Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders

Title: Kansas 4-H Summer Engagement Interns Provide Learning Opportunities for Shawnee County Youth

Why is this issue important?
During COVID, students lost in-person instructional time in the classroom, resulting in loss of learning of critical subjects such as math, reading, and STEM. This was especially hard on K-6th grade students, and setbacks in early education can be devastating later on.

How did Extension address this issue?
Through the Kansas 4-H Summer Intern Educator Grant with the Kansas Department of Education, Shawnee County hosted two intern educators. They hosted educational program sessions at 5 Topeka area Boys & Girls Clubs, two churches, and the Rossville Public Library.

Curriculum for this program was provided by Kansas Corn, Kansas Cosmosphere, SNAP-Ed/CHFFF, and National 4-H Council, purchased using funds from the grant.

What was the impact?
These were 8-week long summer day camp style programs. Many of the STEM and nutrition programs were series that built on each other, which improved the student’s learning outcomes.

Between June 1st and July 31st, the interns spent 100 direct contact hours teaching programs. This included 31 programs across 59 sessions, and made 1716 contacts.

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