



University of Nevada, Reno

Dean's Future Scholars

GEAR UP Abstract 2017-2018

Subgrantee: University of Nevada, Reno

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The Dean's Future Scholars (DFS) program has a history of successful partnerships with Nevada State GEAR UP and the Washoe County School District. These partnerships have resulted in successful high school preparation and postsecondary access for students in the Washoe County School District area. The academic success of these students will be enhanced by the program's focus on three of the GEAR UP goals to: (1) increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education of GEAR UP; (2) increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education of GEAR UP students; and (3) increase GEAR UP students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. However, specific to the Plan of Operation Matrix, the grant goals of the state will be supported through the implementation of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)). These standards will directly serve as proposed objectives for the GEAR UP/DFS subgrant. In doing so, the purpose of the 2017-2018 school year is to help to solidify student goals toward college and career readiness through academic preparation, understanding of pathways toward college and career, and to make high school-to-college pathway realistic and tangible (through the FAFSA completion, particularly for seniors). These efforts will continue to augment the program's ongoing focus towards continuous improvement for student success. As has been noted in prior years, the DFS students attend various high schools throughout Washoe County School District, which include Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT), Damonte Ranch, Galena, Hug, Washoe Innovations, Manogue, McQueen, Northstar, North Valleys, Pyramid Lake (High School), Reed, Spanish Springs, Sparks, TMCC (High School), and Wooster High Schools. In Lyon County School District, DFS students are enrolled in Fernley High School. Of note, GEAR UP efforts directly exist at Hug and Wooster High Schools via the district GEAR UP subgrant for Washoe County. Both cohorts of students will continue to actively participate in the sustained near-peer mentoring efforts, as well as necessary tutoring sessions. The existing cyclical structure in mentoring provides a strong opportunity to gain positive outcomes that meet individual GEAR UP student needs. The activities of the program will support three priorities, which include near-peer mentoring, college and career readiness, and FAFSA completion. Certainly, these will not serve as stand-alone activities, but will help to hone in student needs for the rising 11th and 12th grade students of the GEAR UP/DFS cohort. In addition, the project will continue its collaboration with the UNR and TMCC Ambassadors, workshops to target students and parents, home visits (as needed), ACT testing for college and career readiness benchmarks (via state requirements), and various forms of disseminating information about postsecondary preparation, options, and financial aid/literacy to students and families. All activities and deliverables will be guided by proposed objectives of the subgrant, which will ultimately support and enhance the Nevada State GEAR UP goals.