



University of Nevada, Las Vegas

GEAR UP Abstract 2019-2020

Name of Project: GEAR UP ASPIRE Scholars Program

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The ASPIRE Scholars Program is designed to increase the number of low-income, first generation students graduating from high school in Southern Nevada, provide them with a smooth transition to higher education institutions to pursue STEM majors and programs, and enhance their retention and graduation from these programs. The target population is middle school (sixth, seventh and eighth graders), high school students and college freshmen. The strategically focused student support services provided by the GEAR UP ASPIRE Scholars Program will increase the number of underrepresented students pursuing STEM disciplines, enhance student's academic and life success and prepare them for subsequent careers in STEM fields.

For the current funding period, University of Nevada, Las Vegas will hire a full-time GEAR UP Aspire Scholars Program Director. In collaboration with the GEAR UP Director, Programming & Outreach, this position is responsible for designing and implementing an academic outreach program similar to University of Nevada, Reno's Dean's Future Scholars, with the goal of increasing the number of low-income, first-generation students graduating from high school in Southern Nevada, and gaining access to higher education. Additionally, the Director of the ASPIRE Scholars Program will identify, develop, and implement a comprehensive STEM education program for ASPIRE middle and high school students. Limited outreach activities and STEM programming will begin during the current funding period.