



THE CENTER FOR
Women's Leadership
MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY

2025 Summer **LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Over 65 students from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin participated in the 2025 Summer Leadership Academy. These young women attended the program from June 22-26, 2025, to learn about leadership, college preparation, and career exploration. Students gained essential skills and valuable knowledge that will strengthen their college applications and follow them into their future careers. They also earned **2 college credits** from Mount Mary!



A DIVERSE GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS

The Summer Leadership Academy prides itself on hosting an incredibly diverse group of young women from across the metropolitan area and across the country. The Academy has consistently attracted young women from different races, ethnic groups and geographic locations. The 2025 Academy continued this tradition and welcomed a group of young women that reflects our society and the Mount Mary University student population. Students self-reported their race and ethnicity.

RESPONSES

American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

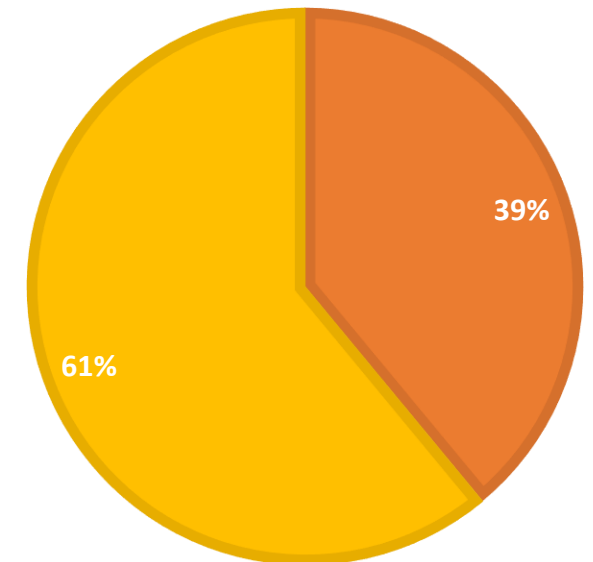
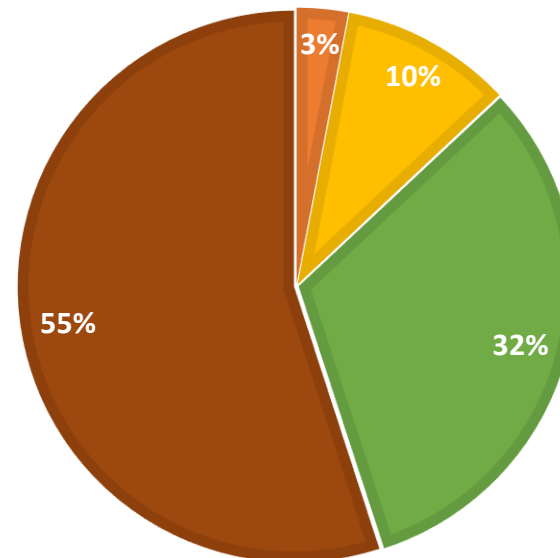
Asian

