UNLV Awarded its First Title III (Minority Serving Institution) Grant
by Danielle Gross, Business Administration Analyst

Dr. William W. Sullivan (associate vice president for retention & outreach, executive director) and B. Keith Rogers (deputy executive director) shared outstanding news prior to the beginning of the fall 2015 semester. The fiscal year 2015 Title III Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) proposal submitted by the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (The Center) at UNLV was one of nine selected nationwide for funding by the U.S. Department of Education. Consequently, for the next five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), The Center will be home to a Title III AANAPISI project that will annually serve two hundred UNLV undergraduates, of whom:

- At least 50% will be Asian-American or Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPI) students;
- No less than 75% will be low-income individuals; and
- 100% will be low-income individuals and/or first-generation college students.

All AANAPISI project participants will receive services based on their need for academic support in order to persist in their degree programs, earn postsecondary credentials, and enroll in post baccalaureate studies. AANAPISI project services will include:

- Counseling (i.e., academic; undergraduate financial-aid; career; and graduate/professional-school admissions and financial-aid);
- Support for undergraduate research; and
- Frequent, ongoing academic-progress monitoring.

“This award will help The Center significantly expand its capacity to help disadvantaged undergraduates succeed in higher education,” said Dr. Lawrence Letourneau, director for research and compliance. “The AANAPISI grant also cements UNLV’s status as a minority serving institution and helps move us closer to the Tier I ranking,” Letourneau added.

Internship Provides Valuable Experience for McNair Scholar
by Lorraine Francisco, McNair Scholar

During the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to participate in the Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP) at the University of Michigan, an internship sponsored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). For ten weeks, I worked with thirty-nine other public health students from across the United States to gain valuable experience in the public health field, attend workshops and seminars from professors at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and prepare for graduate school applications. I was the only student there from Nevada, and I was proud to represent UNLV.

The program began with a visit to the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, GA. There, I attended a three-day orientation focused on public health and the importance of encouraging underrepresented students to pursue careers in the field, while meeting many representatives from the CDC.

Following the orientation, I flew to Ann Arbor, Michigan to spend the remainder of the program at the University ofMichigan School of Public Health, and prepare for graduate school applications. I was the only student there from Nevada, and I was proud to represent UNLV.

(Continued on page 2)
Michigan. My internship site was at the University of Michigan Health System – Program for Multicultural Health. There, I worked alongside the community programs and services director to design, develop, and implement health education programs in southeast Michigan. It was incredible for me to see how the health system worked with community members to implement these programs. As a health care administration major, I was particularly interested to see the collaboration between hospitals/health systems and the community to promote good health. Michigan’s health care landscape is different from Las Vegas, so I learned a lot and was amazed at the emphasis the state of Michigan places on public health and communities.

In addition to the projects at my internship site, I worked with other scholars in my cohort to perform a community health needs assessment in the Ann Arbor area. This was a valuable experience for me because I was able to connect with the community to identify the existing health problems, produce an assessment report, and present our findings to various stakeholders. I decided to make this my McNair summer research project.

Although it was a challenge to balance my full-time workload, McNair research paper, and studying for the GRE, everything worked out; I am so grateful for the experience knowing that I am one step closer to graduate school.

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UBMSC Participates in the First Annual Nevada Green Schools STEM Summit
by Yodit Hagos, Academic Counselor for UBMSC

The UNLV Upward Bound Math and Science Center (UBMSC) participated in the first annual Nevada Green Schools STEM Summit on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at West Career and Technical Academy. The Summit featured three education tracks organized around the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools - Three Pillars of Education, Environment and Health; Sustainability and STEM, Green Places to Learn, and Sustainable Urban Agriculture.

The Summit brought together CCSD educators, school administrators, community organizations and policy makers to share successes and identify opportunities to incorporate STEM education, sustainability and urban architecture through Green Schools. Keynote speakers presented on the latest developments in STEM education throughout the event and green businesses set up informational booths. The UBMSC booth informed prospective participants and families of upcoming STEM events. Indoor Farms America had a popular interactive truck equipped with planting beds. Additional booths included: Whiting-Turner Contracting Co, The Equity Group, Republic Services, Integrated Veterans Services, Conservation District of Southern Nevada, Skybot, UNLV School of Architecture, Future Cities, and Green Our Planet.

