



Strengthening the health professions pipeline through an innovative educational intervention

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Background

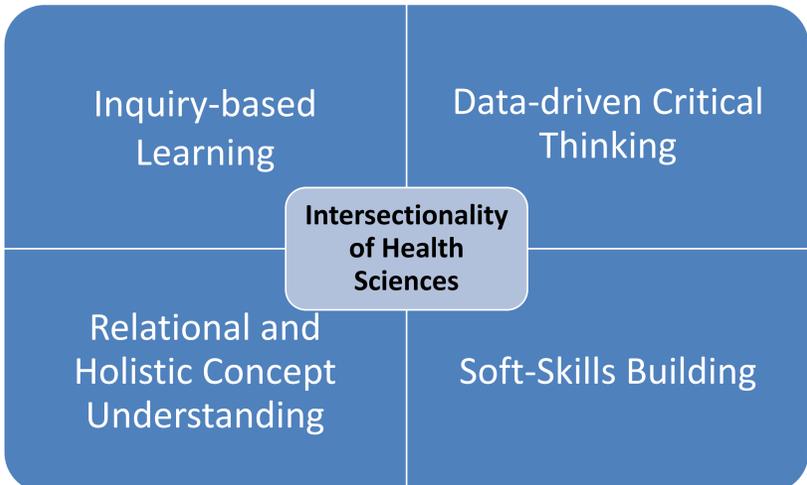
In 2018, the University of Liberia's A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine (AMD) redesigned the medical track from a 4-year bachelor degree plus 5 years of medical education to 1-year pre-medical degree plus 6 years of medical education. The Camp xSEL curriculum emerged alongside this new design.

The vision of Camp xSEL to create a student-centered, welcoming learning environment that empowers secondary school students to feel more confident in their learning, while inspiring and preparing them to pursue careers in the health sector, engage critically with the topics that they learn, and foster lifelong learning.

Goals

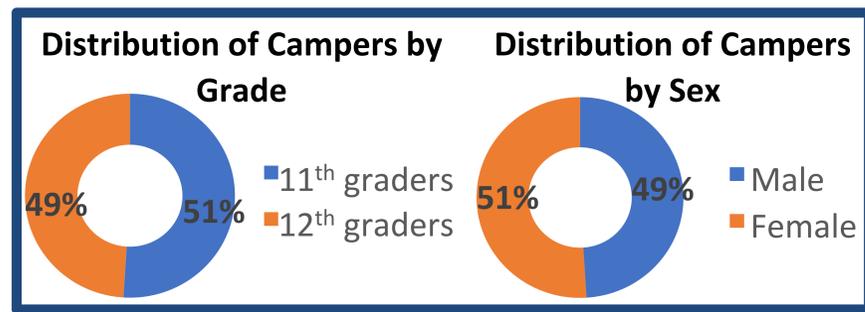
- Build and reinforce the science learning and soft skill competencies of students who intend to apply to medical school or pursue other health careers.
- Teaching secondary instructors' best practices in pedagogy and instructional methods to help prepare students for medical education in Liberia.

Camp Pillars



Methods

100 students and 10 co-instructors were recruited from all 15 Liberian counties to take part in a four-week intensive camp.



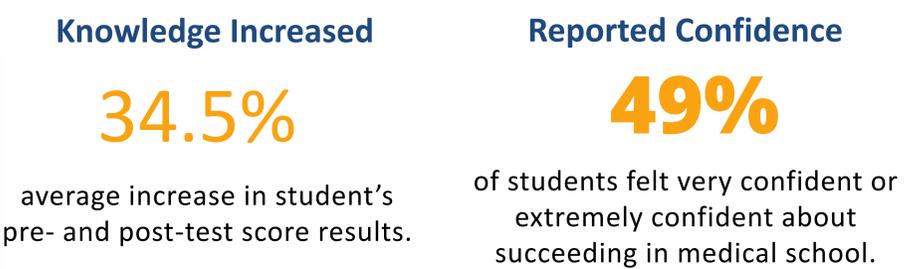
Student recruitment

- Students recommended by county education officers.
- Completion of a rigorous review approved by the Ministry of Education prior to enrollment.

Co-instructor recruitment

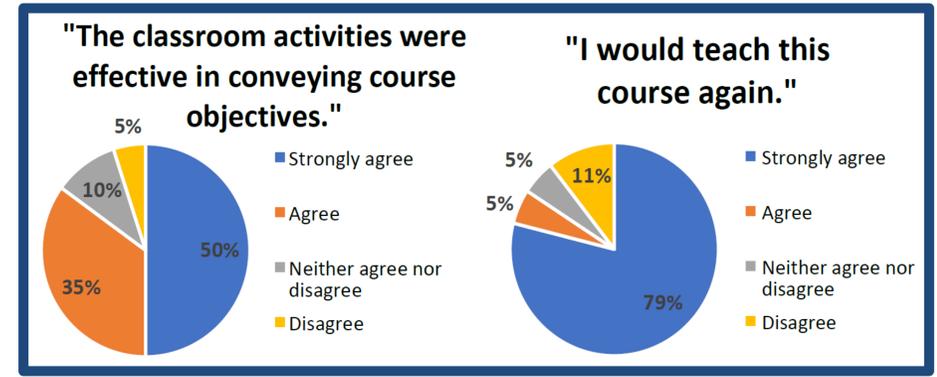
- Co-instructors recommended by the Ministry of Education.

Student Outcomes



Two campers examine onion cells under microscopes (left); a team of campers poses with a bridge built during a critical thinking activity (right)

Instructor Outcomes



Camper Testimonials

"Camp xSEL is an amazing place. The first experience I enjoyed was my transportation... It was my very first time to fly [in a] plane and my first time in the Capital City of Liberia. I see Camp xSEL as one of my greatest experiences in life."
 — **Gregoria H. Miah, 12th grader from Maryland County, Liberia and aspiring clinical psychologist**



"I am learning lots of things, most especially when it comes to biology. For my school, we have a problem learning biology just by reading books...It's a privilege and a great opportunity to be a part of the camp. Now I can say I have touched and seen a lab and [done] experiments."
 — **Faith A. Kulu, 11th grader from Cape Mount County, Liberia and aspiring aquaculturist**

2024 Objectives

- Campers' knowledge of science concepts will increase by at least 50%.
- 90% of instructors apply the "Backward Design" teaching approach and effectively deliver instruction.