UNLV CELEBRATES NATIONAL TRIO/GEAR UP DAY
by Danielle Gross, Business Administration Analyst

Elected officials, community partners, UNLV and Clark County School District (CCSD) administrators, as well as students and families came together on February 25, 2017 to celebrate the achievements of TRIO and GEAR UP participants, both past and present. Shortly after 5 p.m., the Brasilia Ballroom at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino was filled to capacity by nearly 1,100 people.

Among those in attendance were Dr. Linda Young, Kevin L. Child (CCSD trustees), Patrick Carter (NSHE regent), Dr. Len Jessup (UNLV president), Anne Kingsley (UNLV associate vice president for student affairs), Dr. Carl Reiber (UNLV senior vice provost), Dr. Cecilia Maldonado (UNLV associate vice provost), Andrew Hanson (associate dean for UNLV Honors College), Dina Titus, Jacky Rosen (congresswomen), Ruben Kihuen (congressman), Tyrone Thompson (assemblyman), Issac Barron (councilman), as well as several principals from CCSD middle and high schools.

TRIO/GEAR UP Day is proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Day of Service. A video presentation and slideshow prior to the event’s opening showcased numerous pictures of TRIO and GEAR UP participants and staff volunteering in the community throughout the year. Mr. Keith Rogers, deputy executive director, referenced the slideshow presentation proudly stating that although TRIO/GEAR UP Day is a day of service, UNLV TRIO and GEAR UP programs serve the community continuously throughout the year.

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The mistress of ceremonies Maria Silva, co-anchor of KVVU FOX5 News This Morning, began her welcome by stating that she looks forward to attending the TRIO/GEAR UP Day event each year and praised The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (The Center) for hosting the event. She also offered her congratulations to those who participated in and completed TRIO/GEAR UP programs. These programs help low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to overcome physical, social, cultural and academic barriers. The Center houses the largest suite of federally funded (sixteen TRIO, three GEAR UP, two Title III AANAPISI) programs in the nation. Under the leadership of Dr. William W. Sullivan, The Center provides exceptional services to more than 26,000 participants in Southern Nevada.

Bryan K. Scott, Las Vegas assistant city attorney and president of the State Bar of Nevada received the prestigious Educational Pioneer Award for his community efforts and supporting low-income and first-generation students who seek to obtain a higher education degree. Mr. Scott is an alumnus of the TRIO Upward Bound program, class of 1984. The Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority and Second Baptist Church Outreach Program both received community partner awards. Three GEAR UP participants and five TRIO alumni were honored for their accomplishments during the event. The audience listened as the honorees shared their stories on how the TRIO and GEAR UP programs positively changed their lives and futures. The GEAR UP achievers were Haley Yeckes, Kassidy Yeckes and Sierra Yeckes. The TRIO honorees were Dr. Juan Plata (McNair alumnus), Naweed Najand (SSS alumnus), Dr. Allena Willis Kennerly (UB alumna), Lashaun Limbrick (ETS alumnus), and Virgil Rambeau Jr. (EOC alumnus). The next annual TRIO/GEAR UP Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday February 24, 2018.

See pictures from TRIO/GEAR UP Day on Page 10.
TRIO ETS STUDENT PURSUES THE AMERICAN DREAM
by Hellen Quan-Lopez, ETS Academic Counselor

Eugen Cotei has relentlessly pursued the American dream since he moved from Romania to the United States of America at the age of nine. During his senior year of high school, he applied to over twenty-seven higher education institutions and was accepted into many; however, after visiting several large prestigious campuses, he decided on a small private school in Maine, Bowdoin College. On June 9, 2017, he graduated from Rancho High School with a 4.0 GPA and with the distinct honor of being a valedictorian.

Eugen will begin pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science, Coastal Ecology and Latin Languages in the fall of 2017. He will be receiving $70,000 per year in scholarships from Bowdoin College, the Public Education Foundation, Burger King, and the Harrah’s Las Vegas. Looking back, Eugen wishes he had not stressed out about not being able to afford college as a first-generation college student. Eugen’s advice to other TRIO participants is to start planning for college early.

