

**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:**

- NV receives \$1.5 m
- Increase Nevada's college-going rate
- Students pledge to go to college
- College and career readiness curriculum

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## Welcome from the NSHE College Access Team

Welcome to the first newsletter edition of the Nevada College Access Challenge Grant (NVCACG). As part of Chancellor Daniel Klaich's focus on strengthening educational partnerships to increase college participation and completion rates, NVCACG focuses on scaling up access programs and activities throughout the State.

NVCACG is funded by a US Department of Education grant. Dr. Magdalena Martinez, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is the named Principal Investigator. Dr. Edith Fernández is the Director for College Access Programs and will be directing this effort with a dynamic team dedicated to building a brighter future for Nevada. Team members include Lucy Flores, Access Coordinator, and Mallory Levins, Access Assistant. Collectively, the NSHE College Access Team brings over three decades of experience in higher education and student services. The team is invested in our Nevada community and dedi-

cated to creating a college-going culture through initiatives such as the GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign. Learn more about the NSHE College Access Team by visiting <http://www.nevada.edu/epscor/college-access-contact.html>.

At the 2010 Nevada Dropout Prevention Summit, spearheaded by the Nevada Public Education Foundation, national speakers and Nevada leaders spoke of the dire economic and educational condition of state. The summit organizers put out a call for ac-

tion. NSHE leadership responds to this call by making the commitment to increase access to higher education for all students in Nevada. We cannot do this alone. We call on all education leaders, Nevada residents, and policy-makers to help us as we create new higher education pathways for Nevada residents.



Team members from left to right: Dr. Magdalena Martinez, Dr. Edith Fernández, Mallory Levins, and Lucy Flores.



## The Challenge Grant

Nevada is one of 24 states that has committed, under a pact with Complete College America, to increase college completion rates. To achieve this goal, the Nevada System of Higher Education will focus its College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) efforts to dramatically increase the percent of new college entrants. The \$1.5 million US Department of Education grant is the driving force.

The Nevada CACG will focus its activities on four goals:

(1) Create a college-going culture in Nevada through a strategic statewide media campaign-GoToCollegeNevada.org,

(2) Increase college knowledge to encourage students to enroll and complete a quality postsecondary certificate and/or degree,

(3) Increase college participation, financial literacy and career readiness at high schools with significant numbers of low-income or high-need students; and

(4) Pilot accelerated associate degree programs that target first-time college students who are low-income and underrepresented in postsecondary completion rates at 2-year Nevada public postsecondary institutions.

## Nevada Student Pledges To Go To College

Joy Wong knows how important college is for her future. That is why she went to GoToCollegeNevada.org and took an online pledge to go to college. Joy, a sophomore at Clark High School, became the first

winner (selected at random) of the pledge drive. She was awarded the laptop by Assistant Vice Chancellor Magdalena Martinez and Assemblyman-elect Jason Frierson during her morning honors class. Also present

was Principal Jill Pendleton, who encouraged other students to take Joy's lead and make the pledge.

Joy Wong commented with excitement that the new laptop would allow her to spend more time on her homework. She is going to share her experience with other students and tell them how they too can get college information and start planning their own college journey at GoToCollegeNevada.org.

*"...Principal Pendleton...encouraged other students to take Joy's lead and make the pledge."*



**Dr. Magdalena Martinez and Jill Pendleton with laptop pledge winner, Joy Wong**

# Nevada CACG Supports College Access Activities



**Eldorado High School Dean of Students Roger West with student**

To implement Nevada’s CACG goals, public postsecondary institutions, public high schools, and community based organizations were eligible to apply for competitive sub-grants to expand or initiate new access activities that reach underrepresented students.

Ten Nevada public high schools were selected as sites for the implementation of Navigation 101 with College Access Challenge Grant funds. Navigation 101 is a

comprehensive computer based curriculum-driven program. It is designed to increase college and career readiness for students through a new discipline of study and effective support elements. Navigation 101 gives each student a compass to navigate their educational career and post graduation path. Navigation 101 will teach 9th to 12th grade students about key topic areas of self-management, such as high school course selection, career planning, college education options, and financial aid, as well as self-awareness and motivation. Students receive scoped and sequenced instruction and assessment, a personalized online portfolio, integrated career center resources and

search tools, and training for student-led conferences. Education leaders at each high school receive implementation training and access to assessment tools and tracking to better advise students.

Twelve additional sub-grants were awarded to Nevada public postsecondary institutions and community based organizations to expand or initiate programs that will encourage students to enroll in college. Future newsletter editions will highlight Navigation 101 high schools and funded access programs throughout Nevada.

For a complete list and description of CACG grantees visit:

<http://www.nevada.edu/epscor/college-access.html>

*Navigation 101 High Schools*

*Cimarron-Memorial*

*Eldorado*

*Fernley*

*Gerlach*

*Proctor R. Hug*

*North Valleys*

*Silver Stage*

*Smith Valley*

*Western*

*Yerington*

## Nevadans Go to the Fair

The Southern and Northern Nevada Fall college fairs were filled with eager students seeking college information. The GoToCollegeNevada.org booth became a popular stop. *The College Journey* publication was in demand because it provides a step-by-guide to

attending a Nevada institution. Tips for Grade 6 through Grade 12 are listed for students and parents alike. Mallory Levins, College Access Assistant, commented “It was great to see the younger siblings accompany their older brothers/sisters at the fair and actively ask questions about college too.”



**College fair participants from Southern and Northern Nevada**





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Mr. Michael Wixom

#### Institutions

University of Nevada, Las Vegas •

University of Nevada, Reno • Nevada State College •

College of Southern Nevada • Great Basin College •

Truckee Meadows Community College •

Western Nevada College • Desert Research Institute

*Funded by the US Department of Education and brought to you by the Nevada System of Higher Education.*

## Making the Decision

Yessenia  
Mendoza  
(center)  
with  
family



On November 23, 2010, over one hundred students gathered at East Career and Technical Academy's library to hear the surprise announce-

ment of the GoToCollegeNevada.org video contest winner. Kicking off the event was a lively discussion of the top ten reasons to go to college.

Students then eagerly watched the winning video titled *Indecision*. The video is a short tale of a young man struggling to pay bills and manage debt whose decision to seek information about college changes his life circumstances for the better. Yessenia Mendoza, a high school junior, received the award which in-

cluded a laptop computer. When asked the source of her inspiration, Yessenia was quick to respond, "My parents!" Yessenia Mendoza is described by her film studies teacher, Carrie Vlaming, as a hard-working student, well-deserving of this award. Yessenia plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno. Find out more by watching *Inside Education* on PBS Vegas, December 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m..