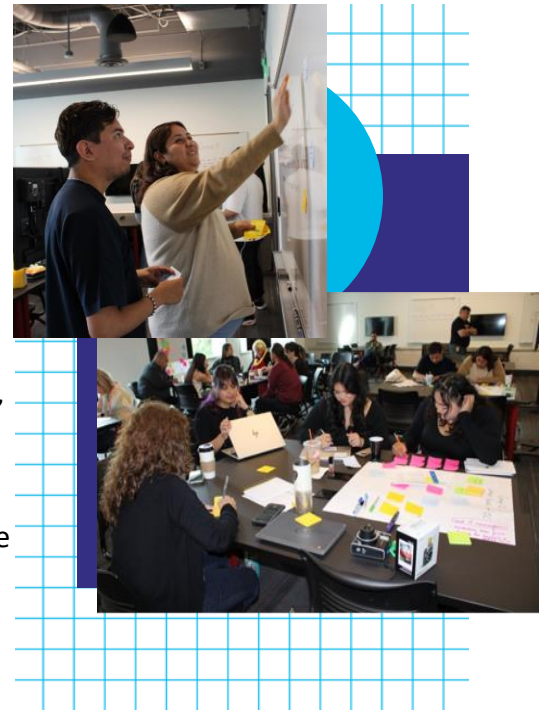


Innovation Spotlight: Student-Driven Innovation

Students from diverse and underserved populations, including first-generation, undocumented, formerly incarcerated, foster youth, Latinx/e, LGBTQIA, and DSPS students, often face significant equity gaps on campus. These students frequently encounter barriers to accessing relevant resources, support networks, and spaces where they feel a sense of belonging. To address these challenges, teams of student researchers and workers at Saddleback College have engaged in a Human-Centered Design process.



Project Summary

THE PROBLEM

Underserved students at Saddleback struggle to access critical resources to college success, often feeling like they are undeserving due to a lack of belonging within the community.

THE QUESTION

How might we foster a sense of belonging for underserved students at Saddleback so it contributes to equitable access to critical resources for college success?

THE GOAL

The design event enabled students to create prototypes—websites, apps, and physical spaces—that promote belonging and provide relevant resources for diverse, underserved populations.

Our Process



DEFINE THE PROBLEM

Identify a problem or gap



SCAN

Scan the landscape to better understand the root causes of the problem



PRIORITIZE

Scope project resources, key stakeholders & timeline



DESIGN

Design a prototype that addresses the problem



TEST

Conduct usability study and refine the prototype

Prototype & Test Results

As a result of the event, students developed prototypes to address key challenges, including a Monarch Center website for undocumented students, integrating the Latinx Student Center into the Canvas app, organizing a shoutout event for clubs and resources throughout the year, creating warm handoffs and support for foster youth, and improving staff conversations around critical resources like expungement.



Key Insights

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

"The Design Sprint was a great experience that allowed us to brainstorm ideas and possible solutions to various issues that needed to be addressed. We were later able to observe how others approached the topic and we were able to learn from them and utilize some ideas for ourselves. It was a very engaging experience that showed how we were able to create various solutions to one topic while incorporating different perspectives."



FROM INSPIRATION TO ADVOCACY

"The design spirit innovation event provided so much inspiration. Not only did the facilitators guide us through the process of taking abstract, hard to wrangle ideas into concrete changes we could advocate for on our campus, my peers went above and beyond, further encouraging me to explore new approaches. From this event, I'm reinvigorated by the possibilities at Saddleback. I will carry the lessons I learned with me beyond college in my career as well, especially the sticky note idea generation exercise."



How You Can Help

Share with your Network: Share this one-pager with your networks interested in supporting students to drive innovation on college campuses.

Partner with Us: To support this project or to explore new opportunities for community-driven innovation, please reach out at:
innovation@healthleadsusa.org

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