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Ambassadors Outreach to Rural Nevada Students

By Abraham Gomez, GoToCollege Ambassador

Through the help of Nevada GEAR UP, the GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign was able to send three GoToCollege Ambassadors to northern Nevada. The trip took place the last week of May. Mallory Levins, CACG Coordinator, along with Abraham Gomez, Raquel Landeros, and Jonathan Senda made the trip to reach rural Nevada schools. The group left from Las Vegas in the early morning and arrived in Reno in time to speak to schools that were located in Fernley and Fallon, Nevada. The first day was spent at Fernley High School where the Ambassadors spoke to several classes. The Fernley High students were excited to hear about college and career options in Nevada.

Later, the GoToCollege team visited several schools in Churchill County. The GoToCollege team went to E.C. Best and Lahontan Elementary as well as Churchill Junior High and High School. The Ambassadors distributed hundreds of College Journey brochures and shared their stories of how they transitioned from high school to college.



GoToCollege Ambassadors: Abraham Gomez, Raquel Landeros & Jonathan Senda

The Ambassadors shared with students what inspired them to pursue a college degree and how some form of education beyond high school is key to a good job and economic stability. They explained how college is different from high school and time management and discipline are critical to success once in college.

Ambassadors were excited to visit Virginia City High School, since most of them had never visited the historical town. Students were equally excited to learn about the GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign and pledged to use it as a resource as they consider career and college choices.

While in Reno, the Ambassadors visited Wooster High School and held a discussion with students about going to college and the benefits that come with it. During the visit the Ambassadors reached three counties in just three days and learned a lot about northern and rural Nevada students.

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CACG Team

*Dr. Magdalena
Martinez*
Asst. Vice Chancellor

Mallory Levins
Coordinator

**Thank you
GoToCollege
Ambassadors for a
great year!**

Abraham Gomez,
CSN Student, is now a
UNR Student.

Erika Herrera,
UNLV Student, is now a
2nd Year Student &
Kappa Delta Chi Sister.

Raquel Landeros,
CSN Student, is now a
2nd Year Student &
CSN TRIO Member.

Juan Lopez,
CSN Student, is now
applying for TMCC's
Accelerated Degree
Program.

Beatriz Martinez,
Boston College Graduate,
is now a UNLV MPA
Graduate Student.

Jonathan Senda,
NSC Student, is now an
NSC Graduate.



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 at GoToCollegeNevada.org and tell us your story!



Israel Waahila,
CSN Graduate

A Look Back: The GoToCollege Year

By: Juan Lopez,
GoToCollege Ambassador

Even though the school year has come to an end, the GoToCollegeNevada.org Ambassadors' efforts will continue. Elementary, middle, and high schools have all been participants of our targeted outreach. Parents, teachers, and counselors have all been extremely helpful, aiding us to create a "college-going" culture in Nevada.

The Nevada System of Higher Education reached out to at least six counties and more than 75,000 students, teachers, and parents through CACG sub grantees and the GoToCollege Ambassadors during the 2011-2012 school year.

Through car shows, trunk-or-treats, health fairs, career fairs, college fairs, and classroom presentations the GoToCollege Ambassadors have "been there and done that" this year. They have gone above and beyond, reaching out to students, parents, counselors, and

administrators. The most powerful tool in the GoToCollegeNevada.org toolbox is the *College Journey* brochure, which helps Pre-K to 12th grade students plan for college and a career in Nevada.

This year, the GoToCollege Ambassadors targeted high schools with 50 percent or lower college-going rate. The Ambassadors focused on 18 high schools, with each Ambassador responsible for as many as four schools. In addition, they outreached to many community organizations throughout the state.

The most direct impact was through classroom presentations, where the Ambassadors made sure every student received detailed information about applying to and paying for college. The GoToCollege team also set up informational booths during lunch periods. Students were

genuinely interested in pursuing a higher education and approached the booths to ask questions or request further information.

Hearing the information from current college students as near-peer mentors helped make the idea of going to college more easily heard by high school students.

GoToCollegeNevada.org represents an opportunity to create a better future for Nevada youth and the ambassadors shared this wisdom and their experiences with students throughout Nevada.



Juan Lopez, GoToCollege
Ambassador

A Look Forward: GoToCollege Ambassadors



Abraham Gomez

GoToCollege Ambassador, Abraham Gomez, is on his way to the University of Nevada, Reno, after two years at the College of Southern Nevada. Abraham will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications. After Reno, he plans to attend graduate school to obtain a master's in business administration. Abraham says, "I know how important education is in life, I want to be able to have a career that I love doing. The way to attain these things is through education."

Abraham has been with the AmeriCorps program for more than two years. He says he could not have picked a better host site this year. "I am so glad that AmeriCorps placed me at NSHE this year. I truly believe I have helped students who needed it the most by being a person they can relate to." Abraham has achieved this by going out to countless career fairs, college fairs, and his target high schools.

The GoToCollege team loved having Abraham on board with his charismatic sense of humor. He lit up the office anytime someone was down. The office will not be the same without Abraham, but we know he is moving on to bigger and better things. We wish the best of luck for Abraham in his future endeavors. We know he will be a successful young man.



Jonathan Senda with fellow Ambassador, Erika Herrera

GoToCollege Ambassador, Jonathan Senda, has successfully completed his AmeriCorps year of service. He will sincerely be missed. Jonathan recounts, "When I came on board, I was insecure and would doubt myself. I am leaving this office completely transformed. I am a young professional ready to begin my post-undergraduate life."

Throughout his year with AmeriCorps, Jonathan was responsible for three high schools in the Las Vegas region: Western, Bonanza, and Clark High School. Along with his vibrant energy, he successfully provided all three schools with resource materials and larger-than-life presentations. His superior work ethic made him a vital component to the GoToCollege team.

Jonathan is leaving with more than a great year of experience, he recently received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Nevada State College. He plans to take a year off to travel before his graduate studies. When asked how he felt about taking a year off of school, Jonathan stated, "I am so excited to begin my graduate school experience, however this year is going to be a good opportunity to relax and experience different cultures and do a little soul searching. There are so many things I plan to do." We wish Jonathan the best in his future endeavors.

Nevada Student Profile: Rocio Rivera

“I believe college is a very important thing for me because I’m a single mother of two girls. I want to give them a good example and I want them to also attend college. I have goals and dreams and I believe those goals can only be obtained by going to college. I had my first daughter at age 16. I obtained a high school diploma at age 19 because I didn’t want to be another statistic - a single mother on welfare with no education. By this time, I had two girls. I have finished the college classes I have taken

with A’s and B’s. I currently work a full-time job and I try to take as many classes as my work load allows. If anyone has any doubts about being able to go to school, just look at me. I am raising two girls, I work a full-time job and sometimes pick up a part-time job, and I still make time to attend college. I know it’s hard, but in the end it will pay off. Just think that you have to work your whole life, might as well work in something you enjoy doing and that pays you good money.”



**CSN Student,
Rocio Rivera**

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