Shifting perceptions through **community collaboration**

Having a community to lean on, to learn from, and to grow with is so incredibly important for our students. Many have developed wonderful friendships and are truly excited to see their fellow students during each workshop.

A big part of what makes the Islands of Brilliance community so magical and meaningful are the partners and people we meet and the one-of-a-kind collaboration that unfolds. Without these partners, Islands of Brilliance wouldn’t be able to provide unique experiences to our students. The opportunities they create help advance our mission and change perceptions of the neurodiverse community.

Take a look at some of the recent collaborations and impact Islands of Brilliance and our community partners have been able to make:

**WHAT:** Light the Hoan Virtual Reality Experience

**STUDENT IMPACT:** Digital Academy students engaged in product-based learning from January - November 2019. Highlights included:

- Bootcamp-style learning and exploration involving VR equipment and software, design-thinking, and prototyping
- 3D Modeling and software development sprints; software completion, testing, and deployment

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** Light the Hoan, UWM Immersive Media Lab, UWM Lubar Entrepreneurship Center, Foresight Studios

**FUNDED BY:** AutismSpeaks/GameStop, Bader Philanthropies, Greater Milwaukee Foundation

**WHAT:** "The Perfect Day" - Design Thinking Exploration

**STUDENT IMPACT:** Digital Academy students attended a one-day design thinking workshop led by GE onsite at their Innovation Campus in Waukesha

- Participants engaged in an exploratory process that involved individually brainstorming their ideas of the perfect day, coming together as teams to ideate further, and collaborating to select, refine, and enhance the outcomes
- Students presented final ideas at the close of the day and left with a better understanding of how to incorporate the design thinking process into future DA projects

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:** GE Healthcare

To discuss partnership collaborations, please contact Director of Development, Michelle Pape, at michelle@islandsofbrilliance.org or 414-708-8082.