



OUR MISSION

Core believes all children and families have the right to reach their full potential and pursue individual success. Our mission is to empower, enrich, and educate underserved children to lead choice filled lives.

OUR MODEL AND PROCESS

Core is a long-term, two generational, holistic, and collective impact model serving under-resourced students (“Scholars”). Scholars are accepted into Core starting in 6th grade after a home visit and parent interview. From 6th grade through 12th grade Scholars participate in afterschool and weekend programming; concurrently, their families work with Core staff to develop support networks, continue their own education, and develop the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. After graduation, Scholars are engaged with Core through our Alumni Network to ensure that they stay on track and continue to reach for their potential.

Core’s programming focuses on the individual needs of each Scholar and their family. For the families, the goal is to create stability in the home and to provide a pathway to better jobs and education. Meanwhile, we work with each Scholar on developing stronger character, aligning their strengths with career and college opportunities, and providing the experiences and tools needed to lead choice filled lives in and out of school.

Educate.	Empower.	Enrich.
<p>Students receive the academic support needed to graduate from high school and be prepared for college and career.</p> <p><u>PROGRAMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Career We Can</i> - <i>Academic Success Planning & Credit Tracking</i> - <i>Tutoring</i> 	<p>Students learn to advocate for themselves, make good choices, and have a positive community role model (mentor) to help them grow personally and professionally. Families have a support network to meet basic needs.</p> <p><u>PROGRAMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Advocacy Training</i> - <i>Character Education & Emerging Leaders Lab</i> - <i>Mentoring</i> - <i>Building Strong Support Networks</i> 	<p>Students receive opportunities to explore art, music, and cultural experiences to develop strong social skills and build self-confidence. Mindfulness and wellness workshops are offered to promote health and stress reduction.</p> <p><u>PROGRAMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>SPRAT</i> - <i>House of Straus</i> - <i>Ladies in Training</i> - <i>Wellness Workshops</i> - <i>Field Trips & Community Building</i>

UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION AND KEY BENEFITS

Long-term Support

Unlike most after-school programs, which typically serve children for two years with no subsequent follow-up, Core provides consistent, individualized programming over a long duration. Core believes it is necessary to break the cycle of poverty in order to fulfill our mission *to empower, enrich, and educate underserved children to lead choice filled lives*, and research shows it takes long-term engagement to do that. While a lot of data says it takes a child twenty years to break out of poverty, Core has shown it can be done in seven. How? By working with children and their families, by building trust, and by providing the tools and resources needed so that everyone--not just students--benefit from the model (i.e., have access to better education and better jobs).

Whole Child Approach

Many after-school programs focus on just one thing, i.e., tutoring, financial literacy, mentoring, etc., whereas Core's focus is the whole child and the full suite of their needs to achieve academic and life success. Core's approach isn't "one size fits all" . . . it's "whatever it takes". We carefully analyze what each individual child needs in order to break the barriers and overcome the challenges preventing them from reaching their full potential. Individualized plans encompassing everything from basic needs to academic enrichment to character education are made, executed, and case managed with multiple community partners.

Two Generation Impact

Core adheres to the pioneering work of the Aspen Institute by recognizing the need to provide services and opportunities for children and the adults in their lives in the following areas: 1) postsecondary education and employment pathways, 2) early childhood education and development, 3) economic assets, 4) health and well-being, and 5) social capital. Core is one of only two organizations in Southern Nevada to have formally adopted this whole family approach; the other serves children of color exclusively.

Character Education and Leadership Development

Core's Character Education curriculum has been specifically developed to be relevant, age appropriate and impactful. Character strengths like self-control, curiosity, and gratitude are vital to social and emotional well-being, physical health, and reaching individual potential. Overwhelming scientific data shows that developing strong character generates greater academic outcomes, better decision-making, healthier relationships, empathy, and greater citizenship. By training and developing interpersonal, intrapersonal, and intellectual strengths, Core Scholars build the skills needed to make good decisions, have a growth mindset, show empathy toward others, and in general exhibit high emotional intelligence. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." Our goal is to make this vision a reality for Las Vegas's under-resourced youth.

CORE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Core Mentorship Program aims to bring positive community role models into the lives of our Scholars to enhance their personal and professional growth. With guidance and feedback provided by their mentors, Scholars learn empowering life skills such as goal-setting, problem-solving, relationship-building, and accountability as they create and pursue their own personal goals. Core mentors are matched with mentees based on similar interests, personalities and expectations, and commit to working with their mentees one-on-one for 4 hours a month for at least one year. Mentors and mentees are given the flexibility and autonomy to plan their own meeting times and outing activities, providing more freedom for the mentoring relationship to grow uniquely and organically. The Core Mentorship Program currently has 45 active mentors, and more than half have continued their mentorship beyond the one-year minimum.

Core mentors also work with Scholars in larger groups through a project-based approach. In 2016, Chef Natalie Young launched "chow. to the core," an apprenticeship program designed to teach Core Scholars the ins and outs of the culinary industry. Through workshops, field trips, and on-the-job tasks, Scholars learn everything from food prep to culinary skills to customer service. Mentoring partnerships with dedicated community partners like Chef Natalie allow our Scholars to gain valuable experience, build new skills, and prepare to become working young professionals.

Another incredible example of project-based mentorship in action is the Young Executive Scholars "YES" Program. The YES program is the educational vision of the UNLV International Gaming Institute. YES brings together UNLV IGI's gaming-hospitality expertise with a project-based mentoring approach. The hope is that through exposure and access to a diverse pool of successful executives and leaders, YES will create a strong pipeline of homegrown talent who will become the next generation of Nevada hospitality industry trailblazers. YES is a rigorous four-week summer program of applied learning, team collaboration, and a mentor-guided, case-study analysis of the global hospitality-tourism industry.

DATA DASHBOARD

- All Scholars and their families live below the HUD poverty line (\$48,000 a year for a family of four)
- 142 Scholars served (130 new Scholars and their families will be onboarded into the program in 2020)
- 131 Families served (average family size: 5 members)
- Approximately 650 total individuals served
- 100% graduation rate to next grade level
- 100% graduation rate from high school
- 85% retention rate of Scholars and families from 6th grade to high school graduation
- 95% college acceptance
- 100% plan for post-secondary success
- 50 hours of community service, per Scholar, per year
- Approximately 700 hours invested in each Scholar and their family, annually
- Average level of education completed by Scholar parents: 4th grade