



College of Southern Nevada GEAR UP Abstract 2017-2018

Subgrantee: College of Southern Nevada

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The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) GEAR UP Ambassador and Near Peer Mentoring Program seeks to build a strong college-going culture within the counties of Clark and Nye by providing participating students and families with the readiness skills and experience necessary to complete high school and to successfully enroll in postsecondary institutions. Participating high schools in Clark County include Chaparral, Del Sol, Desert Pines, Las Vegas, along with the East Career and Southeast Career Technical Academies. Nye County's service high schools include Beatty and Pahrump Valley.

Planned interventions incorporate: 1) Academic enrichment activities that encourage participants to set high academic goals and meet increased academic standards as prerequisites to a gratifying life; 2) Academic support to supplement participants' readiness in completing high school coursework and increase achievement in standardized tests; 3) Career exploration/shadowing activities to help students chart professional paths through understanding of careers, education, training requirements, job market demands, and salaries; 4) College exposure, planning, preparation and orientation activities that outline admissions requirements, increase educational expectations and building college-admission and readiness skills; 5) Curriculum exploration to teach students about dual enrollment opportunities, including CSN High School, CTE college credit, and Jump Start; 6) Financial literacy activities that involve providing information about college affordability, budgeting, saving money, and understanding of the college scholarship and financial aid application process; 7) Fostering family/parental involvement opportunities in order to increase educational expectations for children by learning about postsecondary options and the necessary steps leading to successful engagement in the college admissions process; 8) Resource leveraging activities that build partnerships with school district personnel and other NSHE institutions for the effective dissemination of program goals and positive impact on student achievement; 9) Summer programs and after school activities that introduce students to diverse postsecondary options and campus life, while promoting secondary and postsecondary transition and completion; and 10) Near peer mentoring by a current college student of similar disadvantaged background to help provide participants with guidance, homework assistance, tutoring, access to resources, and serve as a role model.