

RMC Research Corporation

Native Youth Community Project, Nevada Department of Education Summary Report of McDermitt Area Parent/Caregiver Perceptions of Year 3

October 2020

Background of the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP)

The Nevada State Department of Education's *Native Youth Community Project* seeks to prepare American Indian students in grades 7-12 for college and careers using a three-fold plan that includes: (a) the support of the College and Career Coach (CCC) and the Community-based Instructor (CBI); (b) activities designed to improve student academic performance including tutoring and summer programs, conferences designed to engage students, and guided visits to colleges; and (c) community collaborative events. Three tribal groups at two sites receive support in these efforts. Members of the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Walker River Paiute Tribe attend school in the Yerington, NV area. Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribal members attend school in the McDermitt, NV area. This report provides a summary of parent/caregiver perceptions of Year 3 in the McDermitt area.

Description of the Sample

The paper-and-pencil *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* was administered during a back-to-school/parent engagement event in September 2020.¹ The parents and caregivers who did not attend this event were given an additional opportunity to complete and return the surveys through the CBIs. All survey responses are included in the analyses contained in this report. Eighteen parents/caregivers responded to the survey. Of these, 78% have children who attend McDermitt Combined School, with the remainder of parents/caregivers having children who attend Winnemucca Junior High School. The sample includes significantly more female respondents (88%) than male respondents (12%). The parents/caregivers who responded have children in grades 7-11.

It cannot be assumed that the perceptions of this sample are representative of parents/caregivers in the McDermitt area due to the low response rate. Thus, the findings presented in this summary report should be interpreted with caution.

Description of the Survey Instrument

The *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* included a total of 12 items: four items regarding demographic information, one item pertaining to the activities in which parents/caregivers participate, two items on the perceived helpfulness of these activities in supporting their child's learning, and five open-ended items designed to gather data on the NYCP's overall impact and to assess further needs.

¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the start of the school year was delayed.

Two of the items used four response categories: *very helpful, somewhat helpful, not helpful, don't know/did not attend*. See Attachment A for the survey and Attachment B for parent/caregiver comments.

Parent/Caregiver Participation in Activities

In Table 1, the number and percentage of parents/caregivers who participated in a variety of activities and events is reported. Parents/caregivers reported the highest participation in meetings with their child's teacher (61%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (39%). Parents/caregivers reported lower participation in meetings to learn about the college and financial aid application processes (6%).

Table 1

Parent/Caregiver Participation in Activities and Events

Activity	N Respondents	N Respondents Who Participated	% Respondents Who Participated
A meeting with my child's teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child's class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals.	18	11	61
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	18	2	11
A meeting to learn about the college application process	18	1	6
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	18	1	6
An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	18	3	17
An event that focuses on how I can support my child's learning.	18	3	17
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	18	2	11
Volunteer at a school event	18	5	28
Back-to-School Night or Open House	18	7	39

Perceived Helpfulness of Activities

The perceived helpfulness of various meetings and activities offered by the school and the NYCP to support children’s learning is reported in Table 2. Overall, perceptions of the various support activities were favorable. All participants agreed that seven of the ten listed meetings and activities were helpful in supporting learning. More than half of the parents/caregivers indicated that the following activities were “very helpful” in supporting their children’s learning:

- A meeting to learn about the college application process (60%),
- A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process (60%),
- An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness (67%),
- Volunteering at a school event (63%),
- Back-to-School night (80%), and
- Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP (83%).

Table 2

Parent/Caregiver Perceived Helpfulness of Activities to Support Learning

Activity	N Respondents	% Very Helpful	% Somewhat Helpful	% Not Helpful
A meeting with my child’s teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child’s class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals	13	46	54	0
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	5	20	80	0
A meeting to learn about the college application process	5	60	40	0
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	5	60	40	0
An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness	9	67	22	11
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	8	50	50	0
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	4	50	25	25
Volunteer at a school event	8	63	25	12

Activity	N Respondents	% Very Helpful	% Somewhat Helpful	% Not Helpful
Back-to-School Night	10	80	20	0
Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP	12	83	17	0

Eleven parents/caregivers provided commentary on what they thought were the most important ways the NYCP has helped their children. Parents/caregivers cited that the NYCP has created new opportunities for students, helped them further develop leadership skills and build their self-confidence, and increased their awareness of their Native culture and heritage. According to one parent, the NYCP has helped their child, “by building confidence and also opening up her educational experience.”

