

The background of the entire page is a grid of circular portraits of diverse students. The portraits are arranged in rows, with some overlapping the text banners. The students are of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling or looking directly at the camera. The portraits are set against a blue background that has a horizontal light blue stripe across the middle.

ACTION FELLOWSHIP

EVALUATION

CLASS OF 2015



ALLIANCE FOR
CLIMATE EDUCATION



BUILDING LIFELONG CLIMATE LEADERS

REB ANDERSON

ACE prides itself on being a learning organization. We continually strive to measure our results, track our progress and learn from our mistakes. And, we have a history of working with research experts from universities like Stanford, Yale and George Mason to measure the impact of our programs. In 2014, we published a paper in the journal *Climatic Change*, demonstrating the efficacy of our in-school ACE Assembly, a multimedia climate education program, to increase knowledge and shift attitudes and beliefs on climate change.

Since our inception, we've also worked with young people to build their leadership skills in the climate movement. We've hosted leadership workshops with more than 4,000 young people across the nation. In 2013, a small group of dedicated ACE staff came up with a new idea to launch a yearlong, intensive leadership development program for young people to build their knowledge, skills and confidence to become strong climate leaders.

We piloted this program the same year and it has since evolved into the ACE Action Fellowship. Building on the research we had published on the ACE Assembly, we wanted to measure the impact the Action Fellowship was having on the young people we were serving.

We partnered with CIRCLE, a project of Tufts University, to evaluate the impact of our Fellowship program. We surveyed the 2015 class of Action Fellows both before and after the Fellowship to learn how they grew over the

course of the program. We also assessed ways in which we can continue to improve the leadership of ACE Fellows and strengthen their intentions to continue their climate engagement into the future.

The results are exciting. We've learned that the Fellowship increases young people's confidence and gives them tangible leadership skills like creative problem solving and public speaking. It also motivates young people to speak about climate change with family and friends. The Fellowship positively influences young people's intent to study a climate, energy or sustainability-related field in college, as well as to take action on climate change in their career, regardless of what that career is.

Most notably, we found that despite entering the Fellowship with significantly lower self-ratings than white students, the 63% of participants who identified as young people of color reported greater improvement in the areas of public speaking and petitioning.

We plan on surveying these same students one year after they graduate from the Action Fellowship to further measure the long-term impact of this program. We look forward to staying in touch and sharing more exciting results soon about how our Action Fellowship program is unleashing a new generation of climate leaders.

Reb Anderson
Director of Education



— FELLOWSHIP SURVEY OVERVIEW —

60

pre- and post-Fellowship
paired surveys

8

Fellowships across
the country

63%

of Fellows surveyed identify
as youth of color



FELLOWSHIP LOCATIONS

Note: Fellows rated themselves on a scale of 1-10. All results are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level unless noted.

KEY FINDINGS

ACTIONS TAKEN

42% report an increase in individual actions taken in their daily life.

The Action Fellowship gives young people hands-on experience in climate solutions. Overall, 48% of Fellows reported speaking more about climate change.

// **WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE CLIMATE CHANGE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS PEOPLE OF COLOR AND YOUTH. WE HAVE TO DO OUR PART TO MAKE SURE THOSE MOST VULNERABLE ARE SAFE.** //

— VICTORIA BARRETT, 16
CLASS OF 2016 ACTION FELLOW



FUTURE PLANS

37% report an increase in their intent to take action on climate change in their career.

The Action Fellowship influences young people's plans for the future. 45% of Fellows intend to study a STEM field and 97% plan to attend a four-year college or university.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

50% report an increase in their likelihood of seeking elected office.

The Action Fellowship influences young people's voting choices and civic engagement. 32% of Fellows report an increase in their intent to vote pro-climate.

