PROJECT IMPACT

2017: A SUMMER OF LEARNING
What is Project IMPACT?

Project IMPACT stands for IMProving Achievement for Children in Tobacco. The project served children and youth ages 10 –17 whose families worked to harvest tobacco and other crops in Sampson County, North Carolina during the 2017 season. This pilot project provided educational and economic supports to keep children and youth on track for successful school completion.

In the first project phase, Telamon consulted with families, the agricultural industry, farmworker advocates and local school officials to assess the needs of youth. Factors considered during project development were availability of existing youth programming within the top agricultural counties, ability to build a local network of support, determining proper incentives for program completion, and finding a host school.

In the second phase, a leader with experience in working with at-risk youth and knowledge of school system operations was brought on to take the project from concept to reality.

Art and cultural activities

Framed portraits and certificates given to families at celebration

The school host provided students two meals each day
A summer program designed to enhance youth education

The 8-week project featured a full-day of onsite activities, including creative arts and writing, leadership development, mentorship, career exploration, opportunities to develop financial skills as well as financial incentives based on successful completion.
Location

The project was hosted by Sampson County Schools at its Hobbton campus.

Program Features

Guest Speakers

Hands-on project-based learning

Healthy living and STEM activities

Career exploration

Themes - Teamwork, service and empathy, making new friends
Creative expression: Youth had weekly creative writing assignments. At right: Greeting cards for hospitalized children and cultural masks, each created by the youth.
Health, Science & Math

Science-based learning and science museum field trip
Career & College Exploration

Youth participants had the opportunity to explore career programs, including: Nursing, Cosmetology and Animal Sciences on field trips to Sampson Community College. High school students also toured East Carolina University and the University of Mount Olive.
Guest Speakers

NC State Extension agriculture and pesticide safety trainer, cultural arts speaker and science instruction
Project IMPACT participant Teresita Daniela Paz was the 1st place winner of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs' (AFOP) Annual Essay Contest.

Teresita's heartfelt piece pays tribute to the tireless efforts of her hardworking parents to provide for their family.

"There are times when I sit back and think how many people take advantage of migrant workers and do not value their work and do not think that - thanks to them, there is food on the table.

As a daughter of farm workers, I have learned to appreciate everything I have...thanks to them I will accomplish much more and strive for my better future."
Staff

Project IMPACT staff were certified teachers and teacher assistants from Sampson County, some with bilingual skills and all with a heart to work with children and youth.

Bus drivers were recruited through the schools and committed to long routes across the county, some 300 miles daily.

The team was led by Sheri Mulling, an experienced educator and coordinator with persistence, heart, and tireless commitment to the program's success.
The Parents

Families entrusted their children to Project IMPACT in its first season. Many parents invited IMPACT staff into their homes to learn about program plans before they enrolled their children. All parents attended the season-ending celebration event to honor their childrens' efforts and to receive a monetary award.
Celebration!

The efforts of the youth, families, staff and supporters were recognized at a celebration with 140 in attendance. In his keynote address, Dr. Oscar Rodriguez of the University of Mount Olive-RTP encouraged the youth to "Dream Big"!
Project IMPACT

By the numbers:

Children and youth served: 45
Number completing the program: 43
Number on waiting list or turned away at start of season: 20+

Staff: 1 Program Coordinator, 2 Summer Program Teachers, 3 Assistant Teachers, 2 Bus Drivers and 1 Cafeteria Manager (provided by school system)

Number of Weeks: 8 (4 days per week)
Hours per Day: 6 1/2
Number of Hours of Summer Learning per Participant: 208
Miles Driven per day to pick-up and drop-off participants: 300
Field Trips: 5
Guest Speakers & Presenters: 20

Total value of monetary incentives earned by all participants: $24,650
Total value of contributions from Sampson County Schools: summer food program, classroom and cafeteria spaces, and Wi-Fi: $20,000

Participants who attended the end of program celebration with a family member: 100%
Total number of Celebration attendees: 140
Supporters

Project IMPACT was made possible by a grant from Phillip Morris International

Project Host & Transportation Provider:
Sampson County Schools

Project Promoters - Alliance One International and Universal Leaf
Technical Advisor – Wage & Hour Division, US Department of Labor
Recruitment Partners - Migrant Education Program, NC Department of Public Instruction, Sampson County Schools

In-Kind support -
The staff of Telamon Corporation made many contributions to the project's success
Headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina Telamon-Transition Resources Corporation (TRC) is a non-profit organization that provides educational services via early childhood and family support programs, workforce and career services, housing and financial empowerment and a variety of other services to more than 23,800 individuals a year in eleven states. Founded in 1965, Telamon’s mission is to provide educational services that lead to better jobs, better lives, and better communities.