Anxiously Anticipating! A Parallel Journey to an Art and Equestrian Camp for Children with Disabilities

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“Different, not less’. I think this quote goes for all people with disabilities. I’m going to go into camp this week and next week with this mindset’ – Lauren, Photojournalism major.

Overview of camp:
• Immersive Learning Project for Ball State University Students
• Service learning project where students created, planned and implemented a day-camp experience
• Camp was offered five summers: 2011-2015
• Week 1 was at Blackford County High School, Harford City, IN
• Week 2 was at the Hurley-McCammon Farm, Hartford City, IN
• Camp experience was provided to children, aged 8-21, at no cost
• For many children, this was their first camp experience

“This camp was an awesome learning experience. We all learned from each other, and worked together to achieve the ultimate goal, a summer camp getaway for the kids who truly deserve to have summer camp” – Alanna, Special Education major.

Benefits of Camp:
Campers experienced increases in:
• Equestrian skills
• Confidence
• Social skills
• Ability to work as a team

Ball State Students experienced increases in:
• Empathy
• Personal communication
• Positive attitudes towards diversity
• Self-efficacy

Ball State Students learned to:
• Plan a full scale project
• Problem solve in groups
• Apply classroom materials to real-world situations

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Table 1
Mean Scores for all Survey Subcategories

All subcategories significantly increased, thus showing that the immersive-learning project had a noteworthy impact on college students from various majors.
Happy Campers: A Summer Camp Partnership That Works for All involved

Week 1

Ceramics

Sports

Science

Culinary Arts
High Riding Art and Equestrian Camp!

Equestrian

Music & Movement

Science

Arts & Crafts