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**University of Nevada Reno (UNR)
Higher Education Component of GEAR UP Abstract**

The UNR Higher Education component of GEAR UP consists of two distinct components: 1) support for The Dean's Future Scholars (DFS), and 2) the evaluation of the entire project.

The second higher education responsibility is the evaluation and research. Two approaches, quantitative and qualitative, are being used to provide richness. In addition to the annual quantitative data collected for each GEAR UP middle school, case studies will be conducted at the rural GEAR UP schools. The purpose of the case studies is to assess the climate of each of the schools as well as capture and explore the systemic changes occurring as the schools create a college going culture.