

Foundation for Teaching Economics
Economics for Leaders (EFL) / Economic History for Leaders (EHFL)
Summer 2016 Parent Survey

After the 2016 EFL/EHFL programs, we conducted a voluntary survey of the parents of our participants to receive feedback on the effectiveness of the FTE student programs. Please see the responses below for more information from the parent perspective.

How has the FTE programs caused a noticeable change in your child?

“This was definitely the most rewarding program that John has participated in, academically or otherwise. Immediately upon picking him up, we went to brunch as a family, and John was anxious to share stories of the team building experiences which had a very meaningful impact on him. John realized that he could make such important differences on the outcomes of others. He also felt that the practical integration of economic principles to leadership was very interesting and enlightening.”

– Sean Hovenden

“Arianna came home more extroverted, open minded, and confident. Also she made some wonderful friends from all over the country.”

-Angela Tarazi

“Most of the noticeable changes were right after the program – he was energized from the close bonds he had formed with his campmates and the engagement he had in the program. He seemed more mature and confident – even after just a week. Since then, he seemed more self-aware and confident in making social connections with adults.”

-Mickie Chow

“Although Ben has always been an independent and self-sufficient person, this experience of traveling from Boston to Williamsburg on his own, finding his way to registration, and meeting people from all over the U.S. has given him added maturity and insight he didn't have prior to EHFL. He has forged new friendships that are still in contact. Essentially he had a “college experience” while still in high school which helps him to explore his college choices.”

-Alyse Baker-Boncaldo

“Taylor has told us about the many leadership activities at EFL, particularly those focused on getting to know yourself and others in the program better. She has a new appreciation for the struggles that other teens are facing.”

-Meghan Gosk

“Kristen seems more confident and independent. She loved the experience. She is now excited to go away to college in 2017.”

-Emily Rabbitt

“The FTE program was Madison's first experience participating in an academic camp. She came back enthused about the experience.”

-Margo Whitley

“Elizabeth said the caliber of students at FTE made her want to up her game. Yes they were smart, but she expected that. What surprised her was their sincerity, attitude and integrity!

-Lisa Stange

“Nolan had a noticeably fun time at EFL. I could tell he was happy with the experience. He fell in love with the campus, instructors, and friends he made during the experience. He also said he learned a lot about leadership and economics.”

-Eva Yang

“...Joshua talked a lot about the program when he got back home. He liked the professor and enjoyed his time there. I think he returned with a bit more confidence in himself; that's one of the real benefits of the program. He also came back with a better understanding of what college level coursework can be like. Meeting kids from other parts of the country with different backgrounds and perspectives was also valuable! Thank you for affording him such a worthwhile experience.”

-Charles Berry

“It has definitely heightened Michaela's desire to attend Rice University! It has raised her awareness of the political climate and its effect on economics, especially the global economy. It also increased her confidence in her leadership ability.”

-Kim Yandell

“The FTE program was an excellent summer program. Nicole was introduced to economics in after exciting way. She came back enlightened and was considering to pursue economics when applying to college this fall semester!”

-Lubna Kidess

“Emily came back a more confident and independent person. It was a wonderful experience for her. She couldn't stop raving about it.”

-Diane Jones

“Yes, Ben is more interested in economics. He now reads the Wall Street Journal every morning and often listens to Russ Roberts' EconTalk podcast. Ben thought the teachers were excellent and he enjoyed the combination economics and leadership.”

-Jeffrey Seabourn

“Zunara is much more confident in general and loved the experience of meeting new friends. She is more motivated going into college application season.”

-Mohammad Malik

“This was the first chance Molly had to “measure” herself against any peers other than her H.S. classmates. She realized she could lead in that environment as well.”

-David Haddad

“She came home with new perspective and view. She was very excited about her experience and all of the people that she met. She raved about the professors and speakers.”

-Amy Daigle

“Collen loved the entire experience. Through the program she has become more confident and has already used some of the leadership exercises that she learned at the program”

-Graceann Toberman

“Sophia seems more comfortable with the prospect of being a leader she seems to understand better what leadership is and that perspective makes her seem less afraid to embrace it.”

-Daniel McConchie

“Maria was so challenged and motivated by the coursework, teachers, and especially the caliber of student, that her sights for the future are permanently elevated!”

-Margaret Radix

“I have noticed how determined Berenice has become. After she arrived home, Berenice became more of a leader; she stands up for what she believe is right. Now that school has started, she is more engaged in making changes for the benefits of others.”

-Ana Carrillo

“I see a greater understanding of Mark's role as a leaders within his class. He has definitely given each position as a leader a more serious look than he has in the past. He has displayed greater maturity in all situations.”

-Joan Davey

“Yes, Grace is a ‘young’ junior with a late September birthday. This week at camp gave her a unique view into ‘college life’ as well as expose her to a business subject she has some real interest in. She was completely thrilled with the friendships she made – these girls continue to text and stay in touch to share ideas of other summer programs, tips for junior year, etc.”

-Teresa Anania

Did you see an increase in your child's interest in economics or leadership after their participation in the program?

“Justin is more appreciative and aware of economic news and issues. He has more substantive and thoughtful things to contribute to family discussions.”