Eleven parents/caregivers provided commentary on what they thought were the most important ways the NYCP has helped them support their children’s learning. Parents/caregivers cited that the NYCP has made them feel more comfortable and increased their understanding of their children’s learning. The NYCP’s ongoing activities and events, particularly those that incorporate Native culture and language, play an integral part in the project’s success.

Parents/caregivers also listed areas of support they would like to see offered to their children that are not currently available. The six who responded to this item expressed a desire to have presentations focused on careers, an increased emphasis on the importance of doing well in school and the meaning of educational terms such as “credit” and “credit deficiency,” additional opportunities for children to learn about Native culture, and additional academic support in math, writing, and reading areas.

Parents/caregivers listed topics for future events they would be interested in attending. These included: (a) supporting their children in post-secondary planning, (b) supporting their children’s learning, (c) supporting their children’s mental and social well-being, and (d) understanding Native culture and overcoming intergenerational trauma.

Summary of Year 3 McDermitt Parent/Caregiver Survey

The survey response rate was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the findings presented in this summary report should be interpreted with caution.

Year 3 of the NYCP grant was well-received by the parents/caregivers. Participants indicated that the NYCP had a positive impact on their children. During Year 3, parents/caregivers participated in a variety of events and activities. They reported that they most often participated in meetings with their child’s teacher (61%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (39%). Parents/caregivers perceived the majority of support activities listed as helpful in supporting their child’s learning. All parents/caregivers who participated agreed that seven of the ten listed meetings and activities were helpful in supporting learning.

In terms of the perceived impact of the NYCP, the open-ended responses highlighted that parents/caregivers believe that the NYCP has created new opportunities for students, helped them to further develop leadership skills and build their self-confidence, and increased their awareness of their Native culture and heritage. Additionally, the NYCP has helped parents/caregivers to support their children's learning by helping them feel more comfortable, by increasing their understanding of their children's education, and by offering ongoing activities that incorporate Native culture and language.

In terms of supports still needed, the open-ended responses highlighted the desire for continued support with post-secondary planning, academics, mental and social well-being, and Native culture (including overcoming intergenerational trauma).



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Attachment A: Parent/Caregiver Survey
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**Nevada Native Youth Community Project
Parent/Caregiver Survey**

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Bright Co-Investigator: Linda Fredricks

PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM: PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

August 2020

Dear Parent, Grandparent, or Caregiver:

RMC Research Corporation is working with the Nevada Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of the *Native Youth Community Project*. The purpose of this study is to measure the impacts of the project activities on participating students, students’ families, and community members. Gaining information from the evaluation will help to provide valuable feedback to project staff and will ensure that it is effective and will continue to have positive influences on students and on the community.

The following survey contains questions about your experiences with the Native Youth Community Project’s services offered at your child’s school. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions on this survey, and it is expected that it will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Answers to survey questions are strictly confidential and all responses are aggregated in our reports. Individual responses will not be shared with school officials or anyone else. No names are used in our reports.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation in this study at any time without prejudice or penalty. Your decision to participate or not participate in this study will in no way affect your relationship with the school or any of its employees.

If at any time before, during, or after the study you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Bright, Principal Investigator at RMC Research Corporation, at (800) 762-5001 or email at sturner@rmcres.com or elizabethbright@gmail.com, and she will be happy to answer any questions you have. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in the study, you may contact Solutions IRB (the organization that oversees the protection of study participants) at 1-855-226-4472 or email participants@solutionsirb.com.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bright

By signing your name below, you indicate that you understand the conditions of this study and voluntarily agree to participate.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Native Youth Community Project Parent/Caregiver Survey

As you answer the survey questions, please keep in mind that the *Native Youth Community Project* (NYCP) includes activities such as after-school tutoring, summer camp, meetings with the College and Career Coach, wellness or cultural events, camps or conferences, college visits, and youth summits.

