Ladies of Distinction Participant Analysis

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Introduction

In order to develop a successful mentorship program for young female students at his school, the program needed to initiate mentoring initiatives with Furman University. The purpose of the program was to develop a sisterhood through the act of mentoring and to show the girls who they are in addition to what they can become. This purpose was very important because Beck Academy was located in the inner city, and most of the girls were from low-income households and housing projects. In the fall of 2006, however, Beck Academy started a new year in a new location, in a much better neighborhood. The program lost many of the girls who were participants at the old school because of zoning. To get a better understanding of the participants for this year, I decided to do an analysis of the areas that the 2006 participants live in.

Methodology

For one of the layers, when I added those with no price they paid for lunch (full, reduced, or free). This would be a good indicator of the income of the girls of this year. After obtaining all their addresses, I compiled a database containing the addresses and it’s latitude and longitude. To get the longitude and latitude, I added the census tract information as a table with all of it’s attributes. I exported the data for only the census tracts the girls live in. I then composed a database containing the census tracts and the attributes related with each census tract. I imported color maps and pie charts using the symbology projection specified, they assumed the projection of the layer with the addresses. This was very important because Beck Academy was located in the inner city, and most of the girls were from low-income households and housing projects.

Results

The last map (Figure 3) is a map that shows the Median Family Income of the areas the girls live in. The results of this study were very interesting. Figure 1 shows the highest level of education attained, consisting of a high school diploma, bachelor degree, and graduate degrees. The areas of lower income were the areas to the west of Beck Academy. The areas with income below the poverty level single parent households. Those areas with a high percentage of income below poverty level were the same areas with fairly high income. The areas of lower income and less stable communities. Those to the right of Beck are the higher income communities. This does not necessarily mean that the girls from these areas actually live in the higher income communities. This is very useful information because if we wanted to make the program available to only those girls who were from lower income communities we would know which communities needed to be targeted.

Data Sources

* U.S. Census Bureau
* ajmGeocodePE
* Received the Boundary Breaker Program of the year by Furman University
* Ladies of Distinction is a affiliated with Heller Service Corps, the
* Additional Program Information and Accolades
* The program received an award form the Commission on Higher Education for the best service learning project in the state among privates school in South Carolina.
* Received the Boundary Breaker Program of the year by Furman University
* Special thanks to those volunteers who assisted in the collection of data and gave input. If you would like more information about this organization, you can contact
* Sheronda Witter at sheronda.witter@furman.edu

Methodology cont.