



Accelerated Career Awareness Program (ACAP) Impact Report:
University of Missouri at St. Louis, June 22-26, 2025





Introduction and Overview

The Accelerated Career Awareness Program (ACAP) was held from June 22 to June 26, 2025. This initiative aimed to equip high school students with essential skills and knowledge to prepare them for future academic and career success in accounting and business-related fields.

Student Participation, Demographics, and Engagement

Nearly 60% of attendees were high school juniors or seniors.

<i>Student Demographics:</i>	<i>111 Applied</i>	<i>60 Accepted</i>
<i>Participant Breakdown by Grade Level:</i>	<i>Participant Breakdown by Gender</i>	
First-year student (9 th):	14	Male 24
Second-year student (10 th)	11	Female 36
Third-year student (11 th)	28	Non-Binary 0
Fourth-year student (12 th)	7	

All participating students were selected from the following 32 high schools:

Believe Academies	Liberty High School
Ben Davis School (Indianapolis)	Madison High School
Cardinal Ritter College Prep	Marquette Catholic High School
Christian Brothers College High School	McClure North High School
Clyde C Miller Career Academy	Mehlville High School
Collegiate School Of Medicine and Bioscience	Normandy High School
Desmet Jesuit High School	Parkway Central High School
Edwardsville High School	Parkway South High School
Hazelwood West High School	Pell City High School (Alabama)
Incarnate Word Academy	Ritenour High School
John Burroughs School	Riverview Gardens High School
Kirkwood High School	Roosevelt High School
Ladue Horton Watkins	SLU High School
Lafayette High School	Springfield High School
Lutheran North High School	VSLP (Texas)
Lutheran South High School	Webster Groves High School



Key Activities and Highlights

One of the program's highlights was the "Shark Tank" competition, facilitated by Mr. Damon Braggs, retired CFO of CareSTL. Students formed teams to develop and present business ideas. The winning team, which was awarded a cash prize, impressed the judges with their innovative concept and thorough presentation of "Black Market."

Workshop and Seminar Topics

Throughout the week, students attended workshops on diverse topics, including:

- Business Chemistry
- College Accounting
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- College Readiness
- Financial Literacy
- Data Analytics
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Actuary Science
- Resume and Interviewing Skills
- Internal vs. External Audit
- Emotional Intelligence
- Networking

These sessions, led by industry professionals, provided students with valuable insights and practical knowledge. We recognize and thank our 30+ volunteers and presenters. Without them, this would not have been possible.

College Fair and University Engagement

A Mini College Fair featured:

- Saint Louis University (SLU)
- Lindenwood University
- Harris Stowe State University
- University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL)

This event allowed students to interact with college representatives, learn about different programs, and gain a better understanding of college life.

Professional Development Opportunities

Students also toured KPMG and University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL), experiencing firsthand what an accounting firm and a university can offer. Additionally, they received professional headshots and created LinkedIn profiles, enhancing their professional presence online.

Student Testimonials and Success Stories

Participants expressed their appreciation for the program, highlighting how it broadened their perspectives and prepared them for future endeavors. Many students mentioned the "Shark Tank" competition and workshops as particularly impactful.

"A partner sat next to me and gave me some great advice. I was blown away."-Sara

"This was my second year attending ACAP, and I had an amazing time." – Kennedy

"This was my second year, and I learned a lot. Glad I came back!" – Brandon



“I may major in accounting now.”—Mya

Program Impact and Outcomes

The program successfully equipped students with crucial skills and knowledge, fostering their academic and career development. Immediate benefits included enhanced understanding of various career paths, improved networking skills, and increased college readiness. Long-term benefits are expected as students continue to build on what they learned.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

While the program was a success, we identified areas for improvement, including expanding the range of workshop topics and increasing the duration of the case competition and certain sessions to allow for more in-depth learning. We also recognize the opportunity to attract more males.

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

We recognize ACAP Alumni Brandon Richard (FAMU, Actuary Science) and Kamari Rice (Univ of Memphis, Accounting) for presenting the closing luncheon’s keynote address. The ACAP 2025 program made a significant impact on the participating students, preparing them for future success. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, facilitators, volunteers, and partners for their invaluable support. We look forward to building on this success and making future ACAP programs even more impactful.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at acapstl@gmail.com or 618-531-6359.

Sincerely,

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