UPWARD BOUND TAKES WASHINGTON, D.C. BY STORM
by Geannine Jordan, assistant director for UBMSC

UNLV Upward Bound Math and Science Center (UBMSC) hosted its annual Washington D.C. college tour in March. This trip allows participants to gain both historical and political knowledge, as well as many exciting opportunities. Upon arrival in Washington D.C., the Upward Bound staff and ten participants enjoyed a great deal of sightseeing. Time was spent exploring the U.S. Capitol Building, Ford’s Theatre, Madam Tussauds, the National Museum of Natural History, and the Holocaust Museum. Additionally, UBMSC were able to receive limited tickets to the Smithsonian’s Museum of African American History and Culture. In high demand with thirty thousand ticket requests, they were ecstatic to have the opportunity to visit the museum. With five floors of African American and world history and only two and a half hours to see it, they took in as much as they could.

The college tours became an Upward Bound takeover with the UNLV and Hawaii at Hilo Upward Bound programs being grouped together at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Howard University. Sharing tours and having the students spend time with another university’s program was great to show how strong the Upward Bound program is nationwide.

On Capitol Hill, the students and staff had the opportunity to meet and speak with Nevada representatives. During these meetings, the students shared their personal stories of academic success and struggle, and how the Upward Bound program has assisted them in their journey.
SSS PARTICIPANT ACCEPTED TO THE UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CHARTER CLASS OF 2017
by Diana Pena, SSS participant

As a daughter of two immigrants and a first-generation college graduate, I am ecstatic to be part of the UNLV School of Medicine (UNLV SOM) charter class. I graduated from UNLV in 2016 with bachelor degrees in biology and psychology. During my undergraduate career as a pre-medical student, I participated in the UNLV Honors College, American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Pre-Medical chapter, volunteered as a tutor with UNLV Buddies, served as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Ai-Sun Tseng’s biology lab, and was a participant in the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program.

Participating in SSS was extremely beneficial for me both academically and personally. I received two SSS Grant-In-Aid scholarship awards, which allowed me to quit my part-time job and focus solely on school. I was also afforded the opportunity to attend the UNLV Medical School Admissions Panel to learn about the admissions process and how to become a competitive applicant.

Following graduation, I sought part-time work before enrolling in medical school. I received so much support from the SSS program so I applied to become a SSS tutor. The most rewarding aspect of the job is meeting and interacting with SSS students in situations similar to mine. Getting to this point involved a lot of hard work, but I was driven to succeed. There were many nights of minimal sleep as I strived to study for my classes and the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), while participating in research and volunteer clubs. I am certain that my participation in SSS played a crucial role in my acceptance to UNLV SOM.

CSN PLACEMENT TESTING AVAILABLE AT THE UNLV EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER
by Carolynn Taylor, Assistant Director for EOC

Building strong relationships with community partners is paramount to the success of the programs at The UNLV Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach. Adults entering or returning to a postsecondary institution can be faced with a challenging and stressful experience. This is why the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center’s (EOC) partnership with the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) is so important. Many of the EOC participants begin their undergraduate careers at CSN so it makes sense to cultivate a lasting partnership with this great institution. One of the key steps in starting at CSN is taking a placement test to gauge the students’ English and Math abilities. In order to accommodate participants who reside in the southeast part of Las Vegas, CSN has collaborated with The Center’s EOC to offer placement testing at the EOC offices on East Tropicana Avenue.