The summit concluded with a presentation by Steven Ritz, founder of the Green Bronx Machine, and a Global Teacher Prize Top Ten finalist. He spoke passionately about using sustainable agriculture to engage and inspire at-risk and special needs students. Steven stated that he is looking into building a public health charter school in Southern Nevada. The event was so successful that plans were made for future Green Schools Summits.
Most college students will agree that one of the activities they enjoy most while attending school is going to the sporting events, especially football games. There is something special about the fun and excitement of a good college football game. But what makes those football games even more memorable and special is the pre-game activities, a.k.a. the tailgating. Music, food, laughter, and great anticipation in the parking lot prior to the event beginning builds up the excitement and hype for the game. UNLV GEAR UP staff decided that if students can get excited about a football game, they can get excited about their educational future in a similar fashion.

UNLV GEAR UP created the “Got College Tailgater” event in order to get students excited and motivated to learn more about their postsecondary options at the Clark County School District (CCSD) College Fair Plus on October 21, 2015. Four hundred and twenty-five students from seven high schools and two middle schools arrived at Cashman Center prior to the college fair, and a tailgate environment was created in the parking lot. Music was provided by GEAR UP tutor, DJ Maxx, food was catered by Honey Baked Ham, and raffle prizes were donated by several of the college fair representatives. Students took pictures and posted to their social media accounts, danced, ate, and mingled with each other. Once the college fair doors opened, the students were welcomed by the representatives from numerous colleges and universities eager to provide the students with information about their respective schools.

After the event, students were thankful for the opportunity, and provided positive feedback on the activity. Several students commented on how “refreshingly different” and “innovative” the tailgate event was in encouraging students to attend the college fair. In a survey provided by Mojave High School following the event, the majority of the students said that the tailgate and fair motivated them to apply to college because not only did they get a better sense of which educational setting was best for them, but also they felt that they could afford college through scholarships and financial aid. The “Got College” Tailgater at the CCSD College Fair Plus was a huge success by all accounts. The UNLV GEAR UP team thanks all those who made this event possible.

Local High School Hosts UNLV Application Day
by Elsa Macias, Academic Counselor for ETS

Canyon Springs High School hosted a college application day for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). During this event, thirty seniors attended, fifteen of whom are active TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) participants.

UNLV recruiters and ETS counselors guided students through the application process, from creating the initial profile, to entering transcript and college examinations scores. Those unable to attend were encouraged to begin the process at their convenience. Additional UNLV application assistance events have been scheduled throughout the year for Canyon Springs’ seniors. Congratulations to the next generation of UNLV Rebels!
Reflections from Two McNair Scholars
by Irma DeSantiago and Lorraine Louise K. Francisco, McNair Scholars

The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Scholars Institute at UNLV is a program designed to prepare high achieving students from underrepresented groups to pursue doctoral studies. As McNair Scholars, we can attest that this program has prepared us for future studies by affording us the opportunity to be mentored by University faculty on undergraduate research.

Following the conclusion of the McNair Summer Research Institute, we created posters highlighting our research and presented them at both the UNLV McNair Scholars Poster Presentation and at the 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference & Graduate School Fair. The annual conference is hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Educational Opportunity Association, and held at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin. There, we had the opportunity to not only present our research, but also attend to the McNair graduate school fair and network with other scholars and graduate school representatives. Our Individual thoughts and experiences are reflected below.

Irma: Presenting my research at the 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference & Graduate School Fair gave me the opportunity to network with McNair Scholars with similar research interests as mine who may potentially be future colleagues. Being a McNair Scholar is a privilege!

Lorraine: It was a great experience delivering my first oral research presentation. We were evaluated by our audience, and I found those evaluations extremely valuable as I move forward with my academic and professional career. The conference provided many networking opportunities with other scholars and graduate school representatives. Networking in itself is such a valuable part of our careers, and we were able to practice and develop this skill. I recommend future McNair Scholars to step out of their comfort zones and speak with many people and exchange contact cards with graduate school representatives and other scholars.

