

RMC Research Corporation
Native Youth Community Project, Nevada Department of Education
Summary Report of McDermitt Area Student Perceptions of Year 4
July 2021

Background of the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP)

The Nevada State Department of Education's *Native Youth Community Project* (NYCP) 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 in two different geographic locations 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 summarizes students' perceptions of the fourth year of the project in the McDermitt area.

Description of the Sample

RMC evaluators obtained parent permission to survey the students, and at the end of the fourth year of the project, in April through June 2021, all of the eligible Grades 7-12 McDermitt Area NYCP students were asked to provide their consent and complete an electronic survey. Twenty-six students completed the survey (70% response rate). The sample included more female respondents (54%) than males (46%), and the highest proportion of students responding to the survey (42%) were in Grade 7.

Description of the Survey Instrument

The *NYCP Student Survey* included eight items. Additional items were specific to students who participated in college tours and those who received the support of the College and Career Coach. Many items used four response categories: *strongly agree*, *somewhat agree*, *somewhat disagree*, and *strongly disagree*. At the end of each group item, an open-ended item allowed students to add personalized input. See Attachment A for the survey and Attachment B for student comments.

Student Perceptions of College Visits

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted planned college tours, and virtual college tours replaced in-person group college tours. During the school year, approximately 50 students participated in virtual college tours offered through *Amplified Nevada Native Youth* (ANNY) and their College and Career Coach. These included visits to institutions of higher learning such as Haskell Indian Nations University, Southern Utah University, University of Nevada – Reno, Southern Oregon University, and United Tribes Technical College.

Five respondents indicated that they had toured a college or trade school with the NYCP program. All five students responded to the survey items relating to the college and/or trade school visits. Because of this small sample size, the findings related to perceptions of college visits should be interpreted with caution.

The college visits were viewed favorably. All of the students agreed, at least *somewhat*, to the nine items relating to the visits' impact on their understanding of various aspects of college and the application process. All respondents *strongly agreed* that the visits helped them learn about programs and activities for Native students. None *strongly agreed* that the visits helped them better understand the application process. The results of the survey items pertaining to the college visits are found in Table 1.

Table 1

Student Perceptions of College Visits

<i>The visit(s) to the college(s) helped me to...</i>	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
better understand how I can prepare for college or trade school.	5	60	40	0	0
better understand the application process.	5	0	100	0	0
better understand how to apply for financial aid.	5	20	80	0	0
better understand what major areas of study are offered.	5	80	20	0	0
better understand which areas of study are of interest to me.	5	80	20	0	0
better understand how to access academic support services on the campus, if needed.	5	80	20	0	0
learn about programs and activities for Native students.	5	100	0	0	0
increase my motivation to attend college or vocational training.	5	60	40	0	0
increase my readiness to attend college or vocational training.	5	60	40	0	0

Two students provided commentary on how the college visits helped them. These comments highlighted that the visits helped them better understand how to find the college that is the right fit for them. In the words of one student, the college visits “helped me find [a] good school with good [a] education.”

