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CONGRATULATIONS
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*Nevada Department of
Education*
for their
GEAR UP GRANT!



The Faces of Education: Students Benefit from CACG Programs

UNR's Dean's Future Scholar Program

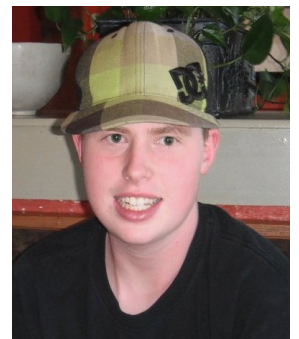
Michael Ausbun is one of the many recipients that has benefitted from the CACG funded program. Last summer Michael joined the program as a member of the high school community looking to further strengthen his chance of becoming a college graduate.

After working with the mentors of UNR Dean's Future Scholars, like his own mentor, Sione Lavaka, his newfound determination fuels Michael's drive to finish. Although visually-impaired, this North Valleys High School junior overcomes challenges every single day. The UNR Dean's Future Scholars Program (DFS) has been working with Michael for a little over a year and the improvements he has made with his grades have been abundant.

When speaking with Michael, he expresses, "College was an option, but it was not something I think I would have done before DFS because my grades were not so good. Before DFS, I probably would not have even considered it, but now, college is a definite!" Sione, Michael's mentor, has also seen an improvement. "Michael is a great kid," Sione says. "I have seen him grow so much since we've started working with him. He is confident and driven. He sets high expectations for himself which he is determined to meet."

Last summer, Michael had the opportunity to take a college prep class at UNR and work for the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

"It was awesome! It introduced me to college and how college life would be. We also made money, which was nice. But overall, it was a great experience because everyone was helpful, and it made me want to go to college even more."



Michael Ausbun

While working for the DRC, Michael had many responsibilities. He traveled around many buildings on campus, ensuring the campus is handicap accessible. He worked with college students who were also visually impaired and taught them how to be more technologically savvy. Geoff Kettling, the coordinator for disability accommodations, enjoyed working with Michael and hopes they will be able to work with him again. Michael is excited to return this summer and participate in the Dean's Future Scholars summer work program. He says that DFS is like a second family and he appreciates the support and encouragement it provides for students.

Did you know?

GoToCollege Ambassadors have outreached to over **32,000** students, educators, and parents since August 2011.

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Take part in the Nevada Student Profile

The GoToCollege Campaign wants to showcase college and college-bound students in Nevada. Tell us about yourself and why college is important to you. Visit the website GoToCollegeNevada.org and tell us your story!



**Jessica Menchaca,
UNLV Student**

Getting to the Finish Line: Students in Accelerated Degree Programs

CSN's Accelerated Associate of Business Program

College of Southern Nevada's Accelerated Associate of Business Program is designed for students who have declared intent to complete the Associate of Business, and who have completed their general education degree requirements.

Structured in a block format, courses are scheduled in 4 or 8 week segments, allowing a student to complete the degree program requirements in a four-month period.

Program participants benefit from intense advising and academic support, directed tutoring and support structures, tuition and course fees, books, and one-on-one mentoring. The following is Ed Hernandez's account of his experience in the CACG funded program.

"As a student of the College of Southern Nevada Accelerated Business Program, I am proud of what I am accomplishing, but I am also

proud of my fellow classmates. The reason why this is important is because without other people that can relate to the pressure I am going through I do not think I would be able to handle it.

The program is run by amazing coordinators and our classes are taught by great professors; it is the amazingly fast pace of learning that we have to get accustomed to that is a real challenge. I must admit that the first week was the hardest because we hit the floor running. Fortunately, we can see our prize at that end.

I have never seen a more dedicated group of staff and students in my academic career. This pushes me to try my hardest not only for myself but for everyone that is part of this program.

Now in mid-semester I believe we have done a great job in meeting these challenges. If a professor were to take the pedal off of the accelerator, we would get restless.



Ed Hernandez

The fast pace has become our new normal and it is preparing us for the more difficult courses we will encounter as we continue with our academics.