On April 5, 2017 Ms. Maria Ubaldo, coordinator of student recruitment at CSN, facilitated the placement test in the EOC classroom. With the help of The Center’s information technology staff who provided the set-up and computer equipment, Ms. Ubaldo was able to test five of our participants who will be attending CSN in the fall. The benefit to CSN, EOC, and more importantly, program participants is that by offering the placement test on our premises program participants do not have to commute to a campus to begin their experience with CSN. These participants were grateful to have the placement test services available on the southeast part of the valley.
SIX SCHOLARS RECEIVE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AWARDS
by Dr. Matthew Della Sala, Research Advisor, McNair/AANAPISI

Although many students make use of the summer term to enroll in additional coursework and participate in relevant internships, some students seek external funding to support their desire to conduct research. One prestigious award offered to students from all NSHE institutions is the National Science Foundation-Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research-Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (NSF-EPSCoR-UROP). This highly competitive program promotes research opportunities to enhance the recruitment and retention of undergraduates in STEM disciplines. As such, the award ($4,000 stipend and funds for supplies) offers undergraduate students the financial support to conduct high-quality, scientific research under the guidance of faculty mentors.

Of the twenty-six summer research grants awarded to undergraduates across the state of Nevada, five of them were granted to McNair and AANAPISI participants. Additionally, only ten awards were funded to support undergraduates for the upcoming academic year (Fall & Spring semesters)—one of those ten, and the only student from UNLV to receive the award, is also a McNair Scholar. Below is the list of UNLV students funded for research:

McNair Award Recipients
Andrea Darby (Summer), Biology
Isaiah Henry (Academic Year), Mechanical Engineering

AANAPISI Award Recipients
Camille Catelo (Summer), Nursing
Kevin Chau (Summer), Chemistry
Cassandra Dasmarinas (Summer), Anthropology
Sean Medina (Summer), Biology

We are very excited for all of the EPSCoR-UROP recipients! This is a great accomplishment and we wish them the best during the summer.

UBMSC KICKS OFF 2017 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM
by Geannine Jordan, Assistant Director for UBMSC

The UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMS) is going "BIG." On Saturday, May 20, 2017, UBMS kicked off summer to a packed auditorium during its Summer Residential Program (SRP) orientation. This summer’s theme is, “Go Big! Our Future Has No Limits.” Summer signifies vacation for many students, but for Upward Bound participants nationwide it’s the start of the Summer Residential Program. The SRP is a six-week component of the Upward Bound program that offers participants the opportunity to get a glimpse of what college life is like. Over the summer, participants live in the dorms on the UNLV campus, engage in cultural activities, and take academic courses in Science, Math, and English to prepare them for the upcoming fall semester.

At the SRP orientation, participants reviewed Upward Bound policies and procedures, learned about internships, STEM Tuesdays, Backpacks to Briefcases (B2B) Thursdays, field trips, summer course selections, the Bridge Program, the Joyce Anderson Memorial Scholarship, and toured the Dayton North Residence Hall. To go BIG, UBMS participants will have workshops during its STEM Tuesdays facilitated by professionals from Skybot (Engineering & Business Innovation Challenge), UNLV School of Community Health Sciences, UNLV Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction and the new UNLV School of Medicine.
**MCNAIR SCHOLARS REFLECT ON NCUR CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE**  
by Nirosh Moodley & Termaine Turner II, McNair Scholars

The 31st Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) took place at the University of Memphis during April 6-8, 2017. Over four thousand students, faculty mentors, and administrators participated. It was a great opportunity to learn about the research being conducted by students from college around the country. While listening to the presentations we were able to identify our own areas of research weaknesses and strengths in comparison to other presenters. The conference gave us the opportunity to interact with scholars and faculty from around the country and discuss topics in our respective areas of research, while meeting with representatives from numerous institutions at the Graduate School Fair.

When not involved in presentations and networking with graduate school representatives, we learned about the rich history and culture of Memphis, Tennessee. We met new people, ate famous Memphis barbecue, walked the iconic Beal Street, and visited the National Civil Rights Museum.

**APIASF PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEVEN AANAPISI STUDENTS**  
by Yodit Hagos, AANAPISI academic counselor

During the fall of 2016, the UNLV Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) program successfully collaborated with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) to provide AANAPISI participants the opportunity to apply for APIASF scholarships.

