

Paying it Forward From D.C. to Denver: The Impacts of a Volunteer Spring Break Trip

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Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF)

- Nonprofit based out of Minneapolis founded in 2003
 - Chapters at Universities throughout Midwest
- Organizes Pay it Forward Tours (PIFT's)
 - Volunteer Spring Break Trips that allow students to explore and volunteer in cities throughout the US

U.S. Volunteering on the Decline

In 2015 Only 24.9% of those older than 16 volunteered

2.5% decline in volunteer rate since 2002

5 Million Less Volunteers

Less than 22% of young people between 16-24 volunteer

Program Goal: Cultivating a Desire to Help

Who Participates?

- 71% Female, 29% Male
- 26% Minority Populations
- Median Age of 20
- 41% Received Financial Aid
- Even distribution of majors
- 45% Led Clubs on campus
- 16% were STLF Leaders
- 56% reported volunteering in the month prior
- Most came from WI, MI, and MN

Evaluation Design

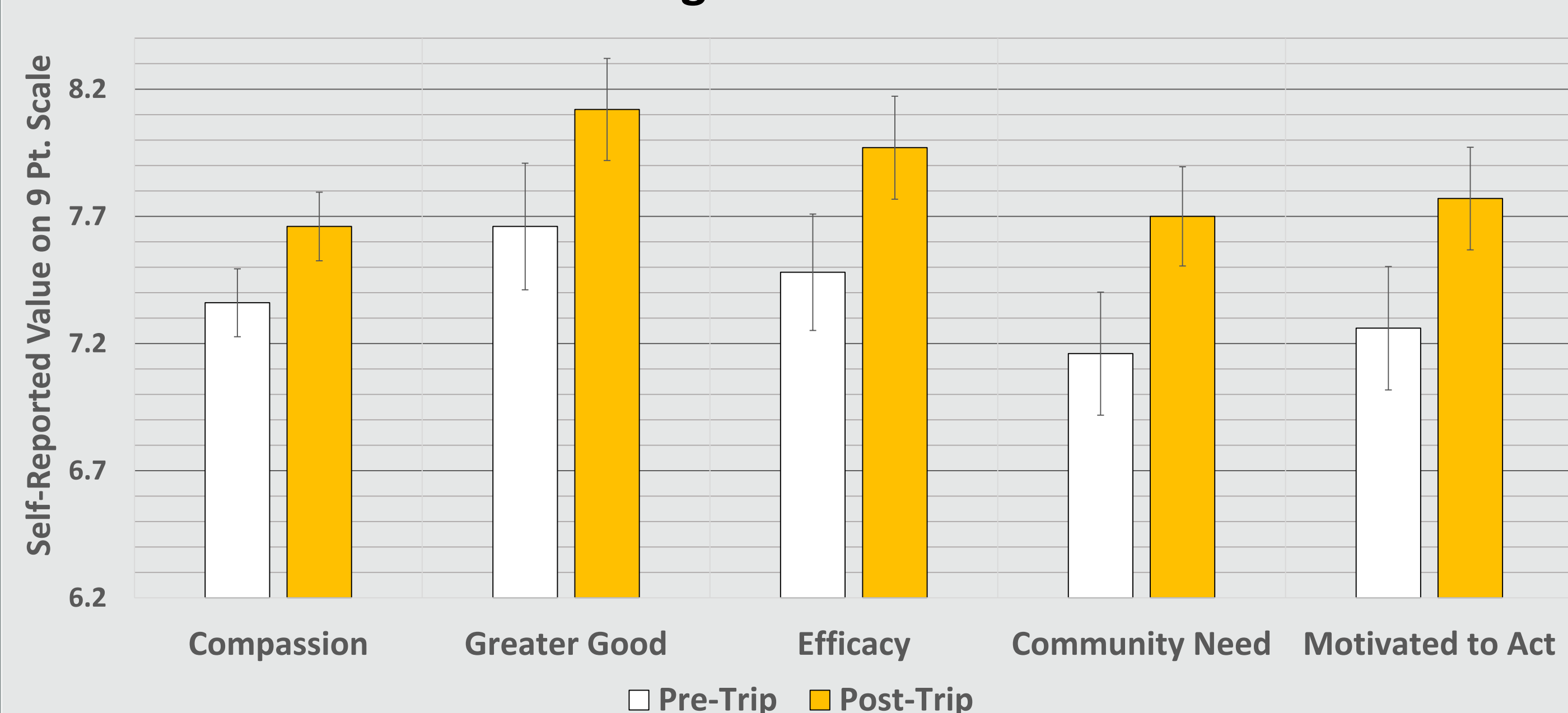
Pre-Tour Survey

- Collected demographics
- Measured pre-trip sentiment

Post-Tour Survey

- Measured post-trip sentiment
- Collected general program feedback

Post-Trip, Participants Feel More Motivated and Cognizant of Others