I am confident that I will be successful with my future endeavors. I plan to enroll in a four-year university. As for me, I knew I was fully submerged in the program when the whole class started using vocabulary from our courses in everyday conversation. This is an indicator of our learning and it has become our inside joke."

Student Service Learning: Career & Technical Education Pathways to Success

Aleisha Wellman, a first-year nursing student at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), volunteers her time sharing her experiences as a college student with high school principals, administrators, teachers, and thousands of Clark County School District (CCSD) high school students as a part of CSN's *GoToCollege Nevada* grant award.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and overseen by the Nevada System of Higher Education, the initiative has enabled CSN to partner with the Nevada Public Education Foundation in making college preparation a top priority for students currently attending 12 CCSD high schools.

Wellman, a native Las Vegas and first-generation college student, graduated from Clark High School. She intends to complete her degree in nursing at CSN and then pursue a Bachelor's and Master's degree in nursing.

What prompted Ms. Wellman to participate in CSN's *GoToCollegeNevada* project? "I gained lots of insight from interacting with CSN's faculty and my fellow students and I want to share this with high school students who may have the same apprehensions or curiosities about going to college as I did," said Wellman.

Wellman found out about the project through her sociology class with Professor Linda Foreman, who encouraged her to make the inquiry as part of a service learning component of her class. Not only was she allowed to participate, but she gave a poster board presentation to CSN and CCSD faculty and staff, deans, and principals at the *GoToCollegeNevada* kickoff meeting.



Aleisha Wellman

Wellman now serves as the president of CSN's Trio Experience Club. Together they volunteer their time with Shade Tree and Valley Hospital.

CSN's *GoToCollegeNevada* project, now in its second round of funding, has served over 15,000 high school students and their parents. Wellman joins over 40 CSN faculty and staff in their four-hour visits with students to promote their respective programs and emphasize the importance of college and career readiness.

The five major CSN schools included in the *GoToCollegeNevada* project are (1) the School of Advanced and Applied Technologies; (2) Business, Hospitality, and Public Services; (3) Health Sciences; (4) Science and Mathematics; and (5) Arts and Letters. The latter two schools address the integration of math, science, and English into career and technical programs of study. Representatives from CSN's Division of Apprenticeship Studies and CSN's Testing Center are also included in the project.

Nevada Student Profile

Jordan Rosenthal, College of Southern Nevada - Henderson

"I am currently attending CSN at the Henderson campus, and taking online classes as well. I feel that college is important to me because it gives me a chance to discuss ideas with others, and learn new ways of understanding social and political situations that I have always seemed to wonder about without ever getting a proper answer. I am a secondary education major, hoping to be a high school science teacher. My education will help shape the rest of my life and the way I go about doing the normal daily acts I have been doing so far in life."



Nevada Student Profile: Silvia Rodriguez

“I am 19 years old and currently attend College of Southern Nevada. I plan to have my Associate of Arts with an emphasis in psychology by the end of this summer. After that I plan on pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology at UNLV, and eventually get my master’s and Ph.D. so that I can be a clinical psychologist.

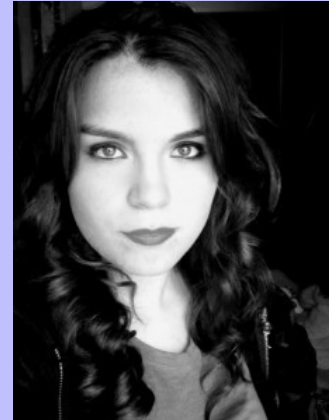
When I was younger I wasn’t exactly sure of what I wanted to do when I grew up, but I did know one thing for sure—that I wanted to go to college.

It wasn’t until high school that I discovered an interest in psychology, the

mind, and interpersonal relationships. I have been told I am a really good listener, and I like to listen to people, so I already have a good quality in my favor to help me in the field!

I am a first generation college Student, so going to college and pursuing a profession is something very important to me and is part of who I am.

I see a long road ahead of me full of new knowledge and experiences which will help me be successful. Hooray for the future!”



**CSN Student
Silvia Rodriguez**

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