MISSION:IGNITE’s Runway Robots programs 2018-2019 school year

MISSION:IGNITE held 3 successful Runway Robots programs during the 2018-2019 school year. The programs were held at Seneca Street Community Development Center, Global Concepts Charter Middle School, and the Boys and Girls Club of Jamestown, NY. Peak attendance at the programs were 9, 14, and 8 respectively. totaling 31 young women. Ages ranged from 8-18.

Each of the 3 locations were new to MISSION:IGNITE. Each site provided rave reviews of the program and the girls' enthusiasm throughout.

The Seneca class had the youngest students, requiring repetition of robotic concepts and a more simplistic fashion education. MISSION:IGNITE's Kaila Frazier found the Seneca students eager to learn and intrigued by the subject matter.

The Global class had Danielle Huber, a full-time teacher, as a class mentor. Kaila found the Global students to be very engaged and quick learners, and both beginner and intermediate robotic concepts were mastered quickly. Fashion design by these older students were very creative. The color theory portion of both classes involved color mixing with water, glue, and glitter. An invitation to parents and teachers brought 30-40 enthusiastic people to the Runway show.

MISSION:IGNITE partnered with another STEM 2035 Initiative grant recipient to expand its geographic footprint of program offerings. Molly Brown of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County facilitated the Runway Robots program at the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club.

Video recorded in MISSION:IGNITE's STEM 2035 recording studio was embedded into the lessons taught at the Jamestown location. This allowed Kaila, the senior Runway Robots facilitator, to open each lesson with an overview based on her experience. Molly could then run the lesson utilizing the shared knowledge.

The Jamestown girls are high school students; Molly is a former fashion buyer. Molly's fashion experience and the girls' older age has taken the fashion portion of the program up a notch! The color theory portion of the Jamestown program resulted in tie dyed bandanas the girls
could keep. Students hand sewed fashions made from fabrics for 'dollar store' dolls, instead of card stock cutouts.

Molly summarized the Jamestown experience as follows:

“Personally, I felt the Runway robots program was incredibly well received. One girl said to me "I didn't know what I wanted to do in my future but now I have discovered I love to make clothing" The girls loved getting to learn the basics of sewing and learning they had a passion for different eras of fashion. I had one girl that was inspired by cancer survivors and decided to make her doll have no hair and design the dress to support and reflect Breast cancer. The girls came early to class and stayed late every class. They said during our last class, Tuesdays were their favorite day of the week because they got to come to class. They begged me to come back next Tuesday and each week after. I can't say enough about how these girls affected me in a positive way and I feel the access to robots and knowledge of fashion meant the world to them as well. This program was the perfect program for the demographic of girls at the Jamestown NY Boys & Girls Club.”

Photos from the 3 programs are included below.
Seneca Program
Global Fashions
Global Color Theory
Jamestown

Tie-Dye
Jamestown
Fashion Work