Applied Learning Institute Evaluation

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Agenda

- Methods
- Findings
- Supporting the region
- Further research
- Questions
Methods
Data sources

- Individual pre-test interviews with students
- Focus groups with students
- High school faculty interviews
- Employer interviews
- ALI leadership interviews
- Student in-class web survey
- College faculty interviews
Adult stakeholder interviews

- Employers (N=9)
- ALI Leadership (N=5)
- High school instructors (N=12)
- College instructors (N=3)
Students

- Pre-test interviews (N=4)
- Two focus groups (N=31)
- Web survey (N=399)
Findings
Employers and educators have common goals

- Students will gain exposure to a variety of career fields
- Students will have expanded opportunities and curriculum at the high school level
- Students will understand the value of a two-year degree and be better prepared to pursue college coursework
ALI introduces and clarifies careers

84%
ALI introduced me to new career options within my field of study

91%
ALI gave me a better idea of what careers look like in my field of study
How much has participation in ALI classes has influenced your decisions about your future education and career?

- Not at all
  - Education: 9%
  - Career: 11%

- A little
  - Education: 25%
  - Career: 26%

- Quite a bit
  - Education: 41%
  - Career: 37%

- A great deal
  - Education: 25%
  - Career: 26%
One or two most valuable aspects of ALI:

- 47% said learning a real-world skill
- 34% said hands-on learning

“I'm learning things that are geared towards what I want to do in life, and I learn it in a way that works well for me, making it more enjoyable than other classes taken during high school.”
Connecting to employers and community

- Students work on employer projects
- Partnership with Habitat for Humanity
- Internships, certifications, and entrepreneurship
ALI builds confidence and understanding

- Work with industry-standard equipment
- Tour colleges to see the same equipment in use
- College instructors invite students to observe classes
- Employer and college instructors give presentations inside classrooms
76% of 11th and 12th grade students said that the ability to earn college credit influenced their decision to take an ALI course.
Questions?
Comments?
Discussion?
Supporting the region
ALI meets the needs of employers

- Helps employers identify key partners in education
- Improves communication of workforce needs
- ALI pipeline can improve the quality of applicants
ALI strengthens skills valued by employers

- Effective communication with coworkers
  - Project-based approach, teamwork

- Ability to perform and understand basic math
  - Math for the Trades

- Flexibility to learn and develop new skills as technology changes
  - Industry-standard technology in the classroom
ALI pipeline provides a competitive advantage for employers

- Builds high-skilled local workforce, less likely to move elsewhere, keep investment local
Imagine the type of job you might like to have when you’re 30. Do you think you’ll be able to find that type of work on the Iron Range?

- Yes, definitely: 27%
- Yes, probably: 36%
- No, probably not: 15%
- No, definitely not: 6%
- I’m not sure if it will be available: 7%
- I’m not sure if I'm not sure what job I want to have when I'm 30: 10%
That's what ALI does. It provides access to those who would not have had it, and it makes a huge economic impact in our region. We're educating more engineers than ever and have a greater demand than ever, so young people are vertically climbing the socioeconomic ladder. This impacts local economies through the work they do and the professional salaries they earn.

– Ronald Ulseth, Director, Iron Range Engineering and Professor, Itasca Community College
Respondents planning to attend two- or four-year college, by primary field of study

- Trade classes: 71%
- Engineering: 76%
- Other: 89%
- All areas of study: 78%
Areas for future research
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- Impact on remediation
  - Especially math remediation

- Maximize value of existing data systems
  - Collaborate with MnSCU student records system
  - Potential tracking through SLEDS

- Ongoing improvement of model
  - Industry-quality standards
  - Staying on top of changes in industry and the region
Questions?
Comments?

Thank you!

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