UBMSC Hosts Its First STEM Field Day
by Geannine Jordan, Assistant Director for UBMSC

The UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) furthered its mission to educate the UBMSC participants in various STEM fields by continuing their collaboration with the UNLV Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. Spearheading the event was Dr. Dave James, Director for the Solar and Renewable Energy program within the UNLV Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction. Dr. James worked closely with the UBMSC staff with the planning and implementation of the STEM field Day. This was a great opportunity for students to have fun, while increasing their scientific knowledge through an interactive, hands-on experience.

UBMSC participants engaged in the following team building and STEM-related activities: pop fly, truss bridge, water filtration, resistance tower, and foam chair. The pop fly activity had students explore engineering by building a catapult device that would launch a ping pong ball across the room. This exercise focuses on how engineers consider resource constraints and the laws of physics to develop and improve designs. The water filtration activity, pictured below, had students build a filtration system using cotton balls, sand, dirt, pea gravel, drainage rock, a Styrofoam cup, and a sixteen-ounce water bottle to compare the quality of water filtered with that of pure water. The objective was for each team to understand the engineering design process while using natural resources in a water filtration system and then to compose a technical report. The final activity, foam chair, had participants building a prototype chair made out of foam boards. The miniature chairs had to be sturdy enough to withstand 145 pounds to 250 pounds.

The resistance tower (block & tackle system) allowed UBMSC participants the opportunity to trade force for distance. The simplest theory of operation for a pulley system assumes that the pulleys and lines are weightless, and that there is no energy loss due to friction. Participants had the opportunity to see how friction is used in everyday life—exercise machines and elevators, etc.

Overall, it was a great day! The UBMSC participants had their first of many more STEM field days, where they learned new skills to incorporate STEM activities into their daily lives.
Thinking about College: New Advertising Campaign for EOC Services
by Carolynn Taylor, Assistant Director EOC

During the fall of 2015, the UNLV TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Adult Educational Services program launched a new advertising campaign to be shown at select theatres in the Las Vegas area. When Las Vegas patrons visited their local theaters between October 2015 and February 2016 to watch a movie, they also viewed on-screen information about EOC services. Whether viewers were interested in applying to college or seeking guidance for re-entry into secondary school or alternative education programs, the “Thinking about College” campaign covered it all. EOC expects to service many new participants in the upcoming months.

To accommodate the busy schedules of Clark County residents, EOC services are now available every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 am until 7 pm. For those unable to come to the office, staff members are providing online advising throughout the academic year. Additional information is available at http://caeo.unlv.edu/eoc.

News: The Center Launches New Website
by JR McMichael, IT Coordinator

The Center launched its newly redesigned website in late 2015. The project, which began in June, was a daunting task as the original website had not been altered since the early 2000’s. The Center’s Information Technology team was diligent to ensure the project’s success. Thank you to all of The Center’s staff who were involved in assisting with the redesign process. To see the site and all of its new features, visit caeo.unlv.edu.

Chris Frausto, pictured with GEAR UP students below, generously donated wall space for a month during the spring of 2016. The students will get to showcase personal artwork, and UNLV GEAR UP will host a workshop after school at Mojave High School for students to complete this project. While a date has not been solidified, students look forward to designing their own arts and crafts to showcase at The Corner Gallery. If their art pieces sell, Chris will donate the proceeds to the students as a scholarship fund to pursue postsecondary education. UNLV GEAR UP appreciates this gracious opportunity.

“Ink from the Pen”
Local Gallery Inspires Students with a Day of Art
by Tom Ray, GEAR UP Academic Counselor

Mojave High School GEAR UP students and staff collaborated with the owner of the Corner Gallery, Chris Frausto. The studio hosted a revolutionary event, “Ink from the Pen.” This gallery featured select pieces from former, as well as current inmates from across the United States. Guest speaker and former inmate, Anthony Martinez, shared his insights on how artwork transformed his life while in prison.

