A Model for Promoting Organ Donation Awareness

Devina Patel, Dawn Thomas BS, Medhat Askar, MD, PhD
Cleveland Clinic

**Background**

- Organ donation is the process that utilizes healthy organs from one person for transplantation into another.
- History: The first successful transplant was performed between identical twins in Boston’s Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in 1954 by Dr. Joseph E. Murray. Their transplant was successful because since they were twins, the recipient’s body didn’t see the kidney as a foreign object.
- In order for a person to become an organ donor, blood and oxygen must flow through the organs until the time of recovery to ensure viability.
- Today, for patients with end-stage organ failure, transplanting solid organs and tissues is a common therapeutic strategy.
- Fact: On average, 18 people die each day while waiting for organ transplants in the US.

**Hypothesis**

- Through the “Experiential Learning” process and the “Flipped Classroom” method developed by former studies, students will be able to experience the nature of how the process of organ donation is done at LifeBanc by discovering and applying the two principles.

**Methodology**

**Principle 1: Experiential Method**

- David A. Kolb from Case Western Reserve University and founder and chairman of Experience Based Learning Systems created an interdisciplinary learning method in which students develop skills, knowledge, and values from direct experiences outside a traditional academic setting.
- Throughout the experiential learning process, the student is actively engaged in posing questions, investigating, experimenting, being curious, solving problems, assuming responsibility, being creative and constructing meaning.
- This involvement produces a perception that the learning task is authentic.
- To maximize the effectiveness of educational programs, the “experiential learning” method allows students to experience the real world and eliminate misconceptions on the topic of organ donation so that they are able to make an informed and educated decision.

**Principle 2: Flipped Classroom**

- The flipped classroom model gives students information in the form of homework prior to the lesson, freeing up class time for applications and emotion-provoking simulations that activate prior knowledge.

**The Combined Approach**

- Using the Flipped-Classroom principle, students will be completing an Organ and Tissue donation handout before the tour at LifeBanc.
- Students will utilize the experiential method and engage in a tour at LifeBanc provided with speakers, videos, a socratic seminar discussion, and a pre and post survey to gather data for this combined approach.

**Discussions**

- New efforts through education are needed to address the 120,000 people on the organ waiting list.
- This approach will be implemented into Solon High School and Solon High School’s Pre-Medical Society.

**Recommendations**

- If this project was tested further, a control group should be used in order to gather more analytical and efficient data.
- More viewings should be created to see on the tour of LifeBanc.