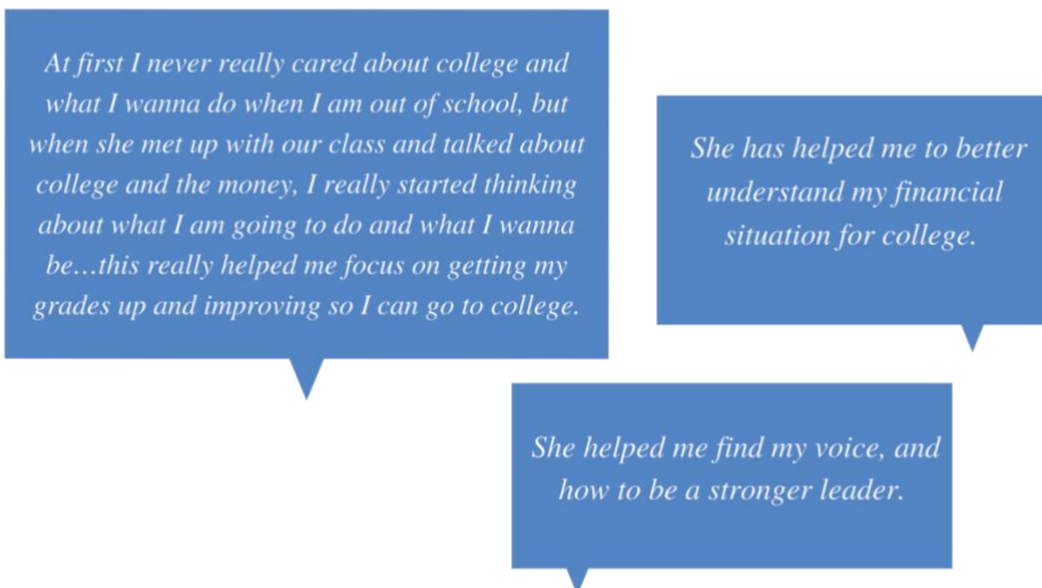
Five students commented on what they learned during the college visits. Students said they learned about the importance of postsecondary education, and they have a better understanding of financing their college education and applying for scholarships. The students made two suggestions to improve the college visits, including providing more information about the campus and dorm rooms and allowing students to ask questions.¹

Student Perceptions of the Support of the College and Career Coach (CCC)

Students were asked to provide feedback on the support they received from their school’s College and Career Coach (CCC). An item-by-item reporting of the results of the survey items pertaining to CCC support is found in Table 2. Eighteen students (69%) indicated that they received help from their CCC in the last year. Of these 18, all responded to the survey items relating to the CCC’s support.

The support of the CCC was viewed favorably, with at least 89% of students agreeing, at least *somewhat*, to the eight items relating to the support of the CCC and its perceived impact on various aspects of their academic and postsecondary performance. Seventy-five percent of the students *strongly agreed* that they feel better prepared for college or a career due to the support of the CCC. Fewer students *strongly agreed* that their relationships with their teachers were improved (28%) and that their relationships with other students were improved (39%).

Ten students provided commentary on the ways in which the CCC has helped them, including:



¹ It is possible that this comment is based upon a pre-recorded virtual session that could not accommodate questions during subsequent views.

Table 2*Student Perceptions of the Support Provided by the College and Career Coach*

<i>The help I received from the College and Career Coach at my school allowed me to...</i>	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
better understand how to advocate for myself.	18	50	44	6	0
increase my level of self-empowerment.	18	67	28	0	6
improve my relationships with other students.	18	39	50	6	6
improve my relationships with teachers.	18	28	61	6	6
feel better prepared for college or a career.	16	75	19	6	0
improve my academic performance.	18	44	50	6	0
increase my confidence in my academic ability.	17	65	35	0	0
increase my commitment to graduate from high school.	16	69	31	0	0

Overall Perceptions of NYCP Support

According to the students, the NYCP has had a positive impact on their postsecondary aspirations and preparedness. Eighty-eight percent of the 26 students who responded to the four items relating to the overall support they received through NYCP at least *somewhat agreed* that the support has: (a) increased their commitment to graduate high school, (b) increased their *motivation* and *readiness* to attend college or vocational training, and (c) helped them to feel better prepared for college or a career.

Perceived Needs of the Students

The final two survey items were designed to elicit feedback on students' needs in order to continue to improve the efficacy of the NYCP. Results are reported in Table 3. At least 90% of the students agreed that, in order to improve their academic performance, it would be useful for them to learn how to effectively prepare for exams, stay organized, take better notes in class, improve essay-writing skills, and meet successful people from their community.

Fewer students (69%) agreed that having someone they can talk to about how they feel would help them to improve their academic performance.

