



CYFAR Children, Youth and Families At Risk Program

Sustainable Communities

Children, Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) programs improve circumstances by developing programs in partnership with the communities they serve. The Montana, USDA-NIFA CYFAR project links Native American youth to agricultural and environmental practices using STEM technologies (LYAEPS).

The LYAEPS Project

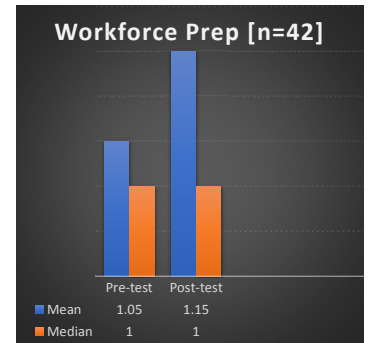
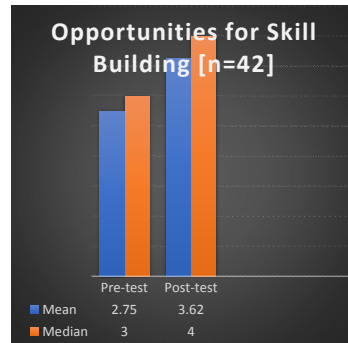
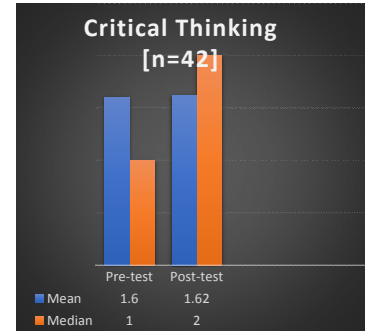
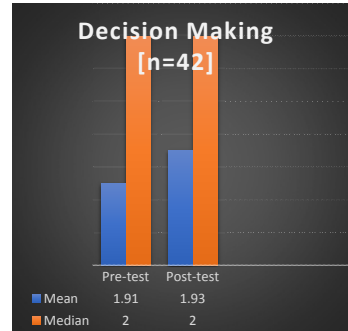
Montana State University specialists meet monthly with staff and students at two schools on the Crow and Flathead Indian Reservations.



- Students get hands-on instruction during regular science or math classes or after school.
- School teachers are site coordinators and work with project staff to develop programs.
- Local issues are woven into lesson plans: The effect of invasive plants on native species, water quality, land management.
- Students work in small groups encouraging communication and collaboration skills

Participants are Native American middle and high school students

Results GY3



Short-term goals

Teach

Geospatial technologies (GPS)

Computer-aided design software

Bridge design and engineering

Drone construction

Aerial photography

Plant identification and link to technology

Critical thinking

Problem-solving

Communication

Long-term goal

Increase community capacity by preparing students for local jobs and linking them to place and culture

*"It's fun, and we get to work with drones, we get to make 'em."
"It's a great way to get to know peers and to learn to have teamwork."*



Photo by J. Ballard

Interview Results

