

# Nevada College Access Challenge Grant

Spring 2013

*College Access Efforts through the Eyes of the GoToCollege Ambassadors*



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## Mack M.S. Math Night

By Belen Hernandez

My visit to Mack Middle School was a good experience because I was able to interact with several outgoing students. One student that really stood out to me was a 7th grader named Jennifer. When I asked Jennifer if she was planning on going to college, she replied with a "yes". She already knew what college she wanted to attend and what major she was interested in. To be honest, I was surprised to meet a 7th grader who had everything planned out! I shared with her the College Journey brochure which will guide her throughout her middle and high school years and I could tell she really appreciated my help. It was my pleasure to provide her with the resources she will need to help her plan her future.

## Student Engagement

By Denise Hernandez

On the GoToCollege website, students will find various resources to start thinking about higher education. In the resources tab on our website, we have multiple writing contests for different age groups. The GoToCollege team collaborated on how to engage students to participate in the contests and ultimately decided to create a video focusing on middle school students. The script and scenes of the video were both funny and informative. I believe that the video demonstrates the importance of higher education and encourages students to ultimately enter the contest. The contest calls for students to write a 250-word essay regarding their life goals and how going to college will help them reach their goals.



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# The Institute of Accelerated Studies



By Emily Garcia

I enjoyed my visit at the Institute of Accelerated Studies. IAS is a school that caters to students who have been in high school for more than 4 years and to students who want to graduate early. I felt a stronger connection with this group of students than I usually do at other events. Most of the students there were more than five-year high school seniors, so we focused on giving them information on trade schools offered in Nevada and other options for higher education. I was surprised to find out that many of them had plans to either go to a trade school or a community college within the next year. The students had several great questions which we were able to answer. It was encouraging for me to know that these students found our information useful, especially at such a crucial point in their lives.

# Cheyenne High School

By Eric Cardona

As a GoToCollege ambassador, I was happy to see such a great turn out for the presentations I made at Cheyenne High School. Several of the students that attended knew what they wanted to be doing in the near future after graduation, but a majority of them were not sure about how they were going to pay for college. While I was presenting, I shared with the group about my goal to become a lawyer. Later on, a student told me that he wanted to be a football player as well as a lawyer and asked me what he could do to prepare for college. I was amused that as a freshman in high school, this student already knew the importance of having more than one choice regarding his career path. After I informed the student of the steps he can take, he thanked me and left. Shortly after he left, I took a moment to realize how important my job is. I am providing information to students who need to prepare for college and to students who might have never thought that college was possible.



## Cashman Middle School

By Raquel Landeros

The “Parent and Student College Night” at Cashman Middle School was full of curious students and parents. When the GoToCollege Ambassadors began their presentation, hands raised and questions were asked about how they could prepare for college. It was admirable to see parents and students participating during the presentation. It was a great crowd and they were so enthusiastic about college. Keep up the good work Cashman Middle School!



## Silverado High School

By Erika Arballo

The GoToCollege Team has visited Silverado High School not only for high school presentations, but also for other events that have really made an impact on the students. In January, we attended the “Help My Child Get To College” family night where we provided useful information that will help parents guide their children to academic success. We were also invited to attend the Career Fair where students came directly to our table and asked questions about college. For those students who hadn’t reached out to us, we came to them. Class presentations were held in February to help inform students about college information.

## ACT Conference in Reno

By Marvin Campos

Our weekend in Reno began with the Annual ACT Symposium on Friday and concluded with the Nevada School Counselor Association Conference on Saturday and Sunday. One of the main purposes of the trip was to reach out to our Northern Nevada schoolteachers in order to provide them with our resources and network across the state. We also presented at the ACT Symposium and shared information on what our program has to offer to students and how we work with Nevada State GEAR UP for an even greater impact. I appreciated the opportunity to see first-hand what counselors throughout the state are currently doing to make sure students succeed.



## NEVADA STUDENT PROFILE: Emily Janett Garcia



My name is Emily Janett Garcia and I am currently a sophomore at UNLV majoring in social work. I believe college is important because without a college education, getting a good job is nearly impossible. Unless you instantly become a winner on “Who Wants To Be a Millionaire,” money will never be substantial without a college degree. My parents have always taught me that going to college is essential to creating a better life for myself and for my future family. My goals are to obtain my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work and to eventually use my career choice to help assist young adults who need additional guidance. I want to be that person that encourages them to make a better life for themselves while they are still young and to give hope to younger generations who find themselves in helpless situations.

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