The APIASF/AANAPISI scholarship is open to all Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) students at participating AANAPISI programs. The APIASF/AANAPISI scholarship is an annual scholarship competition that awards between $500 for one academic semester to $20,000 for four academic years. The collaboration between APIASF and AANAPISI is one of twenty-three partnerships nationwide that assist communities by providing scholarships, expanding institutional capacity and mobilizing local resources to help foster economic development. In order for students to be eligible for the APIASF/AANAPISI scholarship, students must meet the following criteria: Be of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity as defined by the U.S. Census; be a citizen, national, or legal permanent resident of the United States; citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of Palau; and be enrolled as a full-time student in a degree-seeking program at any of the AANAPISI partner institutions.

Through this partnership, seven UNLV AANAPISI students were awarded scholarships. Six students received $2,500 each semester for one academic year and one received $2,500 per semester for four academic years, which is the maximum award of $20,000 across the country. Here is a brief bio of our APIASF/AANAPISI 2016 scholarship recipients:

- **RAISA KABIR**
  APIASF/USA Funds AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Biology

- **TIMOTHY OGBURN**
  APIASF/USA Funds AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Biotechnology

- **MANUEL VILLAROSA**
  APIASF/Walmart Foundation AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Public Health

- **JACKY CHEUNG**
  APIASF/USA Funds AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Biology

- **ANDREA MANDRIL**
  APIASF/USA Funds AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Public Health

- **MELANIE SAHAGUN**
  APIASF/Hilton Worldwide AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Hotel Management

- **LEAH LOVE**
  APIASF/Walmart Foundation AANAPISI Scholarship
  Major: Graphic Design
The UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) is proud to celebrate the academic success of Ed W. Clark High School’s 2017 Valedictorian, Samantha Lai. She will begin her undergraduate career at the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall of 2017. Insightful and equally creative, Samantha is fascinated with the power of the human mind and will be studying psychology with minors in English-TESOL and computer science.

Samantha has been named a prestigious National Merit Scholar Finalist. Through a rigorous and competitive selection process, of the 1.6 million high school juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT© exam in the fall of 2015, Samantha advanced as a National Merit Finalist-- one of 15,000 students representing less than one percent of U.S. graduating seniors. Additionally, Samantha has been named a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholar Program by the White House Commission and the US Department of Education. According to the US Department of Education, of the nearly 3.5 million high school seniors for the class of 2017, Samantha is one of approximately 4,000 students to receive the invitation for candidacy for the United States Presidential Scholars Program.

Samantha has received over 30 scholarships totaling $1.9 million dollars and is still awaiting notification from several others, including those from the Public Education Foundation. Her awarded scholarships include, but are not limited to:

- National Merit Scholarship
- United States Achievement Academy Scholarship
- Paul L. Rucker Scholarship
- Gustavus Adolphus Dean's Scholarship
- Kentucky Heritage Scholarship
- Portland President’s Scholarship
- New Mexico State Western Undergraduate Award
- Hadley Honors Scholarship
- New American University Scholar President's Award
- Arizona State University National Merit Finalist Award
- University of Oklahoma National Merit Scholarship
- Seton Hill Honor Scholarship
- Elizabeth Seton Scholarship
- Hofstra Presidential Scholarship
- University of Arizona National Merit Award
- Arizona Excellence Award
- Vision Scholarship
- OK Academic Scholarship
- Early Filer's Grant
- Willamette Trustees’ Scholarship
- Colorado School of Mines President's Scholarship
- UH Regents’ Scholarship
- Creighton Magis Award
- Roman Shaffel Award
- Regis Board of Trustees Award
- Hollins Scholar Award
- NYIT Presidential Scholarship
- Amigo Scholarship
- Irwin Belk Scholarship
- Engineering/Computer Science Scholarship
- Indiana Tech Achievement Award
- Founders Gold Award
- University of Tampa Presidential Scholarship
- UT Raise Scholarship
- UNR National Merit Scholarship
- Rosemary & John Martens Scholarship
- USAA Scholarship
- UNLV Scholarship
- UNLV President’s Institutional Scholarship
- UNLV Valedictorian Scholarship

