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By Nora Luna, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

On January 25, 2011, CACG funded, *Together for a Better Education/Juntos para una Mejor Educación (JUNTOS)*, launched their first class at Rancho High School. The night was filled with educational dialogue and fun activities to engage students and parents about the college-going process. Ilvia Uribe, Instructor, and Assistant Professor Nora Luna with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension led the first class. Uribe commented "It was a great experience connecting with the community and working together to show them the road to higher education is something everyone can achieve." Families were eager to participate. One parent exclaimed, "I enjoyed the program very much because it was fun and I learned different ways I can support my child to succeed in high school."

JUNTOS' second program site is at Canyon Springs High



Assistant Professor, Nora Luna leads a discussion

School. Their goal is to teach at 13 different high schools in the Clark County School District. At each school, JUNTOS will meet with families for six weeks. Topics covered include Nevada high school graduation requirements ways to advocate and support students, financial literacy and preparing for college. For more information about the UNRCE JUNTOS program visit us on facebook.



JUNTOS participants enjoy a group activity

Important Dates

- Call for Proposals
- April 15: RFP Available
- May 17: Letter of Intent Due
- May 31: Application Due
- June 10: Award Notification

www.nevada.edu/epscor/current-solicitations.html

SAVE the DATE

High Schools with a Navigation 101 grant

State-Wide Seminar

**Thursday,
April 28, 2011
8 am– 5pm**

**Location & Invitation
Forthcoming**

Did you know?

Nevada is one of 24 states committed to increasing the number of college graduates. For more information on the Complete College America initiative visit:

www.completecollege.org/

“Cameron, a senior at Pershing County, was one of hundreds of students across the State to take the online pledge at GoToCollegeNevada.org”

Cameron Takes the Pledge To Go To College

The entire student body of Pershing County High School in Lovelock was present to see Cameron Keller receive a new netbook from the College Access Challenge Grant Program. Cameron, a senior at Pershing County, was one of hundreds of students across the State to take the online pledge at GoToCollegeNevada.org. As a result of Cameron’s pledge to go to college, he was randomly selected and awarded the netbook on December 16, 2010 by Sharon Wurm, NSHE Director of

Financial Aid. Pershing County Superintendent Dan Fox commented on the importance of the website as an valuable resource to Nevada. Over 200 students at Pershing County High

School received additional information on the GoToCollegeNevada.org website and were encouraged by Principal Russell Fecht to explore the website and prepare for college.



Left to Right: Superintendent Fox, Sue and John Wright (parents), Cameron Keller (student), Sharon Wurm and Principal Fecht

TMCC’s Success First Summer Bridge Program



Yamilet Torres (right) with TMCC mentee

By Yamilet Torres

Yamilet Torres, a current TMCC student ambassador and mentor, recounts her experience in the Student Success First Summer Bridge Program, a CACG funded program.

When I started the bridge program, my family was facing hard times. My aunt had suffered a brain aneurysm at the start of the program. I traveled often to UC Davis to see her, and at the same time I was attempting to adapt and focus on my new college life. Various times, I did homework on the road or stayed up late to get everything done for the following morning. Luck-

ily, the program was very helpful and provided the resources I needed to be successful. I took advantage of the tutor assistance which helped me tremendously with my homework. I came to school every day of the program, tried my best to focus, participated in class, and completed my assignments on time. The TMCC Success First Summer Bridge Program provided me with the support I needed in order to earn a 4.0 grade point average in my first college courses. I believe that without the Success First Summer Bridge Program, I would not have been ready to start college. My experience at TMCC college has prepared me for life. It has shown me that even when dealing with a tough situation, you

can have a successful outcome.

With all the success I achieved during the program, I now have a story I can share with other students in order to motivate them to pursue their goals and dreams. As a student ambassador and mentor, I am passionate about helping students succeed and letting them know about the Success First Program. I try to give the best advice and support I can by sharing my story that defies any belief that low-income families cannot send their children to college. Success is possible if you believe in yourself and you are willing to work hard to triumph!

For information visit www.tmcc.edu/aor/successfirst/summer/

CSN's Southern Nevada Career & Technical Career Pathways To Success

By Dr. Warren Hioki,
Executive Director of Technical Programs
and High School Partnerships,
College of Southern Nevada

The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) faculty and staff interacted with over 1,600 Basic High School students in stressing the importance of a college education through statewide *Go To College*



CSN Business Administration faculty discuss career options with students

Nevada initiative funded by CACG. The grant has enabled CSN to partner with the Nevada Public Education Foundation to make college preparation a top priority for students currently attending 12 Clark County School District high schools.

The CSN grant team intends to fulfill three objectives: (1) Generate an awareness of career and technical education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS)-career pathways that link 12 CCSD high schools

with CSN degrees and certificates; (2) Increase high school parents' knowledge of CSN Student Services and encourage their students to enroll and complete a quality CSN certificate and/or degree through a "Parent's Night Out" event; and (3) Increase student knowledge of CSN Testing Center's Math and English placement exam opportunities, services, and procedures.

For more information email
Dr. Warren Hioki warren.hioki@csn.edu



CSN faculty interact one-on-one with Basic High School students

UNR's Yes You Can Attend College Program

By Perry Fittler, Graduate Assistant,
Student Success Services,
University of Nevada, Reno

Procter R. Hug High School students were exposed to the college experience this month as they began a college success course offered by the Yes You Can Attend College Program. The program, which is operated by Student Success Services at the University of Nevada, Reno, is funded by the Nevada College Access Challenge Grant. As one component of the program, eligible students are enrolled in a one unit course which provides students with the skills and knowledge to be successful as they transition to college. The course takes place at Hug High School and immerses students in a college going culture during their final semester of high school. During the second week of class, students listened to a presentation by

University of Nevada, Reno students involved with the student organizations M.E.N. of Distinction and Sisters on a Move. The university students shared their college experiences and detailed opportunities for involvement at the University. To cap off the day, the high

school students stepped into the college experience by learning a step dance with the university students.

For information on this program visit
www.unr.edu/stsv/student-success/



Hug High School participants, gather for their first group picture



Nevada System of Higher Education

5550 W. Flamingo Rd., Suite C-1, Las Vegas, NV 89103

(702) 889-8426

2601 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512

(775) 784-4958

GoToCollegeNevada@nshe.nevada.edu

GoToCollegeNevada.org

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Preparing Teachers & Attracting Students To Biomedical Engineering

By Dr. Xiaoshan Zhu, Director & Assistant Professor Biomedical Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

A college degree in biomedical engineering (BME) instantly strengthens a candidate's competency in the job market. Assistant Professor Zhu with the assistance of Nevada CACG funds is focused on providing high school teachers with the expertise, training and exposure to the biomedical engineering field in order to attract more students to this distinctive field.

On January 27, 2011 four high school teachers from Washoe and

Lyon County School Districts participated in training hosted at UNR. The workshop was targeted to develop the BME teaching expertise of the participating high school teachers. The workshop covered the fundamental concepts of biomedical engineering and an overview of the BME job market perspective and sustainability. At the end of the workshop, teachers walked away with a wealth of materials including demonstration videos to use for the development of biomedical engineering related curricula or after-school programs in their schools. The teachers commented

they would also use the materials as recruitment tools to attract high school students to participate in the next phase of the project, which includes hands-on laboratory tours and an educational summer program. Other events will bring high school students to campus to learn about biomedical engineering.