Black or African American

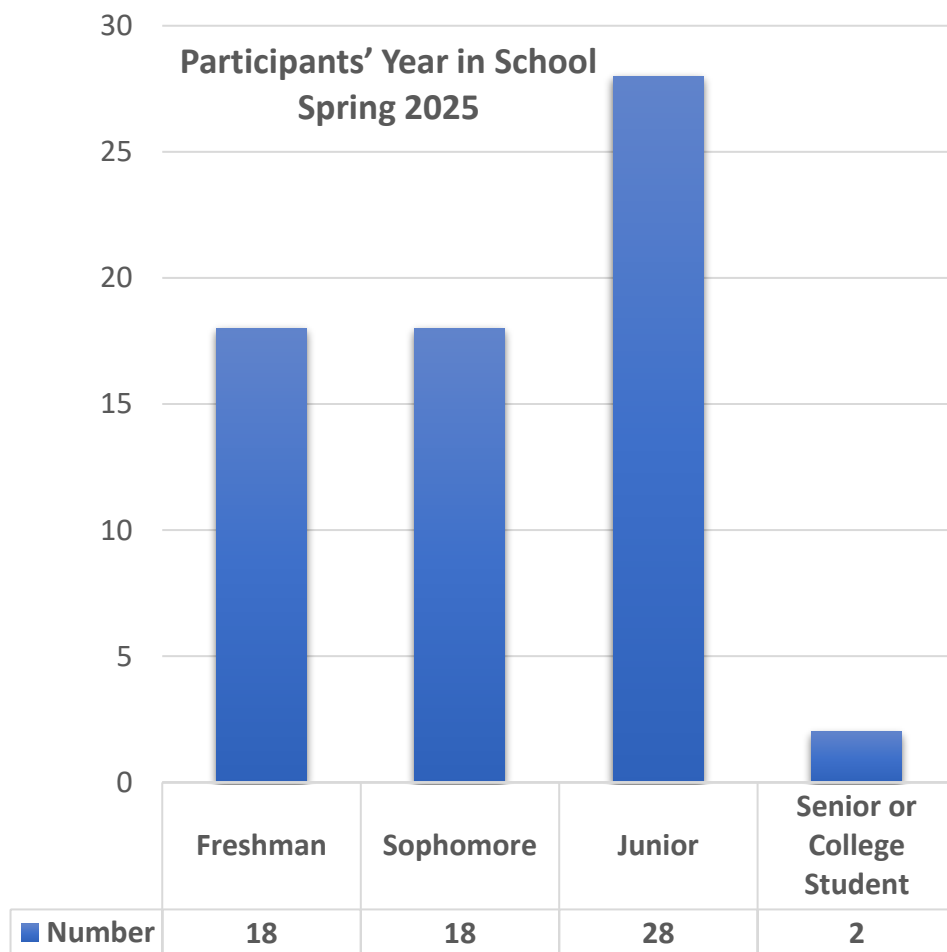
White

Hispanic

Not Hispanic



PARTICIPANT HIGH SCHOOLS



MINNESOTA:

SAINT PAUL

Mounds View High School

ILLINOIS:

CHICAGO

DePaul College Prep

Whitney M Young Magnet High School

LANSING

Thornton Fractional South High School

WISCONSIN:

ADAMS

Adams Friendship High School

HARTFORD

Hartford Union High School

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School

MILWAUKEE

Believers in Christ Christian Academy-High

School of Excellence

Carmen High Schools

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

Divine Savior Holy Angels High School

Dominican High School

MILWAUKEE (CONTINUED)

Dr Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy

Eastbrook Academy High School

Greentree Preparatory Academy

Hmong American Peace Academy

Milwaukee Academy of Science

Milwaukee High School of the Arts

Nathan Hale High School

Pius XI Catholic High School

Rufus King International School

Saint Joan Antida High School

St. Augustine Preparatory Academy

University School of Milwaukee

Veritas High School

West Allis Central High School

MUKWONAGO

Mukwonago High School

MUSKEGO

Muskego High School

WAUKESHA

Waukesha West High School

WAUWATOSA

Wauwatosa West High School



School Sisters of Notre Dame

Mount Mary University's foundation dates back to 1833 and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. This year, S. Vicki Chambers, North American Area Vocation Team Minister Spiritual Director for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and S. Carol Jean Dust, North American Vocations Team for the School Sisters of Notre Dame joined us. They were an integral part of the 2025 Summer Leadership Academy. They opened and closed the 2025 Summer Leadership Academy with prayer, created a guideline handout on "The Art and Importance of Reflection" for use in small groups, attended sessions with the students, and were Adult Mentors for two of our small groups.





LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

The 2025 Academy's format offered many of the most popular leadership sessions from past academies as well as inspirational new sessions.

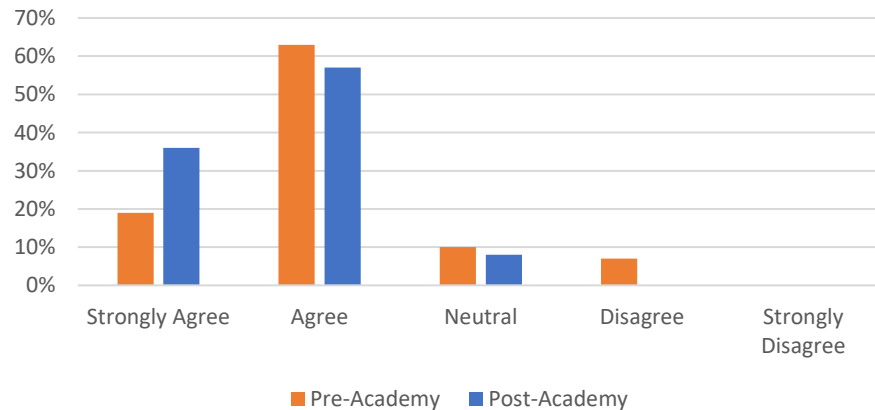
- Leadership and Social Justice
- Importance of Sisterhood
- Finding the Right Fit in a College
- Racial Dynamics as a Leader
- Financial Aid 101
- Intro to Financial Awareness
- Vocation
- Building the Brand of YOU
- The Art of Negotiation
- Embracing Change

PRE- & POST ACADEMY SURVEYS

Summer Leadership Academy participants complete Pre-Academy and Post-Academy Surveys to measure student's learning outcomes and how they felt they have grown in their understanding of themselves and their preparedness for the world after high school.