Samantha will be an excellent addition to the University of Nevada, Reno’s Psychology Department. It has been a pleasure serving as her Upward Bound counselor over the years. While she received many admissions offers, she says she fell in love with Nevada-Reno and is happy to stay close to home. I am excited to watch Samantha grow in her postsecondary endeavors here in our own Battle Born State of Nevada.
VETERANS RECEIVE SERVICES AT ANNUAL STAND DOWN EVENT
by Terri Thomas, FSS program specialist

March is National Professional Social Work Month. This provides an opportunity to spotlight the social work profession and highlight the important contributions social workers make to the community. Family Support Services Division celebrated Social Work Month by volunteering at the 14th Annual Las Vegas Veterans Stand Down at Cashman Center on March 15, 2017.

The U.S. Vets-hosted event brought comprehensive services to hundreds of homeless and at-risk veterans in Southern Nevada. More than nine-hundred veterans received medical care, dental screenings, employment, legal and financial assistance, housing placement, counseling and other services in one convenient location. Dozens of community organizations sponsored and provided services for the Veterans Stand Down event.

GEAR UP HOSTS COLLEGE WEEK AT FINDLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
by Nekesta Shelton, public service intern

During the spring semester, UNLV GEAR UP hosted a successful college week at Clifford O. Findlay Middle School. The GEAR UP staff provided college themed activities during lunch, such as mascot matchup, test your college knowledge, name the Ivy League colleges, and name five famous UNLV alumni.

The school’s administration was extremely supportive and involved in all of the lunchtime activities. The highlight of the week was the college graduation picture day where students took pictures holding a diploma while wearing a cap and gown. Each student received a framed picture of him/herself holding a diploma.

FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS NIGHT
by Virgil Hurd, GEAR UP academic counselor

John C. Fremont Middle School hosted a very successful awards night on May 25, 2017. During the ceremony, GEAR UP academic counselor, Virgil Hurd proudly presented GEAR UP achievement awards to Marquez Herrod Jr., Raytion Nelson, Sirr Mosley, and Nevaeh Johnson. Darrell Dickerson received the GEAR UP student of the year award. These students exemplified outstanding academic excellence throughout the 2016-2017 academic year. GEAR UP was honored to join in recognizing the great students at Fremont Middle School.
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PARTICIPATES IN UNLV SERVICE DAY
by Terri Thomas, FSS program specialist

The UNLV Center of Academic Enrichment and Outreach Family Support Services (FSS) staff actively participate in community outreach events throughout the year. On February 10, 2017, FSS staff and social work practicum students volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House, Project 150, and Lake Mead Cleanup in celebration of UNLV’s 2017 Service Day.

The Ronald McDonald House provides temporary housing for families who travel to Las Vegas to receive critical medical treatment for their children. Project 150 offers services to homeless high school students in Las Vegas. Lake Mead Clean-up days are conducted in an effort to maintain the national recreation area.

FSS staff were extremely busy. In a matter of hours, FSS had helped organize the kitchen and restock the food pantries at the Ronald McDonald House. While at Project 150, FSS helped package over four hundred weekend bags filled with nutritious food items to be distributed to homeless teens at the end of the school week to ensure they have food to eat over the weekend. While five FSS practicum students were busy at the Ronald McDonald House and Project 150, two others joined a group of volunteers to clean up the beaches at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Together, they gathered and removed over two hundred fifty pounds of garbage.

EYES ABOVE THE HORIZON
by Geannine Jordan, assistant director for UBMSC

On Saturday, April 1, 2017, Jennie Johnson, director of the UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) took twelve participants to the Legacy Flight Academy’s “Eyes above the Horizon” outreach event. This event aims to develop an interest in aerospace careers for youth ages 10-19 through mentorship, hands on activities and presentations by the Tuskegee Airmen.

