



## BEYOND Insights Fall Semester 2016

### Audience

BEYOND Insights 2016 participants included the following:

- 1 program leader
- 80 student participants
- 30 MSU Faculty, Graduate, and Undergraduate Student Mentors

Participants are 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, residents of Lansing, MI, and attend Lansing Public Schools. BEYOND Insights is a collaboration with the MSU College of Arts & Letters, including The Writing Center, American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA), and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Language and Media Lab. The Writing Center administered, supervised, and led the program.



### Funding

BEYOND Insights was funded by the MSU College of Arts and Letters. Funding pays for supplies, snacks, and expenses associated with technology.

### Objectives

BEYOND Insights is designed as a series of fun and stimulating workshops that engage 6<sup>th</sup> grade Lansing Public Schools students in a wide range of activities surrounding creativity, culture, and the arts & humanities.<sup>1</sup> Over two five-week programs, students compose in a variety of ways, including mapmaking, flagmaking, storytelling, and videos. Students also have the opportunity to work with different modalities to express themselves, their community, and their culture.

Our goal is to increase youth participation in arts and cultural programming. BEYOND Insights was made in part to bring the arts back to students, since most art programs have been cut from grade school curriculum in the Lansing School Districts. Additionally, students think about what Lansing means to them and how they view their hometown. Providing this opportunity for participants allows students to experience a college campus, exposes them to the arts, and stimulates a lifelong love for learning, community, and culture.

### Outcomes

Student Participant Feedback: Students responded that they enjoyed the chance to learn and compose in a variety of ways. They also indicated that they really enjoyed the opportunity to work with technology (iPads and computers) to make documentary films – the culmination of their time with BEYOND Insights. Participants all indicated that they enjoyed exploring campus and the pizza lunch.

At the end of BEYOND Insights, students were given a flashdrive that contained their group's video documenting their five week experiences.

Contact hours between college mentors and student participants totaled 8,000.

### Additional Significant Information

- The Writing Center recently (2015) took over BEYOND Insights organization and administration from the Associate Dean for Outreach/Community Engagement in the College of Arts & Letters.
- The revised program received high evaluations from participants (including students and teachers), which bodes well for future events and recruitment.
- This project gives students a safe space/place to develop the critical thinking skills needed for active and involved citizens.
- This project was developed in response to our land-grant mission, as part of the College of Arts & Letters outreach, and as a response to community need for the arts.

### Contact Information

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cal.msu.edu/news/beyond-insights/>