

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION: THE TIMOTHY SMITH NETWORK

ELA WINTER, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS



University of
St Andrews



LAIDLAW
SCHOLARS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- the Timothy Smith Network is a Central LiA partner operating in Boston with a variety of educational outreach programmes aiming to bridge the digital divide
- the Boston Design Academy is a paid opportunity for students to do project based learning and develop a prototype in health technology, graphic design, or agricultural technology to be displayed at a final showcase
- my role was administration and support: helping with day to day operations, communications and media, and final showcase planning

MY SMART GOALS

- Connect and engage with students participating in the BDA as much as possible, even though my work involves limited face-to-face contact
- Use my humanities expertise to suggest new and innovative research avenues and encourage students to engage with new fields
- Make a meaningful impact on educational access during a time period where this is especially difficult in the US

WHY I CHOSE THIS LIA

- ability to work in education during an especially volatile moment in the sector
- reconnecting with the US (despite having never lived there)
- the opportunity to engage with a central LiA

HIGHLIGHTS

- reconnecting with the Laidlaw scholars I met at the conference in Durham
- working in a new sector
- meeting and engaging with the high school students in the program
- learning about new technology and watching the students' projects come to life

CHALLENGES

- managing new cultural and workplace expectations
- working in a new sector
- limited technical knowledge that prevented me from engaging with students as much as I'd have liked

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE IF I REDID MY LIA

- push for instructional training so I can assist in classrooms when needed
- frontloading more of the content I needed to prepare
- spend more time in the classrooms engaging with the students
- contribute more of my knowledge towards workshops

SMART GOAL OUTCOMES

I was able to support the students and share my interests with them, advocating for the importance of the humanities and its applications in an increasingly AI-focused world and workforce. In supporting TSN, I felt that I met my third goal by assisting their mission of educational outreach and providing students with opportunities to create funded prototypes, some of which are patent pending. I was able to prove the value of my expertise and encouraged students to go out of their comfort zones in research areas but also to consider international opportunities and perspectives for future research, and advised them (both on a logistical and more philosophical level) on my experiences moving overseas for school as an American and the different paths that are available.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY TIME IN BOSTON

RED SOX GAME & BRUNCH WITH THE LAIDLAW SCHOLARS



DAY TRIPS TO SALEM AND ROCKPORT



PROJECT SHOWCASE



a day so busy that only the
dunkin run was documented