Princeton-Blairstown Center’s (PBC) 2022 On-Site Summer Bridge Program hosted 72 students from urban schools in the historically marginalized communities of Camden and Trenton, New Jersey. Summer Bridge is an academic enrichment and leadership development program designed to lessen summer learning loss; build critical 21st Century social emotional learning (SEL) skills such as communication, cooperation, teamwork, problem solving, and healthy risk-taking; and help students form positive, supportive relationships with peers and adults. Each of these intended outcomes is grounded in peer-reviewed research that demonstrates the importance of these short-term outcomes for long-term goals, such as success in school, employment, and other arenas. Each group participated in this intensive educational experience of 4 days/3 nights during a separate week at the 268-acre Blairstown Campus near the Delaware Water Gap.

PBC measured outcomes using 1) the work products of the academic components; 2) feedback from leaders and teacher/staff chaperones connected with the partner schools/organizations; and 3) a research-based assessment (developed with the American Camp Association as part of a National Research Study (conducted by Philliber Research Associates) that gauges students’ self-perceptions/attitudes and changes in these.

The On-Site Summer Bridge 2022 outcomes were very positive, particularly given that most students are continuing to suffer from academic and developmental deficits that are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on chaperone and teacher surveys, 70-83% of the adults felt that their students’ SEL skills or appreciation of and comfort in the natural world increased a little, somewhat, or significantly.

Thirteen teachers and chaperones completed written surveys designed to elicit feedback similar to student surveys. Evaluations from chaperones and school leaders from the partner schools/organizations have been documented below and are overwhelmingly positive, corroborating the findings from the student surveys.

Chaperones were asked to rate a series of statements using a Likert scale of 1-5, where 1 is "strongly disagree," 2 is "disagree," 3 is "neither agree/disagree," 4 is "agree," and 5 is "strongly agree."

**Significant findings that resulted from this 4-day Summer Bridge experience:**

- 100% of teachers and chaperones felt that their participants were highly engaged during the program activities.
- 100% of teachers and chaperones felt that the selected program activities helped their groups reach their goal(s).
- 92% of the teachers and chaperones felt that they could apply the learning gained at PBC in their school/organization.
- 92% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved team-building skills.
- 100% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved communication skills.
• 100% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated improved problem-solving skills.
• 92% of teachers and chaperones felt that their students demonstrated a deeper connection to and appreciation of nature.

Here is the data:
Thirteen teachers and chaperones completed surveys, which were administered electronically on Kindle Fire tablets via Survey Monkey.

1. My facilitator ensured that my participants were highly engaged during our program activities.
   a. 38% strongly agreed
   b. 62% agreed
   c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

2. Selected program activities helped our group reach their goal(s).
   a. 31% strongly agreed
   b. 69% agreed
   c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

3. I can apply the learning gained at PBC in our school/organization.
   a. 54% strongly agreed
   b. 38% agreed
   c. 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

4. My students demonstrate improved team-building skills.
   a. 46% strongly agreed
   b. 46% agreed
   c. 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

5. My students demonstrate improved leadership skills.
   a. 39% strongly agreed
   b. 46% agreed
   c. 15% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

6. My students demonstrate improved communication skills.
   a. 31% strongly agreed
   b. 69% agreed
   c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed
7. My students demonstrate improved problem-solving skills.
   a. 31% strongly agreed
   b. 69% agreed
   c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

8. My students demonstrate an appropriate level of risk-tasking.
   a. 62% strongly agreed
   b. 30% agreed
   c. 8% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 0% disagreed
   e. 0% strongly disagreed

9. My students take more responsibility for their actions.
   a. 15% strongly agreed
   b. 54% agreed
   c. 15% neither agreed nor disagreed
   d. 8% disagreed
   e. 8% strongly disagreed

10. My students show an increased level of independence.
    a. 8% strongly agreed
    b. 84% agreed
    c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
    d. 8% disagreed
    e. 0% strongly disagreed

11. My students show a deeper appreciation of and connection to nature.
    a. 23% strongly agreed
    b. 69% agreed
    c. 0% neither agreed nor disagreed
    d. 8% disagreed
    e. 0% strongly disagreed