UBMSC students participated in a full day of STEM and aviation activities where they received instruction in basic aviation principles, experienced an orientation flight in a single-engine airplane, and explored a variety of STEM disciplines involved in aerospace careers. UBMSC students were immersed into the rich history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, while listening to professionals from across the aerospace career field share their unique stories. The presenters encouraged students to continue challenging themselves academically to reach their goals.
UPWARD BOUND GIVES BACK BY FIGHTING HUNGER AND CLEANING THE WORLD

by Nicole Garrison, academic counselor for UBMSC

Giving back to their community is what the UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) participants love to do. Nicole Garrison, academic counselor, took the lead with facilitating multiple community service opportunities for the Upward Bound participants.

Fight against Hunger (Three Square Food Bank). On Saturday, February 4, 2017, one hundred and seventy five students from UBMSC joined forces to aid in the fight against hunger. They sorted donated products, verifying expiration dates, repacking products, and assembling pantry boxes totaling twenty and forty pounds. Participants also filled plastic containers with toiletries and loaded crates to be shelfed for distribution. More than half of the children in the Clark County School District struggle with hunger. Three Square provides meals to millions of people through community partners and programs at various sites throughout the greater Las Vegas area. In total, the UBMSC participants packed over two thousand pounds of snack foods, over four thousand pounds of dry food, and sanitized enough bins to hold over seven thousand kids café meals.

Clean the World is a social enterprise with the mission of saving millions of lives around the world. Clean the World leads a global hygiene revolution to distribute recycled soap and hygiene products from more than four thousand hotel and resort partners to children and families in countries with a high death rate due to acute respiratory infection (pneumonia) and diarrheal diseases (cholera) which are two of the top killers of children under the age of five. Since 2009, Clean the World has distributed more than thirty-five million bars of soap in one hundred countries.

Upward Bound director, Jennie Johnson, and twenty one UBMSC participants volunteered to help clean the world. The Upward Bound team took on the task of measuring and sorting used bottles of soap, shampoo and conditioner. Volunteers must sort through boxes of used personal hygiene products and divide them into various labeled boxes according to measurements and type. The UBMSC team were pleased to know that their hard work would benefit thousands across the world. Upward Bound participants will never look at a bar of soap the same way again, as they now know that the reprocessed soap and other items will be donated to the homeless, victims of natural disasters, veterans, etc.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Andrea Darby, UNLV McNair Scholar, presented at the SAEOPP McNair Conference in June and placed third, winning $150 for her oral presentation!
MOMENTS FROM NATIONAL TRIO/GEAR UP DAY 2017

Ms. Jill Triplett, Director for UNLV GEAR UP, with GEAR UP Achievers Haley, Sierra, and Kassidy Yeckes.

From left to right: Tom Ray, Sierra Yeckes, Haley Yeckes, Kassidy Yeckes, Naweed Najand, and Lashaun Limbrick

Lashaun Limbrick, TRIO Educational Talent Search Honoree, and Ms. Diane Zagorski, Assistant Director for Educational Talent Search

Dr. Allena Willis Kennerly, TRIO Upward Bound Honoree

West Preparatory Mariachi singer

Sunrise High School ROTC members prepare for the posting of the colors
Dr. Juan Plata, TRIO McNair Scholars Honoree, and Ms. Terri Bernstein, Director for McNair Scholars

Virgil E. Rambeau Jr., TRIO Educational Opportunity Center Honoree, and Mr. Kyle Ethelbah, former Director for Educational Opportunity Center

Naweed Najand, TRIO Student Support Services Honoree, and Ms. Danielle Donato, Interim Director for Student Support Services

KO Knudson Middle School Jazz Band member

Community Partner Award Recipients, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority

KO Knudson Middle School Jazz Band

Gibson Middle School Drum Line

Gibson Middle School Drum Line
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