There was a **100% completion rate** from all new participants.

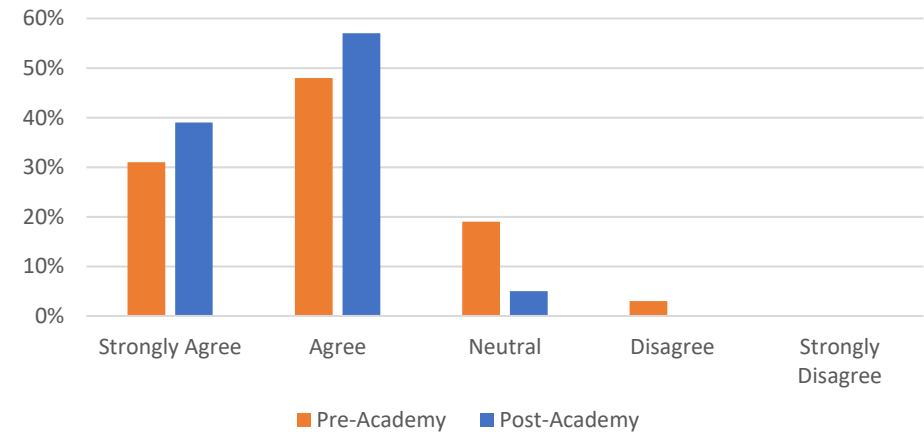
I feel like I can make informed decisions about my life after high school.



Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree **82%**

Post-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree **92%**

I feel confident in my ability to be a leader.

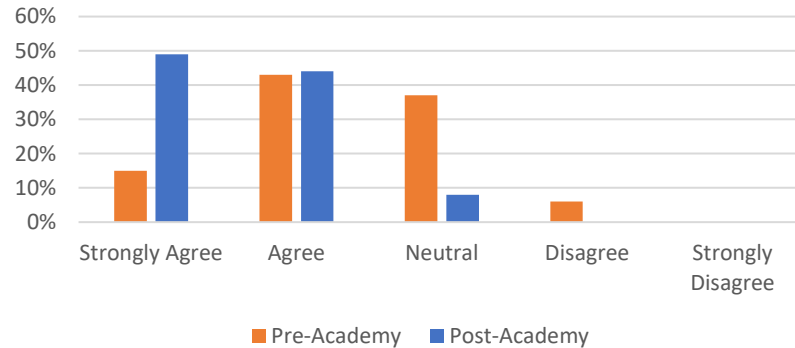


Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree **79%**

Post-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree **95%**

COLLEGE PREP/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

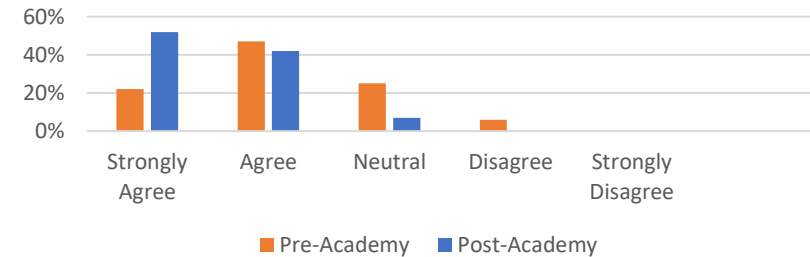
I have a very good understanding of the college search process.



Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 68%

Post-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 93%

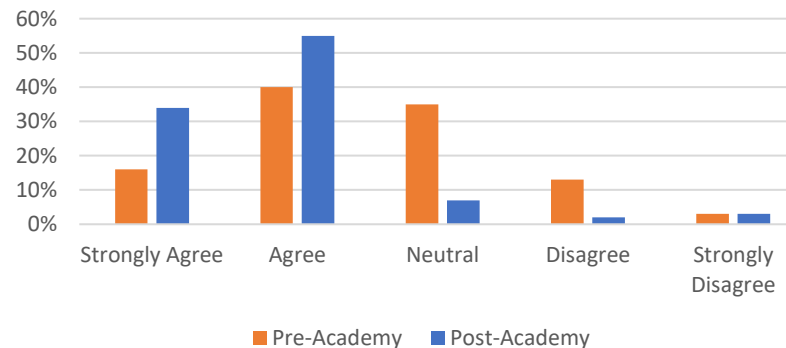
I have knowledge of what majors align with my top interests and am able to further conduct research into career clusters.



Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 69%

Post-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 94%

I feel confident in my knowledge of money management.

