Pershing County High School
GEAR UP Abstract 2017-2018

Subgrantee: Pershing County
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In Pershing County School District, post-secondary expectations have traditionally been low, reflecting achievement levels in Nevada statewide. The HS population is diverse, < 6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, <1% Asian/Pacific Islander, 36% Hispanic, <1% Black, 50% White, and 8% Multi-Race, and our two cohorts reflect this makeup closely, or higher—38% of the 11th & 12th graders are Hispanic, 7% American Indian, and over 3% Black or African-American. In the junior cohort of 49, 56% are FRL and 18% are on an IEP; of the 49 incoming seniors, 40% FRL, with 16% on an IEP.

Pershing County’s vision continues to be raising the educational goals and expectations of our families. Parent and student financial education and preparation, increased knowledge of higher education options, increased rigor through adoption of Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) curriculum and dual-credit classes, and ongoing institutional change both for staff and community, will effect these goals, which are aligned with GEAR UP goals as well as stated in the School Improvement Plan. Strong ties between school, community, and businesses also foster this vision.

GEAR UP funds and services help implementation through working closely with principals and counselor to identify students at risk and ensuring they are placed properly. GEAR UP will also continue to partner with Project Aware, working with their mental health professional to identify and mentor at risk students and providing parents with information nights to increase awareness of skills for success. Vertical teaming of the secondary schools, along with subject area professional development and communication, supports the goal of minimizing the number of students who need remediation and increasing the rigor of their curriculum. The principal, counselor, and staff provide vital input toward best utilizing resources and driving the direction for services, and the SPIF and Ambassadors will communicate often to create meaningful workshops and mentoring activities.

This year’s campus visits will include targeted small group visits to the northern campuses, as well as a southern swing for the juniors to visit the three institutions in Las Vegas. GEAR UP funds will continue to support STEM education with provision of new modules for the Physics classes. GEAR UP will fund a new class called College/Career Ready 101, using the ACT
software suite and lessons; students will also craft scholarship essays and complete applications. Summer programming will include remediation (Credit Recovery) and enrichment (STEM camp), and GEAR UP will also support Friday school for students most at risk.

Financial awareness and parental involvement will continue to be key, and our outreach will include family education nights, mailings and phone calls home, and invitations to participate in school activities and campus visits. GEAR UP will also continue to sponsor the College/Career Fair in the fall, supporting the systemic change that allows the MS to visit as well (and this is an event that we hope will continue even when GEAR UP is done).