



# University of Nevada, Reno

## GEAR UP Abstract 2019-2020

**Name of Project:** University of Nevada, Reno

**Name of Project Coordinator:** Maritza Machado-Williams, Ph.D.

**Address:** 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV

**Telephone Number:** (775) 682-7780

**Email Address:** [macwilliams@unr.edu](mailto:macwilliams@unr.edu)

The University of Nevada, Reno supports the efforts of GEAR UP to increase the retention and graduation rates of low-income students in postsecondary education. This proposal presents a comprehensive plan of action that includes individualized and group activities and services designed to assist participants in the achievement of that goal. Further, the GEAR UP Ambassador will collaborate with NSHE and NDE in providing direct outreach services for GEAR UP students to develop a more proactive approach to transitioning students from high school to postsecondary education, to support their academic achievement efforts, and to promote Nevada GEAR UP proposed objectives.

Pre-semester one-on-one advisement, financial aid (including FAFSA completion) and scholarship meetings will be provided to ensure completion of the admissions process and successful transition into college. Each semester project activities will include enrollment tracking to ensure that students complete enrollment at the institution, orientation, and a welcome kick-off event designed to foster networking between incoming GEAR UP cohorts, faculty, staff, and GEAR UP alumni.

The Ambassador will create a Canvas-based curriculum approximating a FYE class which will provide peer-mentored programming for the rising freshmen GEAR UP cohort at the University of Nevada, Reno. The curriculum will cover topics such as on-campus resources, personal responsibility, congruence in life and chosen career path, career exploration, academic support, and more. In conjunction, the Ambassador will engage Business Network resources to assist in job shadowing, internships, college alumni talks and similar activities.

Peer mentoring will involve regular one-on-one meetings, different forms of collaborations, and direct interaction with the GEAR UP Ambassador. The one-on-one meetings will cover the Canvas curriculum as well as in-depth coverage on topics such as academic and financial planning. Referrals will be made to on-campus resources based on individual needs (disability, counseling, etc.). Trained peer tutors will provide assistance with the goal of building student confidence and with understanding of class material and preparing students to be able to handle the material on their own.

The Ambassador will participate in multi-institution collaborations on NSHE campuses, such as Spring Transfer Fair, as directed by the GEAR UP Ambassador Coordinator. Each semester will conclude with an end-of-semester event to celebrate the conclusion of the semester and advertise services to matriculated GEAR UP students. A multi-layer evaluation plan will be used to evaluate services and track retention.