Students who attended this event heard firsthand experience of prison life and gained insight on a concept they have not witnessed or experienced. Despite the nature of the exhibit, it was a hit among all attendees. A post-attendance survey stated that the students would like to attend another similar event.
UNLV GEAR UP had the pleasure of volunteering at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Staff members served food, delivered trays, and filled water glasses for the homeless. Marcus Badgett, head of the volunteer program at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, stated that the evening meal at the Mission is often the only human contact some people have each day and stressed how impactful conversation with the visitors can be.

The Las Vegas Rescue Mission, founded in 1970, started off with a few buildings and a small shelter. Today, the Mission feeds more than one thousand homeless individuals every day. In 2014 alone, more than 350,000 meals were provided to the community. In addition to daily meals the Mission also provides emergency shelter, clothing ministry, recovery programs, and spiritual guidance to the homeless population of Las Vegas.

Additionally, the Mission provides emergency shelter beds to men, women, and children on a first-come, first-serve basis. Guests are provided with breakfast, dinner, showers, and clean linens. They also give away clothing each week and have voucher programs for household items for those moving into permanent housing. All services are provided free of charge through those who generously donate time, food, and funds.

The GEAR UP staff enjoyed volunteering their time at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. It was interesting to know that the Mission also provides a variety of other free food services to the community, such as a food pantry program for needy families, holiday food baskets, and supplies for women with children.

The Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) participants were able to take part in a unique experience during the UBMSC Summer Residential Program (SRP) through the willingness and support from the UNLV campus community and The Center’s fellow programs and divisions.

Every Thursday afternoon, seniors attended an internship at assigned offices on and off campus. Student interns reported to their office supervisor and helped in whatever capacity was needed for that day. Students learned skills including, but not limited to: general office work, phone etiquette, program and event planning, and proper business etiquette. Students were placed in diverse settings on campus: the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Wiener-Rogers Law Library, PGA Golf Management program, and an engineering lab. Student feedback was very positive, with many saying that they learned a lot and enjoyed meeting people from different areas on the UNLV campus. This program was also a wonderful way for the campus community to learn more about UBMSC and its participants. The offices enjoyed working with the students and plan to participate in the internship program next summer.

While the seniors were at their internships, the other UBMSC SRP participants took part in workshops created and facilitated by UBMSC instructors, Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP staff. Workshop topics were diverse, ranging from academic (time management, Google Docs, computer science, career exploration) to life skills (dining etiquette, public speaking, personal finance, overcoming adversity) and wellness (Zumba, yoga, stress management). Students were also exposed to unique activities such as crocheting, book-making, canvas painting, and desert gardening. It was great to learn about the skills and talents that The Center’s staff members had and that willing to share with the
Women Warriors on the Move
by Melissa Branch, GEAR UP Academic Counselor

Women Warriors, a comprehensive mentoring program at Western High School, focuses on community service, college awareness, academic intervention, self-esteem, etiquette, and the female identity.

During the fall semester, eleven Women Warriors traveled to the Cecile Walnut Pre-Development Recreation Center and volunteered their time with preschool students in the Head Start Program. This program promotes school readiness of children from birth to age five to low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. As seen in the pictures below, the Women Warriors assisted the students with craft projects, lead story time and spent time with the kids. This activity was not only an opportunity for Women Warriors to give back to their community, they also received hands-on experience in the field of early education.

TRIO Educational Talent Search Turns 50
by Diane Zagorski, Assistant Director for ETS

Congratulations to the TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) program for fifty years of service! Talent Search was created as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to assist students in applying for federal financial aid for postsecondary education.

The UNLV TRIO Educational Talent Search program assists more than twenty-three hundred students in thirteen target middle and high schools as well as nine non-target high schools, in the Clark County School District. The program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. ETS provides an array of services to include academic, career, and financial counseling and encourages participants to graduate from high school and continue on to complete their postsecondary education. Dedicated staff members work diligently to help program participants from underrepresented backgrounds to explore their college and career opportunities. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from underrepresented backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education. Here’s to another fifty years of Talent Search success!
UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

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