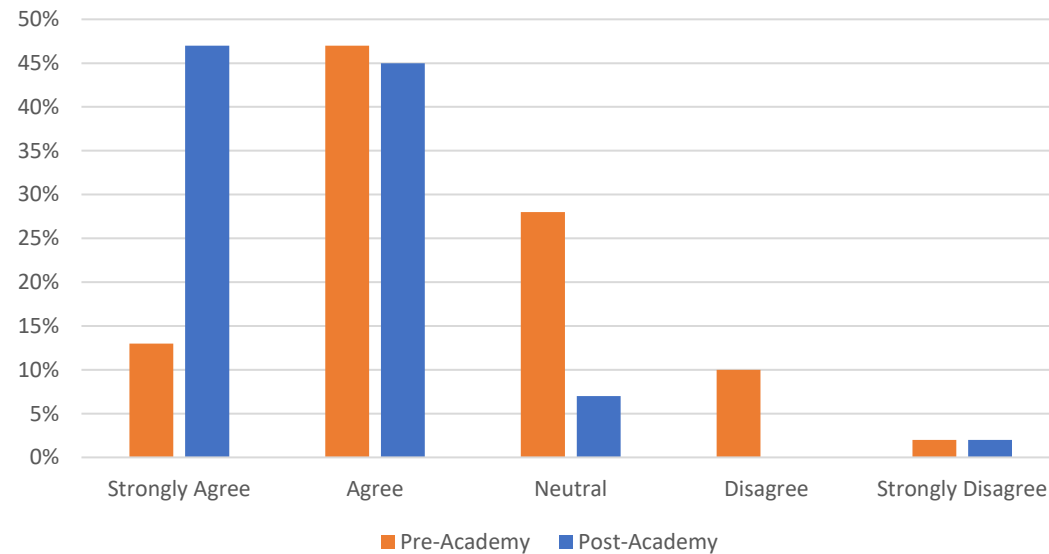


Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 56%

Post-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 89%

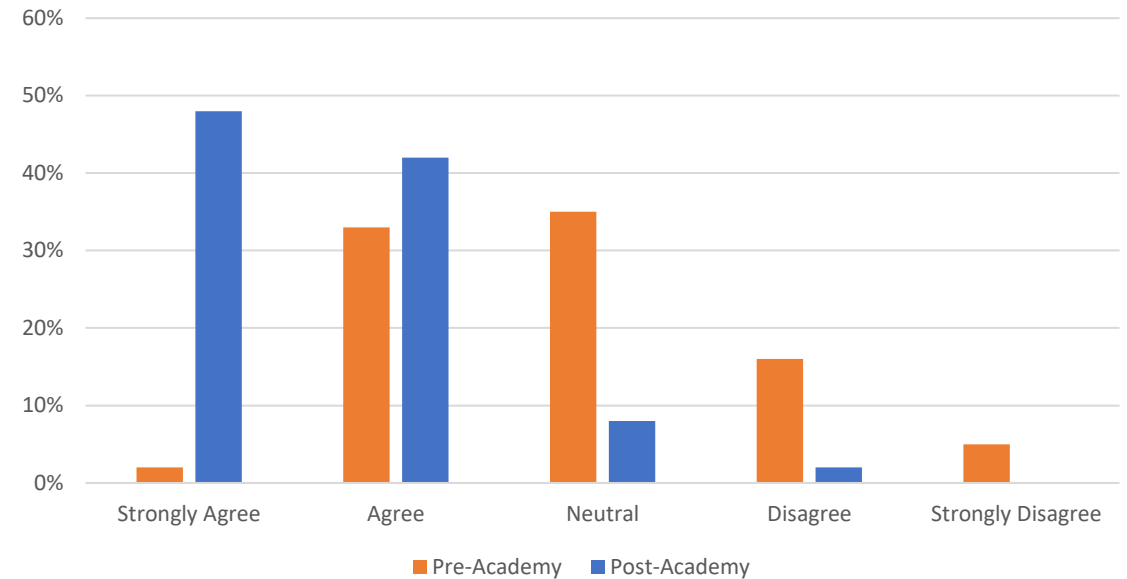
PROFESSIONAL PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONS

I am able to demonstrate business tabletop etiquette suitable for a basic business dining event.



Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 60% **Post-Academy:** Agree/Strongly Agree 92%

I have tactics to build and foster my personal brand.



