

Student Instructor Success Stories

Kelsey Mullins



Student Instructor
Senior, Elementary Ed.
Cedar Rapids
Iowa City
Des Moines

“It was an opportunity to be seen as an instructor and not as a babysitter.”

The experience of working as a student instructor for the youth and middle school entrepreneur summer camps has prepared me for teaching in ways that my courses in the College of Education simply cannot. I now feel more comfortable leading large and small groups of students and have more confidence in my ability to direct groups of students. I gained more experience with classroom management during the four weeks of camp than I have in three semesters of course work in the College of Education. My advice to those interviewing for the student instructor position is to think about your philosophy of teaching, why you want to work with children, and how previous experiences with children have prepared you to work as a camp counselor. I highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity!

Alex Hanna



Student Instructor
Senior, Elementary Ed.
Cedar Rapids
Iowa City

“This experience will affirm your decision to be a teacher.”

Through this experience I had the opportunity to work with a skilled instructor who although managed the class as a whole and organized the curriculum, gave us student instructors free reign in taking over the class and presenting the material with her guidance and feedback. The camp was a good “ease” into the classroom and a perfect opportunity to “test-out” my teaching skills by applying knowledge from the College of Education to actual experiences. Overall, working with The Jacobson Institute For Youth Entrepreneurship confirmed my desire to work with elementary and middle school students in the future. My advice to fellow College of Education students is to apply for this position because the knowledge gained can only come from actual teaching experiences and will prepare you for your future career!

Lindsey Winders



Student Instructor
Sophomore, Elementary Ed.
Des Moines

“What roped me in were the volunteer hours, but I got something so much more out of this experience.”

My experience working with the Jacobson Institute For Youth Entrepreneurship in Des Moines was one unmatched by any others. Even after the interview, it was apparent that I had chosen a summer volunteer position that was going to impact me far greater than I had originally expected. I not only had the opportunity to broaden my horizons with the age group of children I worked with, but I also had the chance to work side-by-side a fellow College of Education student and an experienced teacher currently working in the Iowa City Community School District. My advice to future applicants would be to recognize how valuable this opportunity will be to you. It is important to be ready to stand in front of a group of children, present a lesson, work hands-on with mentor, and to pursue what is hopefully a passion of teaching. It is truly a hidden gem within the University of Iowa’s College of Business.