

CLASS Act Scholars

Cohort 7

Program Data Summary

August 2024

Conducted by



Executive Summary

Summit Education Initiative (SEI) launched the CLASS Act Scholars program in 2017. We designed CLASS Act Scholars to elevate and celebrate preschool teacher professional practices in Summit County, Ohio. The goal was to improve quality interactions between teachers and students in preschool classrooms to reinforce early childhood educators' critical role in students' lives and community health. The Class of 2023-2024 was the 7th cohort of educators participating in the program.

Fourteen Scholars were selected from a pool of 16 applications from Summit County for Cohort 7. Thirteen scholars completed the program. Training followed the research-based *Making the Most of Classroom Interactions* (MMCI) curriculum and included social events and engagement with leaders from the philanthropic and business communities. These additional aspects increased the sense of importance and value of the program.

Scholars were asked to participate in a survey at the end of the program. The response rate for the feedback survey was 58% (7 of 12 participants completed the survey). All quantitative and qualitative feedback was positive. All participants Agreed or Strongly Agreed that the CLASS experience had a positive impact on their professional knowledge, thinking, and quality of classroom practices. All respondents indicated they are likely to recommend the CLASS Act Scholars Program to others. All scholars positively rated the timeliness of follow-up when they had an individual question. All respondents rated their instructors highly across domains including preparation, communication, and expertise. Additional praise for the program reflected the sense of community, belonging, and respect the scholars developed among themselves and for their instructors over the school year.

CLASS Act Scholars succeeded in elevating and celebrating early childhood educators in Summit County, Ohio. This professional development initiative effectively improved educational experiences for at least three hundred seventy-five students in all five years since its inception (approximately 120 preschoolers benefit annually from this initiative). Its positive impacts will grow exponentially as these scholars continue to impact students for years in the future.