



University of Nevada, Reno

Dean's Future Scholars

GEAR UP Abstract 2019-2020

Name of Project: Dean's Future Scholars

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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 and Lyon County School District areas.

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 students; (2) increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education of GEAR UP students; and (3) increase GEAR UP student's and families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

However, specific to the Implementation Plan, 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 FY20 (Feb-Aug 2020) school year is to help solidify student college and career readiness through academic preparation and support, understanding of transition experiences and pathways through college and toward a desired career, and to make the aimed transition tangible (through the FAFSA completion, scholarship opportunities). These efforts will continue to augment the program's ongoing focus toward continuous improvement for student success, beginning with a new cohort of 80 8th graders, and 65 seniors.

The DFS cohort students will continue to actively participate in the sustained near-peer mentoring efforts, as well as necessary tutoring sessions and supportive services. The existing cyclical structure in mentoring provides a strong opportunity to gain positive outcomes that meet individual GEAR UP/DFS student needs. The activities of the program will support three priorities, which include near-peer mentoring (all cohorts), college and career readiness (all cohorts), and FAFSA completion (senior cohort). Certainly, these will not serve as stand-alone activities, but they will help to hone in on student needs among the varying three cohorts (i.e. 7th, 8th, and seniors).

In addition, the project will also conduct workshops to target students and parents, and conduct home visits (as needed), achieve career readiness benchmarks, and disseminating information about postsecondary resources, 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.