

# More Impact Data from the Embark Community

Embark learners have:

- Created a “[Meet the Barista/Mechanic](#)” video series where students interviewed baristas and mechanics, generating over 2,000 views (this is in addition to other social media endeavors in the shops)
- Built community knowledge of cycling, dispelling myths and misconceptions through a series of experiments resulting in the “[Science of Cycling](#)” series shared on social media
- Revived an annual block party for the community, after it had been on hiatus for two years due to COVID-19. Through their marketing efforts, students generated hundreds of additional attendees over previous years

Here are few additional reflections from students on specific learning experiences:

**“ Q: What feedback or tips would you give yourself for the next group project?**

**A:** 1) *Appreciate others' skills. If someone has the future thinker skill, but you feel like they're not working as hard as everyone else, appreciate it and think that if everyone was working as hard as they could, you wouldn't have any fun.*

2) *Consider others' ideas. Don't always think that you're right, and always push for your ideas because then others will feel like their ideas don't matter, and they'll get frustrated with you.*

And 3) *Celebrate others for what they did. If someone does something great, or they come up with an awesome idea, don't just say "sure", say something like, "great idea! Let's try it out" or, "Great job doing\_\_!"*

**“ Q: What is your biggest takeaway from this last trimester?**

**A:** *During this trimester I learned that in a story you don't have to be the main character of the story even if you could or should be. You can let the listener or reader imagine what this character was like but also let them fill in the main character with themselves. You can let the reader think that they are the main character and had this experience which helps them sympathize with your story, it also helps your listeners see your story in a different light and they will really understand your story. This is applied to even non-fiction stories about your life. If the person reading sees it from your perspective they'll understand your story better.”*

Parents also see and feel the impact of students' experiences at Embark, now that their children have graduated from Embark and gone on to high school:

**“** *On a fun side note, Konrad described his favorite class [in high school] as “learner centered.” I asked what he meant by that and he said that the teacher is interested in teaching him what he wants to know, allows him time to explore his projects for as long and in-depth as he wants and there is no emphasis on grades or performance; all of which means he feels empowered to take*

*each project as far as he wants. I think it's super neat that he has the concept and expectation that this is what education is and can be, and the felt sense of the empowerment it imparts. I'm appreciative of how Embark nurtured this expectation and am hopeful that he will continue to be empowered in knowing that this is far more closely related to learning than a performative metric. Learning is an exploration."*

Finally, Embark has also had a deep impact on educators and leaders across the field through their Iterative Programs:

- 41 Applications for Summer 2022
- 13 new residents accepted for 2022
- Created new Alumni In Residence position to support the building of culture and community among the new cohort, which is staffed with 2 Iterative Space alumni
- Residents have successfully launched or iterated on several new organizations, books and projects. A selection of those from the first 2 years include:
  - Brian Lightfoot: [Formation Ventures](#)
  - Kyle Gamba: [La Luz](#)
  - Caitlin Long: [Re/Scripted](#)
  - Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri: [Montessori on Wheels](#)
  - Ulcca Joshi-Hansen: [The Future of Smart](#)
  - Bre Donnelly: [Joy as Resistance](#)

Quotes from Residents:

“ When you enter Iterative, it's like a deep soul sigh. You just feel...it still feels like coming home.”

“ The experience was more about 'what I quit doing.' Being there helped me realize the work that I was doing was not gratifying for me. I needed to let go of the security blanket and go 'explore in my zone of genius.'”

“ I want to hear about your program or idea or what you're thinking about. I'm in a space with brilliant minds. It's so rare to have access to these minds not on a podcast.”

“ Building social capital and expanding networks. Beyond personal and professional relationships, Iterative Space residents are building special capital by becoming members of the Board of Directors or other residents' organization as they incorporate their work.

Residents hire within and across cohorts as new organizations and programs grow, so do the professional networks built on time spend with each other at the Iterative Space.”