CONFIDENCE

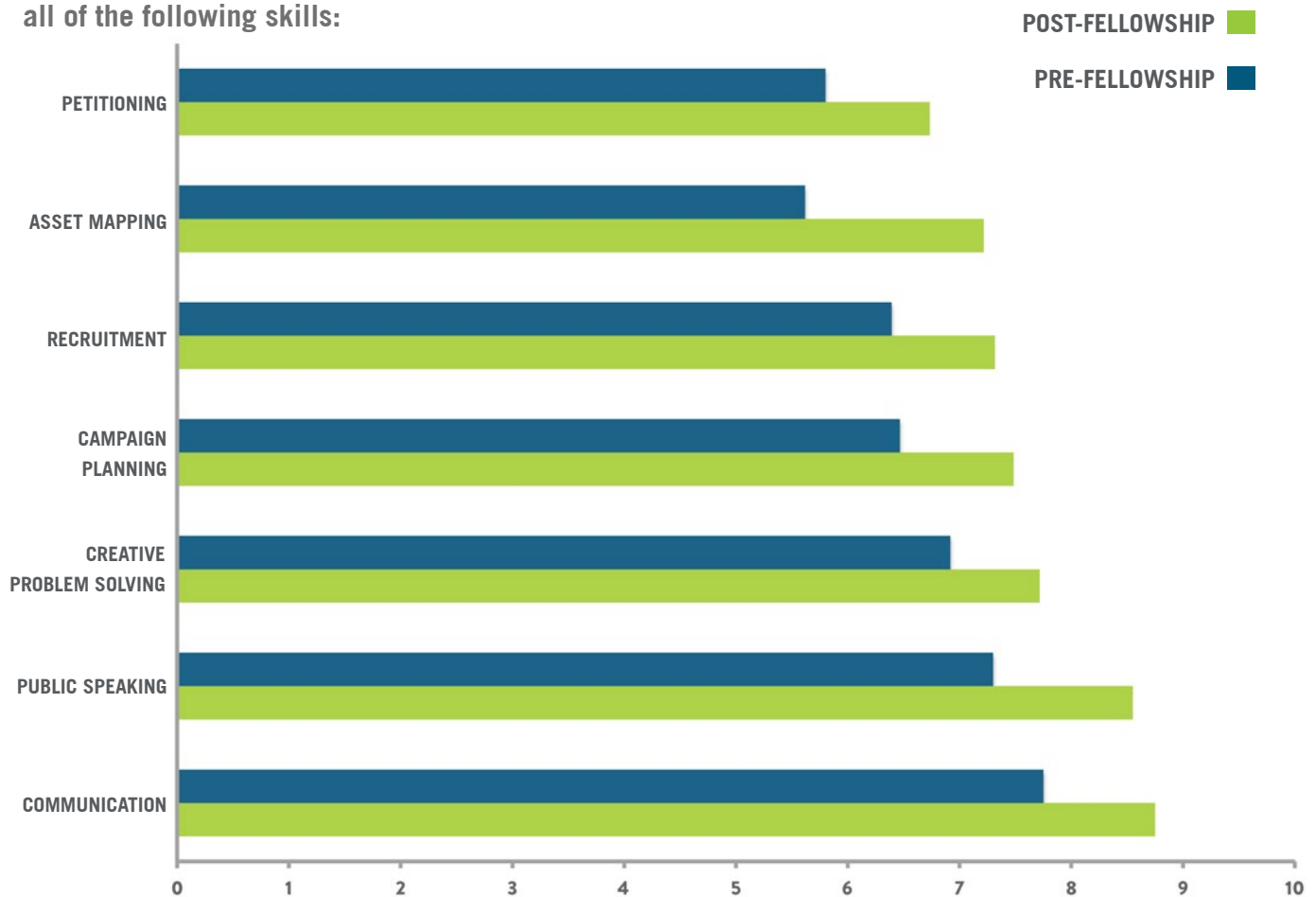
52% report increased confidence in their ability to lead a group of peers on a climate related campaign.

The Action Fellowship increases confidence. Fellows reported a 34% increase in confidence that they could seek elected office.



THE ACTION FELLOWSHIP GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO BE STRONG CLIMATE LEADERS.

After participating in the Fellowship, Fellows showed a marked improvement in all of the following skills:



REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

NORTH CAROLINA



**THE CAREER INTERESTS OF FELLOWS ARE
INFLUENCED BY THEIR REGIONAL CAMPAIGNS.**

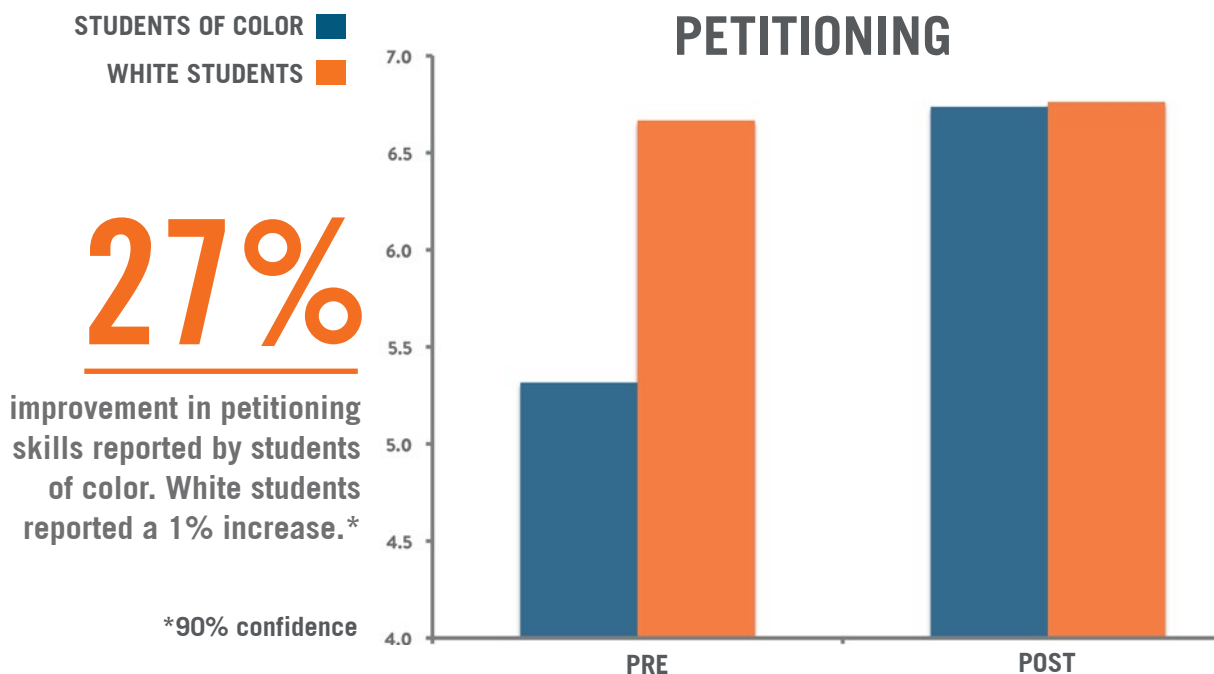


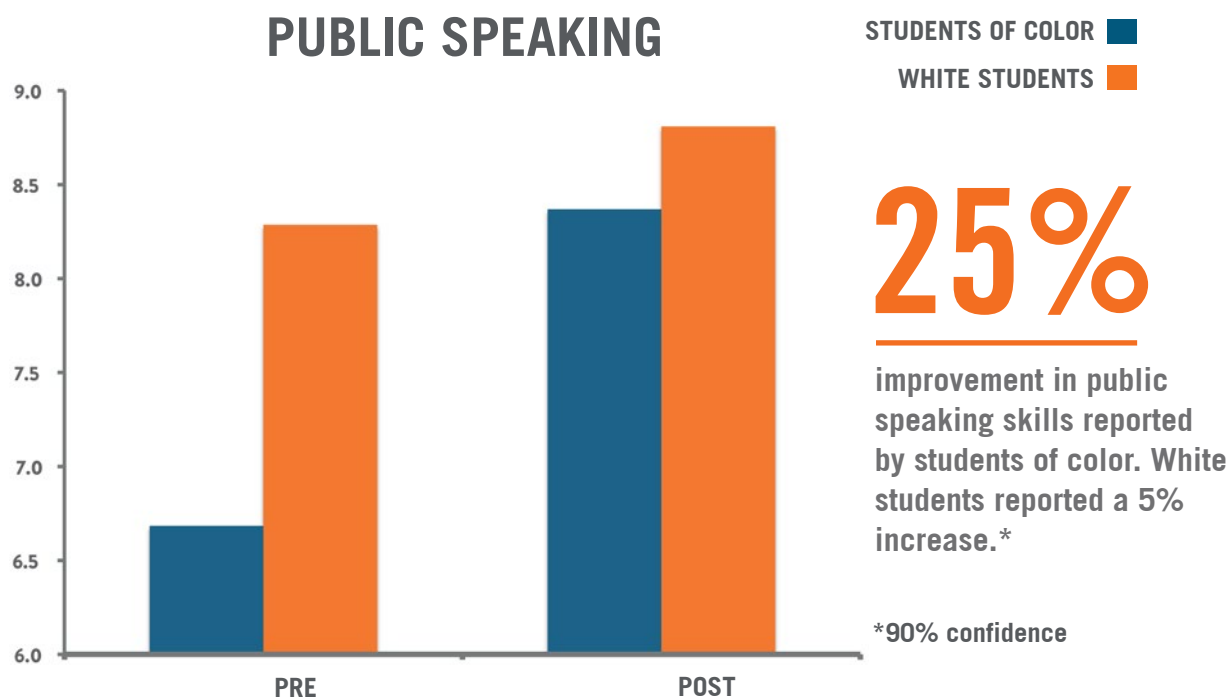
As a result of shadowing an energy auditor, North Carolina Fellows reported greater interest in participating in an energy auditor training program after the Fellowship.



SUPPORTING YOUTH OF COLOR

The Action Fellowship gives leadership skills to youth of color. Despite entering the Fellowship with significantly lower self-ratings than white students, young people of color report greater improvement in public speaking and petitioning.





ACE FELLOWS ARE SPEAKING TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS THROUGH HIGH-PROFILE EVENTS TO INSPIRE ACTION ON CLIMATE.



More than half of Fellows say they improved their public speaking skills after going through the program.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

NEW ENGLAND

**BOSTON FELLOWS RALLIED THEIR COMMUNITY
AND ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DIVEST
FROM FOSSIL FUELS.**



Overall, Fellows showed a 20% increase in speaking to others about climate change and a 48% increase in the number of times speaking to elected officials about climate change.

**NEW YORK FELLOWS ORGANIZED THEIR PEERS
AND FELLOW NEW YORKERS TO TURN OUT IN
MASS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION.**

**63% of Fellows attended a climate
rally during the Fellowship.**

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

NEW YORK CITY



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