Pre-Academy: Agree/Strongly Agree 69% **Post-Academy:** Agree/Strongly Agree 94%

2025 POST-SURVEY QUOTES



- *"I feel more confident in myself as a leader." ~ Allie B.*
- *"I have grown in my confidence of becoming a good and impactful leader. SLA helped me understand what it means to be role model and how we can impact anyone just by being ourselves. I have grown in ways to solve solutions, conflicts and discussions when needed." ~ Magaly EJ*
- *"I am really confident about my next steps after high school." ~ Sheyla V.*
- *"I believe my leadership skills grew along with my knowledge on schools, scholarships, and many other topics we've learned about. I feel more comfortable networking with adults now." ~ Lesly ET.*
- *"I am confident! I know the ways to move forward, which helps relieve a lot of stress from the process of college searching." ~ Hannah H.*



AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Participants spent 4 afternoons learning about the programs and pathways available within their chosen area of study through **tons of hands-on activities!**

Career Pathways Sessions

- Arts & Design
- Business, Communications, & Technology
- Health Sciences
- STEM

Each applicant selected their own pathway.



ARTS & DESIGN PATHWAY

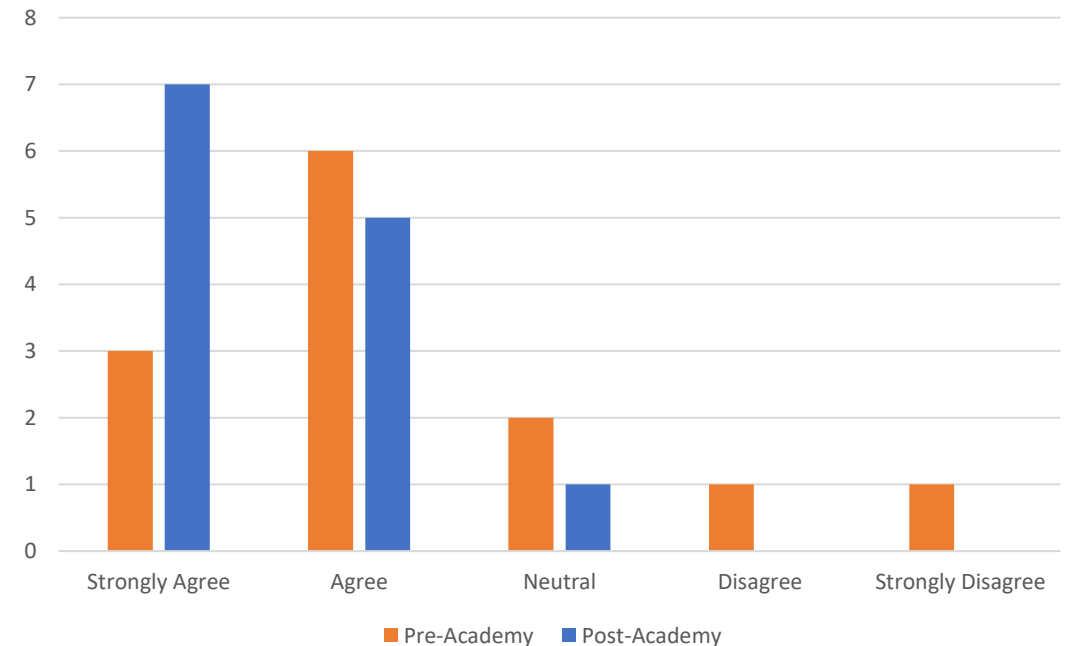
This pathway included the following topics:

- Art Therapy
- Fashion Business
- Fashion Design
- Interior & Architectural Design
- Studio Art - Color Theory
- Studio Art – Sculpture
- Field trip to Zimmerman Architectural Studios

I understand the different areas of study and career opportunities within the Arts & Design Career Exploration Pathway.

Pre–Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
69%

Post–Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
86%



BUSINESS, COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

This pathway included the following topics:

