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UNLV Leadership & Education for the Advancement of Diversity for Student Success

*By Jose L. Melendrez and Ivet Santiago
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

The UNLV LEADSS initiative is a model program that exemplifies the importance and power of working with community-based organizations. Through the leadership of Jose Melendrez and Ivet Santiago, collaborations remain strong with the Latin Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Teen Expo, Asian Pacific American Islander Youth Leadership Symposium and the Clark County School District. These collaborations directly impact students and their parents throughout Southern Nevada high schools.

Through a series of research-based modules students and parents learn about how to prepare for college. Financial literacy is a key topic, thus time is

spent on the importance of personal budgeting and how to apply for the FAFSA. Another critical module focuses on the growing professions in science, technology, engineering and math in Nevada.

Through these modules students and parents also become acquainted with campus-based resources and offices to help students succeed. To date, 311 students have been served by the LEADSS initiative. All of whom are now motivated by the possibility of going to college and excited about the lifelong opportunities college could provide them and their families.

For information on these programs visit www.unlv.edu.



Asian Pacific American Islander Youth Leadership Symposium



Parents and students participating in a LEADSS program

Welcome CACG Access Ambassadors!

In partnership with the AmeriCorps program, a UNLV college student is working with NSHE's College Access Challenge Grant staff. She will focus on the GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign and social media. Welcome Erika Herrera!



Did you know?

The 2010/11 Nevada College Access Challenge Grant has touched at least 17,622 students through access and success funded programs and initiatives. A sample of programs and students are highlighted in the current and previous newsletters.

ACAG Supported Summer Programs

*June 20-July 29:
UNR Dean's Future Scholars
Summer Program*

*June 10-11:
UNLV Multicultural Youth
Leadership Conference*

*June 21-June 26:
Latin Chamber of Commerce
Latino Youth Leadership
Conference at UNLV & CSN*

*July 5-August 4:
TMCC: Summer Bridge*

*July 11-16:
After-School All-Stars
CampUs LV Summer Camp*



UNR's Yes You Can Student Receives Gates Millennium Scholarship

By Monika Mala, ASCENT Program Coordinator at Hug High School

Miriam Contreras is part of the ASCENT and Yes You Can Attend College programs that is partially funded by the CACG grant. Yes You Can Attend College targets low-income, first generation, and underrepresented students with the potential to go to college. This year the program worked with over 70 students to prepare them for college, it has been reported that 80% of

the participants increased their college preparedness through individualized mentoring activities.

Miriam, a senior at Hug High School is among 1,000 Gates Millennium scholars. Contreras plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, in hopes of becoming a family physician.

Miriam's current weighted GPA is 4.72 and she is enrolled in five Advanced Placement courses and the Army JROTC. Miriam will

be the first in her family to earn a high school diploma and attend college.

For information on this program visit www.unr.edu/ascent.



Miriam Contreras

JUNTOS at Nevada's Cooperative Extension

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

On March 31, Luisa Garay, a Community-Based Instructor, led a parent night discussion at Liberty High School. Garay told her story of coming to the U.S. from Honduras. Garay narrated the struggles she experienced in school as a means to connect with parents. She also highlighted events that lead to her graduation from Nevada State College. Participants of the high school's Student Organization of Latinos aided her during the presentation. One member commented, "It's too bad there are not that many programs like this [in schools]." Instructors also commented that the energy and support from the families are very

moving, especially because it counters the negative stereotypes that parents are not involved.

Other JUNTOS recruitment and kick-off events took place at Las Vegas and Cheyenne High School. Garay will dedicate herself to be the lead instructor. Garay commented, "These schools have different atmospheres and administrations, but I have a good and hopeful feeling about the future workshops and their turnout."

In April, Zory Caldera and Alicia Estrada, Community - Based Instructors, recruited families at an East Las Vegas Community Center event. Estrada stated, "The families responded positively to the program offerings and

many families signed up." During the event, Caldera and Estrada offered families activities to engage in as a means to recruit families into the program. Western, Liberty, Las Vegas, and Cheyenne High School are newest cohort of high schools to implement the JUNTOS Program.

For more information on this program visit

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/childyouthfam/>.



