Kaitlin Bril
UW-Platteville Student & PACCE Summer Intern
Interning at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago IL
Senior majoring in Art Education
Hometown: Decorah IA

“IT is extremely motivating to be a part of this community of artists, educators, and students” - Bril

How did your internship opportunity happen? My advisor, Barbara Westfall, connected me with Bruce Howdle who teaches ceramics classes at UW-P. Bruce has a connection to the owner of Lillstreet, and has been sending an art student for the past three summers as a way for us to learn about art in a new environment as well as gain powerful teaching insight.

How are you spending your days? I’ve been working primarily with the Kidstreet program, which are the summer camps for pre-k through high school students. I’ve been assisting in teaching classes- Clay & Multimedia, All Things Messy, Claymation, and Photo Safari, as well as the C.I.T. program (Counselors in Training for high school students). I’ve gotten to work with a variety of ages, skill levels, and media, which allow me to learn more about how students learn best at these various stages.

What types of skills are you learning? I’m learning new techniques and approaches to teaching art, which I will take right into student teaching this coming fall.

What has been the best part of this experience? Working in the pre-k room to elementary to middle school to high school students has been a challenge I am grateful for, since I want to be prepared to teach all ages and levels. As a future educator, it’s gratifying to see kids so excited and interested in art, and it inspires me to be a better teacher, one of the many they deserve to have. Each student has a set of accommodations, attention, and challenges that need to be met, and I approach each with gratitude. I love to encourage self-motivation, responsibility and of course, creativity. I believe the purpose of arts education is to motivate students to think and communicate visually and creatively through expression and experimentation. By manipulating skills and techniques learned through art making, students construct their own knowledge of the world. Students develop higher order thinking skills like problem solving, self-discipline, and critical thinking that can translate into success in other areas of life.

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