

Emma Ghalili and Leah Narine
Rich/Collins Fellowship
5/14/2021

BaselineMed Rich/Collins Write-Up

Leah and I were the two official members of the BaselineMed team that were working on the fellowship, but our whole e-board played a role in the creation of BaselineMed and the BaselineMed workshops. The members of our eboard and their positions are as follows:

Emma Ghalili - Executive Director

Leah Narine - Community Outreach Chair

Fatim Kragbe - Head Writer

Gabrielle Ruvinsky - Marketing and Social Media Coordinator

Jonathan Joasil - Physician Outreach Coordinator

Joli Vidal - Website Coordinator

The reason that we create this project is because students of color in STEM feel like they are excluded by their academic institutions and they have to form their own communities because they feel excluded from their institutions. Because of this in the summer of 2020, we created a website that seeks to create a support system and information source for minoritized students to learn about the pre-med and medical experience through the eyes of current pre-med students and medical professionals.

We decided as a team that it would be a good idea for Leah and I to apply for the Rich/Collins fellowship to create in-person workshops for highschool students. On November 25th we were awarded the Rich/Collins fellowship. Over the winter break of the 2020-2021 academic year Leah and I started working on our project and creating our workshops. Starting on February 2nd of 2021 we started meeting with Sam and the other fellows. On March 3rd we started our weekly workshops. We continued the workshops into April and at the end of the workshops we collected data and analyzed our work.

We did a series of 4 workshops at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School. The first workshop was focused around organization. In this workshop we spoke about scheduling classes and extracurriculars in college, prioritizing tasks and ways to avoid common misconception. Our second workshop was focused on speaking with professors. For this workshop we collaborated with Brandeis Professors, Siri Suh and Kenen Piasta and Brandeis student Fatim Kragbe. We defined office hours, did mock office hours and emphasized the importance of professional relationships. Our third workshop was focused on how to be ok with not being ok. In this workshop we collaborated with Brandeis Student and BaselineMed writer Devin Maximus. In this workshop we defined our own mental health and impact of culture, mental health resources on campus and how to get support through challenges. Our final workshop was about health disparities in medicine. In this workshop we spoke about perspective in different cultures and imposter syndrome. We concluded the workshops with a medical professionals panel which included, Dr.Carmen Fong, Dr.Paula Denoya, Dr.Yvette Calderon and Medical Student Joel Burt-Miller.

We had a total of 25 students across the grade levels of 9-12 sign up for the workshops. In each individual workshop we had on average 10 students. Some challenges that we faced when conducting these on a virtual platform was getting the students to engage and trust us. A strength that we had coming into this project was that Leah went to the highschool so we were able to create workshops that fit the students cultural knowledge and background. The general outcomes of the project were great. The students were engaged and they had a lot of good questions and stayed after the workshops to ask additional questions. At the end of the workshops we set up a post workshop survey and 80% of students said the qualities of the workshops were excellent, 60% said that the workshops were good at improving their knowledge and 80% said the length of the workshops were a good length. Some of the written feedback that we got from students was as follows:

“ I liked how there was almost direct communication between students, professors and panel members”

“The most valuable thing I learned would have to be how to stay afloat within the college environment in terms of communicating with professors and other commitments/goals”

“I learned how to handle professors and work environment better”

The next steps that we have are to continue to connect with other communities and offer workshops and other events at highschools. We also plan on continuing to work with the Gateway School. In addition to that we are going to revamp the website to showcase our new workshops and make resources more accessible.

Leah and I both worked on different parts of this project and this project impacted us in different ways. I learned How to do the background planning and organization for a workshop. I learned how to work with new forms of technology to fit to a virtual platform and how to lead a team to put the project together and implement it. Leah learned how to effectively create and execute workshops based on a specific community. She learned how to coordinate and communicate across age groups, fields of study and different schedules.

The final amount that we spendened was:

Item	Purpose	Total # Needed	Cost Per Item (If applicable)	Estimated Cost
Moodle	A platform to be able to upload activities and worksheets for the students to follow along in the workshops. We need a subscription for 100 students because Gateway is interested in having their	1-year subscription	Not applicable	\$275 Link: https://moodle.com/getstarted/

	senior and junior class participate and are estimating 75 students.			
Website Domain	This is to secure our website domain baslinemed.com This is needed to sustain the website as a resource for students.	1-year cost	Not applicable	\$17.99
Website Cyber Security + Website Builder	This is needed in order to secure the safety of our website. To make sure that blog posts are not being stolen or edited without our knowledge and so no one can use. In addition to that, we need the website builder to continue posting articles on to the website.	1-year cost	Not applicable	\$250