Zory Caldera recruiting families at an East Community Center Event

Nevada's Education is Cutting EDGE

By Tara Madden,
Graduate Assistant, UNR Dean's Future Scholars



Dean's Future Scholar's Staff

Fueled by the Nevada System of Higher Education's Nevada College Access Grant, the Dean's Future Scholars educational program at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) continues its researched-based, relational approach to increase high school graduation rates and college enrollment for first-generation, low-income students. On May 4th, 2011, Dean's Future Scholars hosted an Educational Conference at UNR for its newest cohort known as EDGE. The cohort

consists of nearly seventy high school students, their families, and participating school administrators. Conference guest speakers introduced educational material regarding high school internship and volunteer opportunities, resume development, and the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

UNR's College of Education Dean Christine Cheney came to speak to conference participants about the importance of high school and college degrees. Participating high school administrators and counselors were in attendance as well as local community supporters. John and Cynthia Madden, retired K-12 educators of over 40 years, joined the conference to support local K-16 initiatives. Cynthia explained, "It is my privilege to be here tonight. As I looked around the lecture hall, it was clear we

were amidst Nevada's future leaders. I am proud of the Dean's Future Scholars program and can see the direct results of their successful educational model."

Dean's Future Scholar will soon start their six week Summer Program. Students will earn high school math and English credit while experiencing college life at UNR. Campus summer jobs and internships are made available to high school juniors and seniors. The goal is to bridge the gap between high school and college while encouraging career development and sustainable relationships. The model ultimately strengthens Nevada's economy through these locally educated graduates who plan to reinvest in their communities. This cutting EDGE education is making the future brighter by creating future scholars.

For information on this program visit www.unr.edu/educ/dfs/

Las Vegas After-School All-Stars

By Ranna Daud,
Associate Director, After-School All-Stars Las Vegas

With the support of CACG funds, CampUs Las Vegas has evolved out of the After-School All-Stars' "We Are Ready" middle to high school transition and drop-out prevention program, which is aimed to better prepare at-risk 8th graders for success in high school and beyond. Currently, the We Are Ready program is being held at Bridger Middle School, Brown Junior High School, J.D. Smith Middle School, Orr Middle School and Faiss Middle School. This program focuses on high school readiness, effective study skills, options after high school and career exploration. Students in this program are able to participate in several field trips, such as campus tours to their feeder high school, CSN and UNLV, as well as career exploration tours at the House of Blues, Game Works and many others.

There will be 10 students selected from each of the "We Are Ready" schools to participate in the week long free camp. The students will be staying at campus dorms and will experience "college life". They will be mentored/chaperoned by UNLV students, AmeriCorps Staff, High School Volunteers, We Are Ready Instructors and After-School All-Stars Staff. Each day the student will be involved in a variety of activities that will be fun, purposeful and educational. CampUs Las Vegas will be focused on preparing students for high school as well as exposing them to college and different career opportunities.

The camp will prepare students for academic and social success in the 9th grade, teach study and test skills, engage students in a service learning project teach the importance of health and fitness, and most importantly, build relationships between campers and role

models from their own communities to inspire and support students in their future endeavors. The camp will culminate in a celebration to commend students on the completion of the camp. In addition, After-School All-Stars Las Vegas plans to follow students throughout their high school experience and inspire success to ensure that students will attend a university, college or institution of higher learning.

For information on this program visit www.asaslv.org.



Brown Middle School students

UNLV's Multicultural Center Hosts Nevada's First Statewide Training for Navigation 101

By CACG Staff
Nevada System of Higher Education

On April 28, 2011, counselors and teachers throughout the State convened at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Multicultural Center for the first statewide training for Navigation 101.

Navigation 101 is a comprehensive program to increase college and career readiness for students through a new discipline of study and effective support elements. The program teaches and assessed 9th -12th grade students about key topic areas of self-management like: high school course selection, career planning, post-secondary education options, and financial aid, as well as self-awareness and motivation. There are currently 15 high schools through-

out the state participating in the program.

Sessions included establishing strategic goals that align with each school's mission, refining the implementation of the classroom modules, and personalizing Navigation 101 to meet schools' needs.

"It was great to collaborate with other teachers who are teaching the same content", said Greg Sellers from Las Vegas High School. "It was also interesting to see how Navigation 101 is being utilized in the various schools...Nav 101 really is a fabulous resource because it can be personalized for each student [and each] class."

Through the Nevada College

Access Challenge Grant, Nevada eligible high schools apply for a sub grant to implement the Navigation 101 program. For information about Navigation 101 please visit our website at <http://www.nevada.edu/epscor/college-access.html>



Participants of Nevada's First Navigation 101 Workshop

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



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