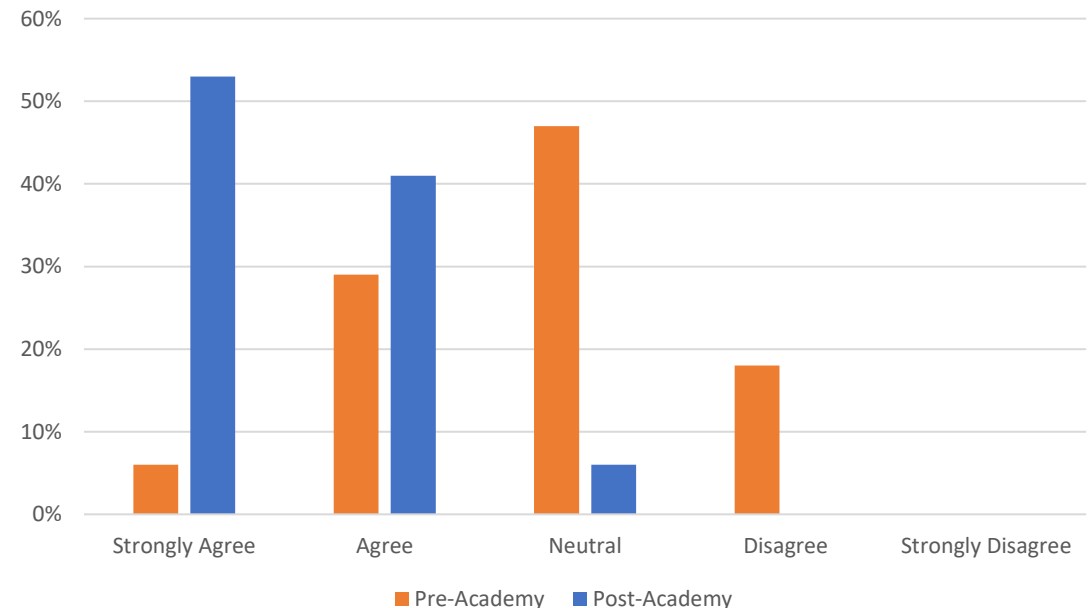
- Navigating Crucial Conversations
- Communication with AI
- Entrepreneurship
- Cultural Competency
- User Experience Design
- Writing/Composition
- Field Trip to GE Healthcare



I understand the different areas of study and career opportunities within the Business, Communication & Tech Career Exploration Pathway.

Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
35%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
94%



HEALTH SCIENCES

This pathway included the following topics:

- Dietetics (2 Sessions)
- Nursing (2 Sessions)
- Occupational Therapy (2 Sessions)
- Field Trip to Children's Hospital Of Wisconsin

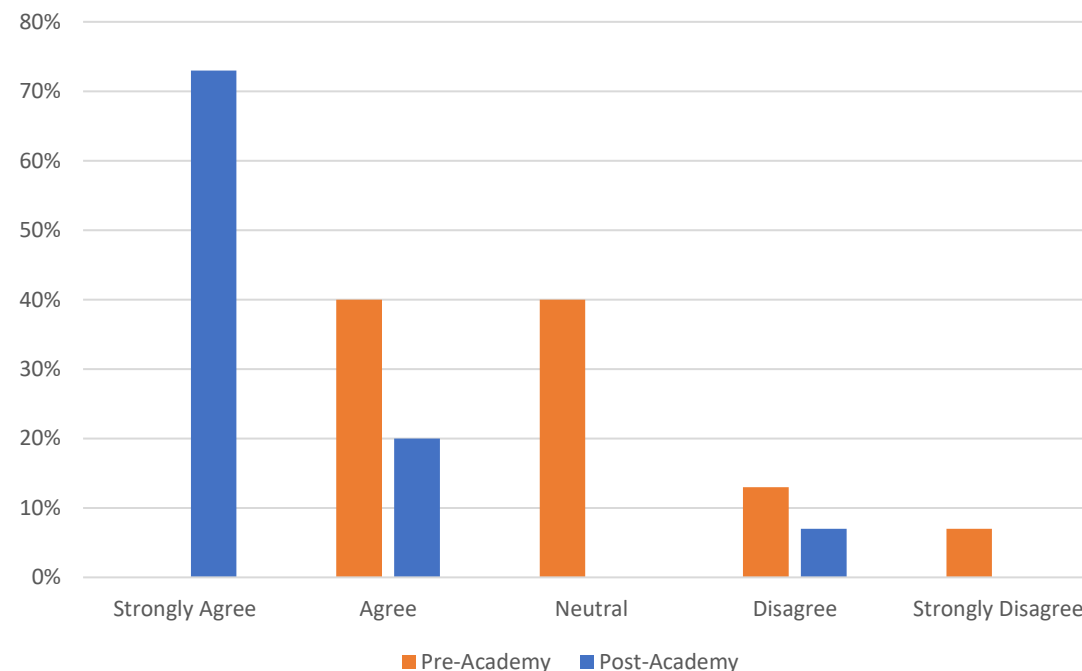
I understand the different areas of study and career opportunities within the Health Sciences Career Exploration Pathway.

Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree

40%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree

93%



STEM PATHWAY

This pathway included the following topics:

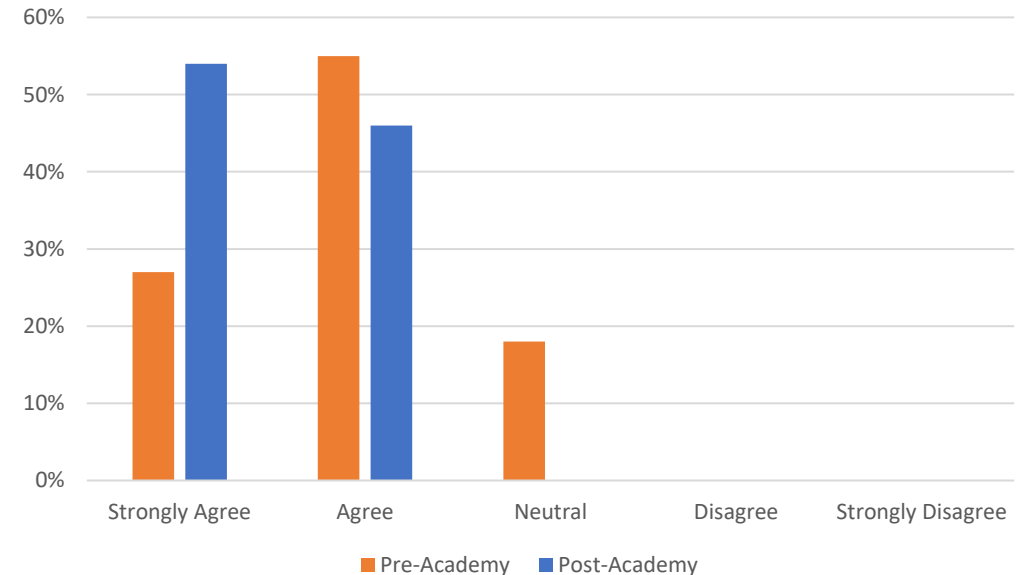
- Biology
- Human Physiology
- Psychology
- Sustainability
- Engineering
- Food Science
- Field Trip to Johnson Controls



I understand the different areas of study and career opportunities within the STEM Career Exploration Pathway.

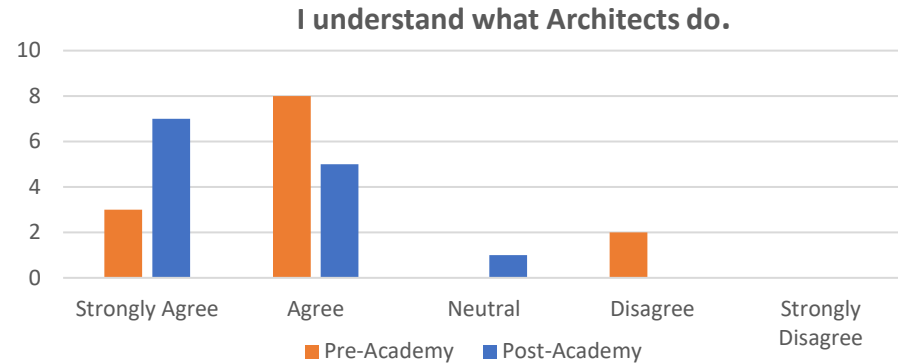
Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
82%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
100%



CAREER EXPLORATION - FIELD TRIPS

Arts & Design Pathway - Zimmerman Architectural Studios

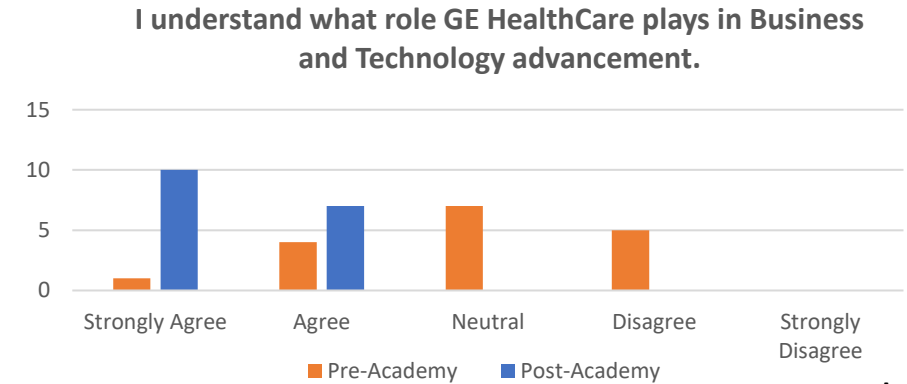


Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
29%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
94%

