



Investigating changes in ethical leadership, cultural competence, and community engagement among participants in a longitudinal volunteering program

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INTRODUCTION

- The Aesculapians Honor Society, a student service organization at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM), annually selects a Community Partner of the Year (CPOTY).
- **To enhance professional development and civic engagement, members complete a longitudinal volunteering program with the CPOTY.**
- This year's CPOTY is Brilliant Detroit, an organization that provides fellowship, activities, and education in the Detroit community with the goal of assuring school readiness and supporting local families.
- Aesculapians members complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteering between October 2021 and April 2022. Volunteering consists of a wide variety of projects (Figure 1).

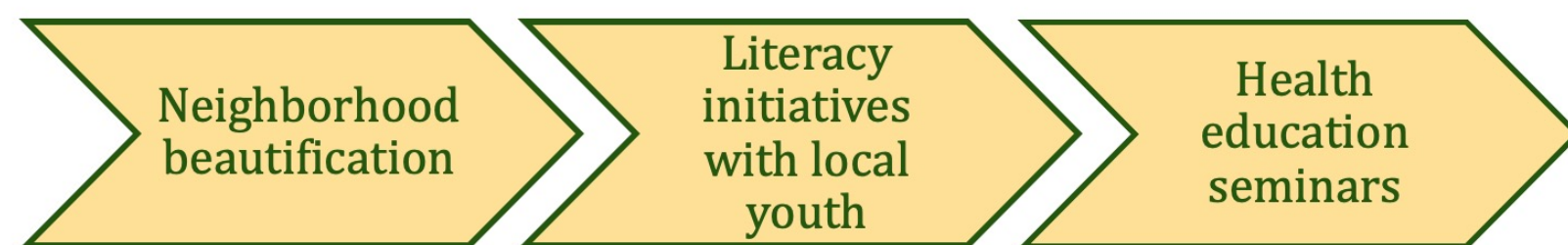


Figure 1. Examples of volunteering projects with Brilliant Detroit

- Student service learning has been shown to contribute to both awareness and responsibility toward community involvement¹ and helped prepare students to have culturally appropriate interactions².
- While the Aesculapians have completed longitudinal volunteering programs with partner organizations for many years, **there has been no concrete measurement of how members grow and learn from their volunteering experiences in these similar domains.**

OBJECTIVE

By analyzing results from the Public Affairs Scale-Short Survey (PAS-SS), this study aims to directly measure the impact this year's longitudinal volunteering program has on Aesculapians members in the following domains:

- **Community engagement**
- **Cultural competence**
- **Ethical leadership**

FUTURE RESEARCH - METHODS

- Surveys will be administered to medical students who are members of Aesculapians Honor Society at WSUSOM in Detroit, Michigan, during 2021-2022.
- Participation is voluntary, anonymous, and does not affect membership.
- The same survey will be given before and after the longitudinal volunteer program with Brilliant Detroit
- The PAS-SS is a validated 15-item survey using a 5-point Likert scale (Figure 2) to assess the efficacy of service learning programs in 3 major domains (Figure 3).
- Basic demographic data and number of years in the organization will be collected to account for possible confounding factors.
- Pre- and post-volunteering survey results will be compared using a paired t-test.

PAS Item

I am confident that I will participate in community service activities in the future

I plan to do some volunteer work next year

Volunteering will help me succeed in my own profession

I know I can make a difference in my community



Figure 2. Four sample items from the PAS-SS. An image of the entire survey can be found using the QR code.

Community Engagement– students' ability to recognize needs in the communities in which they live, and to work with the community toward meeting those needs"

Cultural Competence – "cultural self-awareness... developing the skills necessary to engage with other cultures"

Ethical leadership– "the development of moral and ethical awareness while contributing to the common good and striving for individual excellence and integrity"

