting, & Data Visualization | Research | Bookkeeping | Person-Centered Planning | Community Engagement | Organizational and Program Development | Program for Education and Evaluation in Responsible Research and Scholarship (PEERRS) Certificate in Human Subjects & Behavioral Sciences | Trainings Facilitation | Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Certificate

Relevant Professional Experience

The Children’s Center | General Behavioral Health Evaluation Intern | Jun 2017 - Present | Detroit, Michigan
Collect, analyze, and report on evaluation metrics for two evidence-based behavioral health interventions | Integrating Early Childhood Behavioral Health departmental data into organization-wide reporting processes | Performing a validity analysis on a certifying exam in infant mental health

Community Technical Assistance Collaborative | Research Assistant | Jan 2017 - Present | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Led the collection of 750+ surveys of seniors in 5 languages, the results of which will help determine the expenditure of $13 M of county funding | Managed a team of 16 survey administrators including hiring, training, and budget management | Evaluation planning and logic modeling with a national food access organization

Managed ten evaluation and capacity-building projects | Researched and wrote for grants, analyzed and reported on quantitative and qualitative evaluation data, and managed client relations

No More Empty Pots | Community Development Manager | Aug 2015 - Aug 2016 | Omaha, Nebraska
Managed all interns and volunteers | Tripled the number of participants in a Food Insecurity & Nutrition Incentive grant-funded program | Raised and managed over $10,000 in program grants for the development of a community garden | Advocated for policy changes to promote food security, presenting to a state congressman and meeting with congressional legislative assistants
Leadership & Community Engagement

Founding member of the Committee on Fair Labor in Social Work | First author on a student research publication | Student PI on a $5,000 grant-funded community project | Volunteer garden manager of a community garden | Lead on a team of 16 administrators and translators in a county-wide survey of seniors | Generated resources for the development of a community-based DUI program | Created a board member engagement plan and other development materials for a small social service organization

Grants & Publications

Geriatric Learning Community Research Grant | May 2017 - Nov 2017 | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Funding for the research proposal Constructing Vulnerability: Living Alone, Social Isolation, & Quality of Life

DOW Sustainability Seed Grant Student PI | May 2017 - Sep 2017 | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Develop and implement the Belding Community Youth Food Collaborative project

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant | Sep 2014 - Jun 2015 | Kayseri, Turkey
Primary Speaking & Listening teacher of first year University students

Other Professional Experience

Critical Intersectionality Learning Community | Research Assistant | May 2017 - Present | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Archive and disseminate critical intersectionality learning resources for school and community use

University of Michigan America Reads | Tutor Training Facilitator | Oct 2016 - Present | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Develop and facilitate 3-5 competency-based trainings per month for tutors working with America Reads

Community Action Network | Food Program Assistant | Sep 2016 - Jan 2017 | Ann Arbor, Michigan
Managed food distributions with over 100 clients, coordinating volunteers and healthy cooking demonstrations

Heartland Family Service | Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate | Jul 2015 - Jan 2016 | Omaha, Nebraska
Advocated for 8 refugee youth involved in probation and diversion alongside a team of professionals | Managed client cases and provided home and school visitations and in-home support

Trainings & Professional Development

Medicaid billing and recipient rights training | Multicultural Sex Education, Therapy, & Treatment | Social Work in Rural Settings | American Evaluation Association Summer Institute | University of Michigan School of Social Work Networking at National Institutes of Health | Michigan Association of Evaluators 22nd Annual Conference | Entering, Engaging & Exiting Communities training | Advocating for LGBTQ+ Youth training
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