1. Please describe yourself.

- Parent
 Grandparent
 Other caregiver

2. Please indicate your gender.

- Female
 Male

3. What grade level is your child (or children) currently enrolled in? (Check all that apply).

- Grades K-4 Grade 9
 Grade 5 Grade 10
 Grade 6 Grade 11
 Grade 7 Grade 12
 Grade 8

4. What school do(es) your child(ren) currently attend? (Check all that apply).

- McDermitt Combined School
 Yerington Intermediate School
 Yerington High School
 Other (please specify) _____

5. During the past school year, I was invited to attend and/or participated in the following activities offered by my child's school (please check each column as appropriate):

	I was invited to participate	I did participate
a. A meeting with my child's teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child's class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A meeting to learn about the college application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	I was invited to participate	I did participate
d. A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. An event that focuses on how I can support my child's learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Volunteer at a school event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Back to School Night or Open House	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other (please specify): _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Of the following activities that you participated in within the last year, how helpful were they to you in supporting your child's learning?

	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful	Don't Know/ Did Not Attend
a. A meeting with my child's teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child's class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A meeting to learn about the college application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. An event that focuses on how I can support my child's learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Volunteer at a school event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Back to School Night or Open House	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other (please specify): _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. **Overall**, during the past year, how helpful to you in supporting your child's learning were the community and cultural events hosted by the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP)?

- Very helpful Somewhat helpful Not helpful Don't Know/Didn't Attend

8. **The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped my child(ren) is...**

9. **The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped me to support my child(ren)'s learning is...**

10. **Help that I would most like see offered to my child(ren) that is not currently offered is...**

11. **I would like to attend an event for parents/caregivers that focuses on...**

12. **So that I can better support my child(ren)'s learning, I would like to learn more about or receive help with...**

Thanks for completing this survey!!

Attachment B: Parent/Caregiver Comments

[Note that the parent/caregiver comments in this attachment were corrected for grammar and spelling in cases where not doing this hindered the ability to understand the comments.]

8. The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped my child(ren) is...

- Being involved in Unity
- By building confidence and also opening up her educational experience
- Cooperate
- Has showed them how to make somethings
- Has showed them how to make somethings
- Leadership
- Learned how to dance about wellness taking care of my body, about technology, and meeting a lot of people.
- Let them be comfortable in their own heritage/Past/Present/Future.
- Participating in off campus trips
- Provided opportunities (educational/cultural).
- She is learning to be more outspoken, and less bashful meeting new people.

9. The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped me to support my child(ren)'s learning is...

- Being more involved
- By helping her find different educational and social platforms to participate in.
- To understand
- Teaching us both how to make cultural stuff
- Teaching us both how to make cultural stuff
- Being more outgoing/outspoken
- Keep our language one traditions strong, support in school, and listen when people talk & teach
- Helped made me feel comfortable
- Bringing forth presenters
- Ongoing learning in positive ways to support native youth AND their families.
- Learning different things that the project is doing.

10. Help that I would most like see offered to my child(ren) that is not currently offered is...

- Any
- Career focused presentations
- Importance of passing classes & knowing the value of doing so - explain "credits" and "credit deficiency."
- More in school, talking our language & traditions, more resources
- More writing workshops and also math-oriented workshops.
- Understand her reading

11. I would like to attend an event for parents/caregivers that focuses on...

- Cultural-based career choice
- How credits work, overcoming generational trauma, culture
- How to better support my children in their academics.
- Supporting kids with mental health, focusing more.
- Taking care of our youth how to succeed on to college.

12. So that I can better support my child(ren)'s learning, I would like to learn more about or receive help with...

- Career choice preparedness
- Links to help them problem solve school work and social problems.
- College research, and classes that she is interested in.
- Everything