Table 3*Students' Perceived Needs*

<i>In order to improve my academic performance, it would be useful for me to...</i>	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
learn how to effectively prepare for exams.	26	46	46	8	0
learn how to stay organized.	26	58	39	4	0
learn how to better manage my time.	26	54	27	19	0
learn how to better understand what I read for school.	26	54	35	4	8
learn how to take better notes in class.	26	46	46	8	0
learn how to improve essay-writing skills.	26	54	38	8	0
have someone I can talk to about how I feel.	26	38	31	23	8
meet successful people from my community.	26	54	42	0	4
visit a college campus.	26	54	19	19	8
visit a variety of businesses.	26	35	42	15	8
receive tutoring in (a) specific subject(s).	26	44	44	8	4

Six students provided commentary on their tutoring needs. The comments included a desire for tutoring in math, science, and English/language arts. Students would also like guidance in postsecondary planning and paying for college. Additionally, one student had this to say regarding the need for motivational support:

The reasons why I would like to receive support is because I am in need [of] support for something [so that] one day I don't give up on what I want to do.

Summary of Year 4 McDermitt Student Survey

Year 4 of the NYCP grant was well received by the students. According to the students, the NYCP has had a positive impact on their postsecondary aspirations and preparedness. During the school year, approximately 50 students participated in virtual college tours offered through *Amplified Nevada Native Youth (ANNY)* and their College and Career Coach. It was noted that

the findings related to perceptions of college visits should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size. The students responded favorably to the survey items pertaining to their college visits. All five students agreed, at least *somewhat*, to the nine items relating to the visits' impact on their understanding of various aspects of college and the application process.

Eighteen students (69%) indicated that they received help from their CCC in the last year. All 18 students responded to the survey items relating to the CCC's support, and the support was viewed favorably, with 89% or more of the students agreeing, at least *somewhat*, to the eight items relating to the support of the CCC and its perceived impact on various aspects of their academic and postsecondary performance.

In terms of the supports still needed, students perceived that it would benefit them to learn how to: effectively prepare for exams, stay organized, take better notes in class, improve their essay-writing skills, and meet successful people from their community.

Directions

RMC Research Corporation is conducting an evaluation of Nevada's *Native Youth Community Project*. This survey is part of the evaluation. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. This is a *survey*, not a test. There are no right or wrong answers. This is completely voluntary and confidential and you do not have to answer a question if you do not want to answer it. You do not have to participate in the evaluation, and you can stop participating at any time. If you decide not to participate, there will be no negative consequences. If you have any questions about the survey, please raise your hand and the person administering the survey will help you.

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.

We thank you for your participation.

1. By writing your name below, you agree to participate in the survey. The survey is voluntary. We will make every effort to keep the information we collect confidential, and your individual answers will not be reported to anyone.

First Name

Last Name

As you answer the survey questions, please keep in mind the *Native Youth Community Project* activities that you may have participated in since June 2020. These may have included VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON programs such as after-school tutoring, summer programs, meetings with the College and Career Coach, wellness or cultural events and gatherings, UNITY, college and trade school visits (including virtual visits), and other events such as those sponsored by Amplified Nevada Native Youth (ANNY).

2. I attend school at

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

3. I am in

- 7th grade.
- 8th grade.
- 9th grade.
- 10th grade.
- 11th grade.
- 12th grade.

Other (please specify)

4. I am

- female.
- male.
- non-binary/third gender.
- transgender.
- Prefer not to say.

Prefer to self-describe:

5. Since last June, I have toured a college or trade school, either in person or virtually, with my school or with Amplified Nevada Native Youth (ANNY).

Yes

No

6. The names of the college(s) and/or trade school(s) I visited since last June with my school or ANNY are:

7. The visit(s) to the college(s) and/or trade schools helped me to...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
better understand how I can prepare for college or trade school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
better understand the application process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
better understand how to apply for financial aid.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
better understand what major areas of study are offered.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
better understand which areas of study are of interest to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
better understand how to access academic support services on the campus, if needed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn about programs and activities for Native students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or vocational training.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or vocational training.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us any other ways in which the visit(s) helped you.