Business, Communication & Technology Pathway -

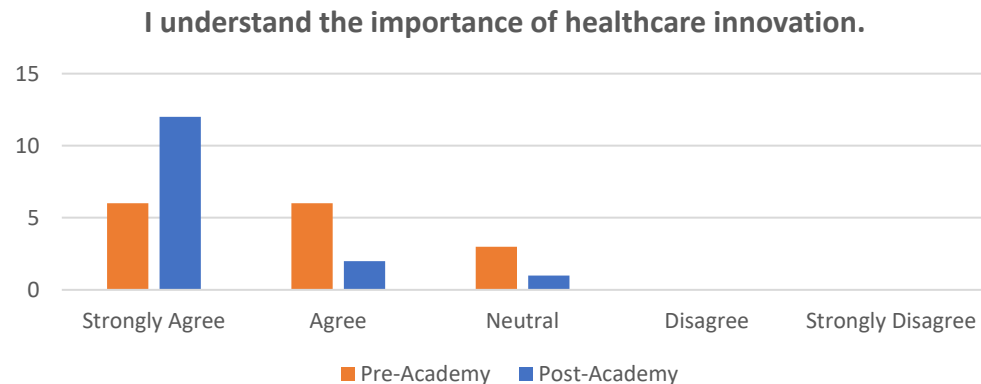
GE HealthCare Field Trip



Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
42%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
100%

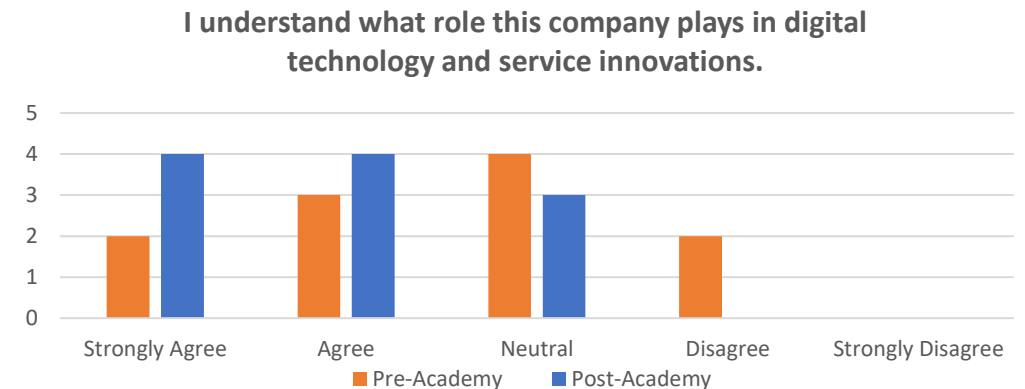
Health Sciences Pathway – Children's Wisconsin



Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
80%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
93%

STEM – Johnson Controls



Pre-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
45%

Post-Academy:
Agree/Strongly Agree
73%

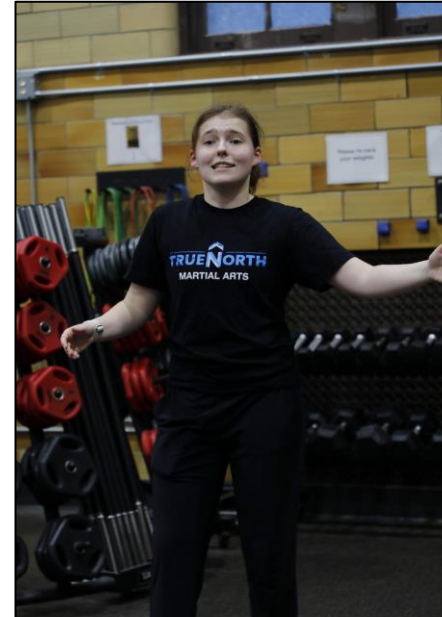
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

After a full day of hands-on skills building and exploring career pathways, students spent Monday and Tuesday evenings more casually with structured personal development activities.

Personal Development Sessions and Social Activities

- Distinguished Young Women
- Karaoke
- Self-Defense
- Soccer
- Yoga

“I feel like my leadership skills and social skills have improved in many ways. I’ve become connected with people in a short period of time as well as learning how to connect with people with different views as me and problem solving.” ~ Journie H.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' DINNER & NETWORKING

On Wednesday evening, students dressed in business casual attire and attended a networking presentation and dinner with Mount Mary University staff, alumnae, and local young professionals from Johnson Controls and GE HealthCare. Participants and volunteers enjoyed dinner and discussed the importance of networking, volunteering, and having a variety of experiences. Students were thrilled to speak with these young professionals, hear their stories and advice, and practice newly developed networking skills.

"I feel more confident in my abilities to keep a conversation going at a business level and I have become more aware of the vast amount of different jobs available after college." ~ Amy W.



SMALL GROUPS

Each Summer Leadership Academy participant met with their small groups once daily for an hour. Small groups were led by Peer and Adult Mentors. Peer Mentors are young women who have participated in a previous Summer Leadership Academy. Adult Mentors are Mount Mary University employees who support the Peer Mentors in leading the small groups. This year, the Academy had 10 Peer Mentors and 10 Adult Mentors.





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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

This support allows Mount Mary University to keep the tuition fees affordable and provides scholarships for those with financial need.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Virginia Cornyn '62 Nancy Cheski '65