Figure 3. The three main domains analyzed by the PAS-SS³

FUTURE RESEARCH - TIMELINE

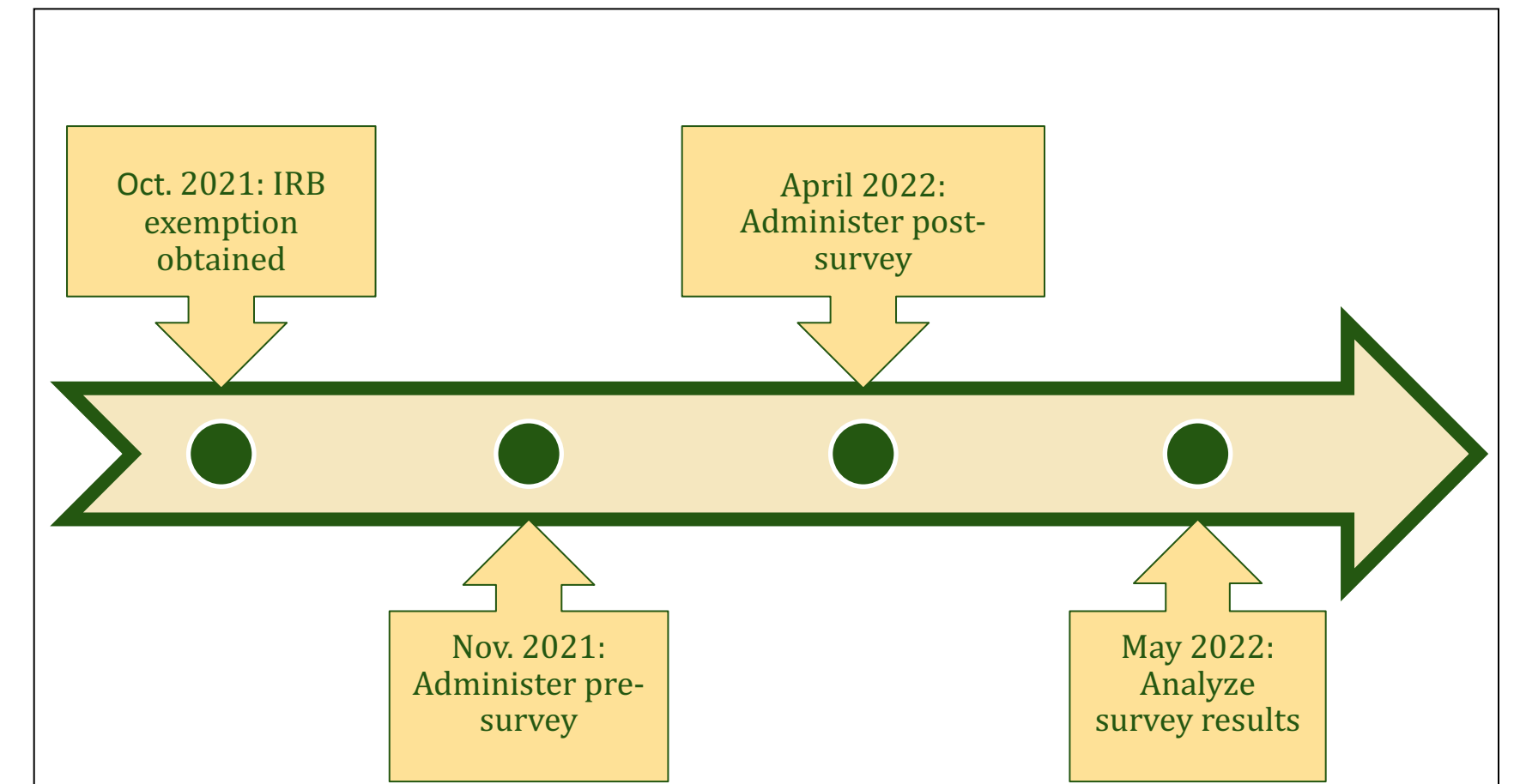


Figure 4. Timeline of research project

CONCLUSION

- Each year, medical students complete a longitudinal volunteering program with a community partner.
- This study aims to assess the effectiveness of this program at enhancing personal development.
- We expect that our data will reveal that completion of this program strengthens professional development and civic engagement in the domains of community engagement, cultural competence, and ethical leadership.

REFERENCES

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3. Levesque-Bristol C, Richards KA. Evaluating civic learning in service-learning programs: Creation and validation of the Public Affairs Scale-Short Survey (PAS-SS). *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. 2014;20(3):413-428. doi:10.1080/15236803.2014.12001796

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