8. The most important thing I learned from the college/trade school visit(s) was...

9. The college/trade school visit(s) could be improved by...

10. During this school year, I received help (either virtually or in person) from the College and Career Coach at my school.

Yes

No

11. The help I received from the College and Career Coach at my school allowed me to...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
better understand how to advocate for myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase my level of self-empowerment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve my relationships with other students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve my relationships with teachers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
feel better prepared for college or a career.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve my academic performance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase my confidence in my academic ability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase my commitment to graduate from high school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us any other ways in which the College and Career Coach helped you.

12. Overall, the help and support that I received through the Native Youth Community Project (for example, UNITY, college visits, ANNY, tutoring, and/or the summer program) have...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
increased my commitment to graduate from high school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increased my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or vocational training.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increased my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or vocational training.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
helped me to feel better prepared for college or a career.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. In order to improve my academic performance, it would be very useful for me to...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
learn how to effectively prepare for exams.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn how to stay organized.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn how to better manage my time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn how to better understand what I read for school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn how to take better notes in class.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
learn how to improve my essay-writing skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
have someone I can talk to about how I feel.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
meet people from my community who are successful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
visit a college campus.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
visit a variety of businesses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
receive tutoring in (a) specific subject(s).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate specific subjects for tutoring and/or any other ways you would like to receive support.

14. Please let us know about any other help you need, whether it is with school or your overall well-being.

Attachment B: Student Comments

[Note that the student quotations in this attachment appear exactly as they were entered by the students via the online survey.]

6. Please tell us any other ways in which the college visit(s) helped you.

- They have helped me find good school with good education.
- Other ways that helped me is tha I'm looking into more collages.

7. The most important thing I learned from the college visit(s) was...

- That some colleges can help you pay for one
- Respect and don't take things for granted
- How they can help me get scholarships
- To save whatever money I have and to always apply for free money
- It is important to look into collages and go to collages

8. The college visit(s) could be improved by...

- Showing more of what the campus/dorms would be like
- Better ours and maybe an overnight tour like how it is to stay in a dorm
- Maybe asking students if they have any questions

10. Please tell us any other ways in which the College and Career Coach helped you.

- at first i never really cared about collage and what I wanna do when I am out of school but when she met up with our class and talked about collage and the money I really started thinking about what I am going to do and what I wanna be and this really helped me focus on getting my grades up and improving so i can go to collage
- FIND GOOD SCHOOLS
- How to be ready for a huge step up
- It help me be prepared for college.
- She has helped me to better understand my financial situation for college
- She helped me come up with better ways to look at schools
- She helped me find my voice, and how to be a stronger leader
- she helped me learn that college can help me when I am looking for a job, because people would want a educated person to work for them.
- the College and Career Coach helped me by telling other students about Collages and how fun it sounds and how much support the Collage and Career Coach supports you and me. Another thing is that they should go or look at websites about Collages.
- they help me under stand that it won't be easy getting to college but with help from yourself and others i can make it they also showed me how every thing is at college and my options

12. Please indicate specific subjects for tutoring and/or any other ways you would like to receive support.

- ELA English Language Arts
- How to pay for the college i would be going to

- I think that when they have assemblies they should talk more about that and how much collage or graduating school can help you a lot in life.
- mabey things i dont know and arnt very good at
- math, science
- THE REASONS WHY I WOULD LIKE TO RESIVE SUPPORT IS BECAUSE I AM NEED SUPPORT FOR SOMETHING ONE DAY SO I DON'T GIVE UP ON WHAT I WANT TO DO.

13. Please let us know about any other help you need, whether it is with school or your overall well-being.

- I don't need any help right now but I know that I'll need in the future.
- I have everything I need for success
- don't need nothing
- i dont have one
- I just want to graduate and move out at this point. Maybe some help money-wise would always be helpful.
- I just want to manage school life better have better grades.
- i love school and dont need and help
- I think having a group for mental health would be great for myself and other students
- I'm fine
- Taxis
- That is fine
- You can help me with math but that's all