-Mickie Chow

“Yes, Ben has been looking toward a major in business, but now is open to a broader minor in OD or economics which will give him better perspective of how it all comes together.”

-Alyse Baker-Boncaldo

“Taylor has had a long-term interest in leadership and this had only increased due to EFL. She has gained interest in studying economics in college and is now using economic terms in our discussions.”

-Meghan Gosk

“Yes. Kristen has a greater interest in economics. She sees value in understanding economics even though she wants to go into a science field.”

-Emily Rabbitt

“We sent Elizabeth to camp because she expressed an interest and her AP US History teacher suggested she apply. After a week of coursework and leadership experiences, she decided she absolutely wants to pursue economics in college.”

-Lisa Stange

“Joshua was somewhat interested in economic prior to the program. He’s more interested in the subject now. Thanks in part to the experience he had, he seems to be leaning towards economics as a possible major in college.”

-Charles Berry

“Yes, Nicole had exhibited an interest in leadership before but not economics. She did not know what an economist does, and what value they bring to society until she attended this program.”

-Lubna Kidess

“She was always interested in pursuing a degree in economics/business. With this workshop, she has a better understanding of the subject and has solidified her decision to pursue career in economics/business.”

-Sunil Mujoo

“She just started her senior year in high school and has AP economics and government. She believed that your program has put her at the top of the class.”

-David Haddad

“Absolutely! I’m not sure how much Maggie knew about economics until she attended. The program was great as it opened her eyes to many different view points and made her examine her own point of view.”

-Amy Daigle

“Yes. Even though the high school does not offer an economics class, she has chosen to take an online ‘Economics with Financial Literacy’ course through the Wisconsin Virtual School.”

-Graceann Toberman

“Yes, Nicolaus now uses economics examples in various topics of discussion. He has a greater understanding and continues to speak about entrepreneurship opportunities.”

-Jennifer Felton

“Yoshua did have an interest in leadership but he never had an opportunity to learn about economics. FTE gave him the perfect opportunity to explore both subjects. He said the leadership training was fun and he could apply it to real life immediately. Economics gave him a different perspective with which to evaluate current issues. It’s a great program - he enjoyed the mentorship from student counselors as well as teachers!”

-Kaori Torralva

“Mark has been placed in many leadership roles throughout high school but I do see a new maturity since the program and a greater feeling of responsibility about his roles as a leader. In addition, he truly enjoyed the economics portion of the camp and he hopes to minor or major in econ, in addition to engineering.”

-Joan Davey

“Yes most definitely. The topics were covered in an engaging and interactive way. Grace would not have had this kind of rich content until senior year which is too late!”

-Teresa Anania

Would you consider sending your child to an FTE program again in the future?

“Yes. Even more so we would like to send Taylor’s sister, Kelly on a FTE programs next year.”

-Meghan Gosk

“Yes. The program was very successful and I will consider sending my other daughter “Michelle”- she is 11th grade this year.”

-Lubna Kidess

“Yes. No question I would definitely send her to another FTE Program.”

-Diane Jones

“Yes. We will be sending Zunara's brother too.”

-Mohammad Malik

“Yes. Mark truly had great respect for his leaders, professors and the entire program. One of the counselors reached out to him after the program about possibly being a counselor, within FTE, in the future. Mark was thrilled, he genuinely loved everything about the program.”

-Joan Davey

“Yes. Excellent program. Great facilitators. Very organized and structured yet some good downtime too!”

-Teresa Anania

Additional Thoughts

“Great program! As an Eagle Scout and Senior Patrol Leader, Ben has taken and employed many leadership skills. What he learned from this program solidified and validated what he knew.”

-Alyse Baker-Boncaldo

“Thank you for helping Taylor better determine what she wants to study and focus her time in college.”

-Meghan Gosk

“The best part of the camp was the opportunity for Gus to meet new friends from around the country. He gained some valuable skills and had a great teacher but the friendships made was the most surprising outcome.”

-Willow Logue

“Thank you again for giving Nicole this opportunity. We hesitated initially due to the cost, but it was well worth the money. As an economics association you will take this as high praise, I hope.”

-Lubna Kidess

“When Emily told me she wanted to go to an economics camp I was skeptical to say the least. I mean, that did not sound like fun. But she absolutely loved it, and had a great time. I'm so glad she convinced me that it was the thing for her! Thank you!”

-Diane Jones

“This is the best academic extracurricular camp our daughter has done. It's high quality. I'd recommend to anyone even if they're not sure economics is in their future.”

-Margaret Radix

“I would like to share with you the joy I experienced when my son shared with me his experience in Gainesville this past summer. I was nervous about sending him and he wasn't sure what the week would reveal. Yet, when I picked him up he was filled with excitement and joy.”

-Jennifer Felton

“My daughter had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the program both socially and from a learning perspective. Thanks for creating such a great environment.”

-Merry Ragno

“My son showed so much enthusiasm for this program it was almost uncanny. He could be an FTE spokesperson - that's how much he loved it. He has stayed in touch with his classmates and he plans to go to the reunion next summer. I think he learned a lot about economics and leadership. He L-O-V-E-D it! Great program! Thank you!”

-Joan Davey

“Henry said it was the best camp/program he had ever attended.”

-Robin Scholefield