Filling a Gap?: Evaluating Value to Community Partners

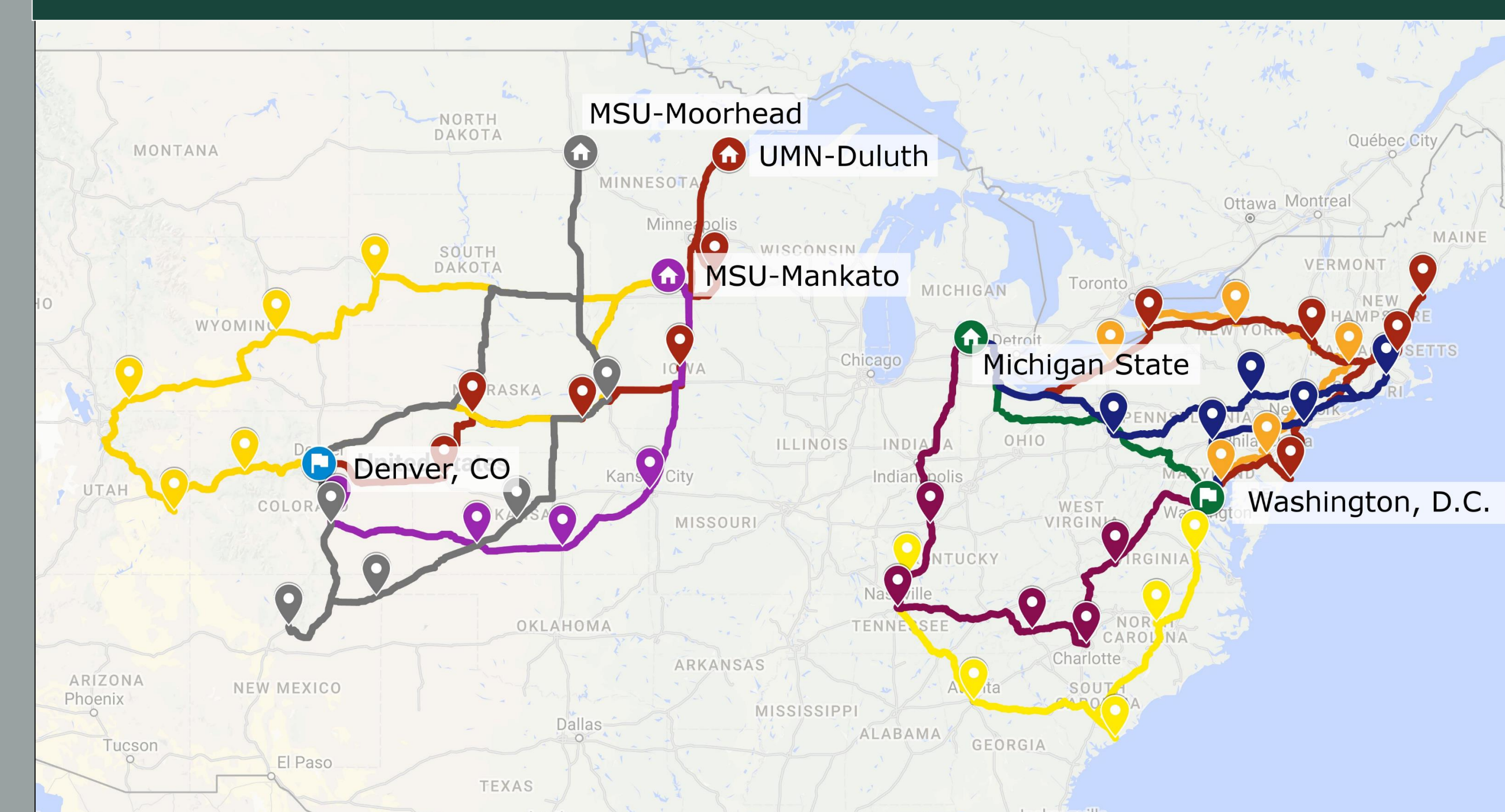
Michigan State's Community Partners

Organization Type	Projects
Community Parks and Gardens	4
Community Preservation & Revitalization	5
Food Banks	4
Health and Recreation	4
At-Risk Pop. Providers	3
Other	2

Evaluation Design

- Brief survey where Community partners:
 - Rated Volunteers & Importance of work
- Of MSU's 25 Partners, 19 Completed the Survey

Routes of One Week Tours: Spring 2018



Results

Work was Important

Some projects needed more planning

Participants were motivated and positive

Overall, participants filled an important gap for many partners

Continuing Evaluations and Expanding Impact

Continue Evaluating Programs

Participants

- Differences in results among populations?
- Find more reliable measures
- Retry with controls

Community Partners

- Explore Long-term Impact
- What projects are most impactful?
- Explore negative impacts

Expand Reach

- Actively search for places that need help
- Volunteer in more and underprovided communities
- Volunteer beyond Tours
- Improve Planning Practices of leaders

Diversify

- Experience benefits from more diverse population
- Recruit underrepresented populations
- Explore targeted recruitment strategies