

RMC Research Corporation

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

November 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 Yerington area.

Description of the Sample

The paper-and-pencil *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* was administered during Back-to-School drive-thru events held in August and early September 2020. The parents and caregivers who did not attend these events were given an additional opportunity to complete and return the surveys through the CBIs. All survey responses are included in the analyses in this report. Forty-nine parents/caregivers responded to the survey. Of these, 59% have children who attend Yerington High School, 27% have children who attend Yerington Intermediate School, and 14% have children who attend both of these schools. The sample includes significantly more female respondents (85%) than male respondents (15%). The parents/caregivers who responded have children in grades 7-12 who participate in the NYCP program.

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.

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 (45%). Parents/caregivers reported lower participation in meetings to learn about the college 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.	49	30	61
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	49	7	14
A meeting to learn about the college application process	49	5	10
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	49	3	6
An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	49	12	24
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning.	49	18	37
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	49	5	10
Volunteer at a school event	49	5	10
Back-to-School Night or Open House	49	22	45

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:

- An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning (78%),
- A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor (75%),
- A meeting to learn about the college application process (75%),

- A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process (75%),
- Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP (73%),
- An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness (72%), and
- Back-to-School Night (64%).

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	32	66	28	6
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	8	75	25	0
A meeting to learn about the college application process	8	75	25	0
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	8	75	25	0
An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness	18	72	28	0
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	23	78	22	0
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	8	50	25	25
Volunteer at a school event	12	25	67	8
Back-to-School Night	25	64	36	0
Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP	33	73	27	0

Thirty-seven 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 provided new opportunities for students, helped them further develop leadership skills and build their self-confidence and relationships with their peers, and increased their awareness of their

Native culture and heritage. Parents expressed that this has been done through a variety of activities and supports, including the UNITY Council, close monitoring of student academic progress, tutoring, summer programs that incorporate academic as well as cultural activities, and visits to colleges. Additionally, parents/caregivers expressed that the NYCP staff have served as advocates and liaisons between the students, teachers, and schools. They also reported that staff members are readily available. These sentiments are evidenced by the following comments regarding the most important way(s) the NYCP has helped their children:

[By] acting as an advocate/liaison between my students/teachers/school. The tutoring program has been very beneficial.

[By] being available. We could always meet if we had to.

Giving them the opportunity to interact with other Native students they may never interact with.

I think they give a lot of encouragement that the kids need to want to try harder.

Thirty-four 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 increased their understanding of their children's education, including how to access their grades and assignments; provided activities and supports to get parents/caregivers involved; and provided academic supports to students, including tutoring and monitoring of student completion of assignments.

Parents/caregivers also listed areas of support they would like to see offered to their children that are not currently available. The 26 who responded to this item expressed a desire to have additional information provided on post-secondary planning, including information on college, vocational school, and life skills; individual counseling; and classes on Paiute Language and Native culture. These sentiments are evidenced by the following comments:

My wish is to send my senior to college. But it is financially challenging. Help with options.

More choices after high school, [for example] colleges, trade schools, job, how to be on your own.

Real life skills class – how to balance a checkbook and debit/credit card awareness.

[The] program offers a lot. I have enjoyed every event.

Paiute language.

Twenty-one parents/caregivers listed topics for future events and areas of support they would like help with. These included: (a) positive parenting courses and how to better understand and support their children, particularly in coping with stress; (b) post-secondary planning; and (c) understanding student grades and academic progress.

Summary of Year 3 Yerington Parent/Caregiver Survey

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 (45%). 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 provided new opportunities for students, helped them further develop leadership skills and build their self-confidence and relationships with their peers, and increased their awareness of their Native culture and heritage. Parents expressed that this has been done through a variety of activities and supports. Additionally, parents expressed that NYCP staff members have served as advocates and are readily available.

In terms of supports still needed, the open-ended responses highlighted the desire for additional information on post-secondary planning, especially information on college, vocational school, and life skills; individual counseling; and classes on Paiute Language and Native culture.



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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...

- Acting as an advocate/liaison between my students/teachers/school. The tutoring has been very beneficial.
- After school tutoring when school was in session. Summer Enrichment Prog. Was great, cultural activities.
- After school tutoring.
- Availability
- Being a part of a group, learning, new activities, UNITY being helpful
- Being available. We could always meet if we had to.
- Being there/available/coaching
- College - getting ready tutoring
- Did not help
- Do his homework and return done homework to school
- Educational supplies-backpack, school supplies, etc.
- Encouragement of involvement & engaging students
- Eave many options for the kids
- Getting her comfortable with speaking to others
- Getting to learn her culture & meeting other kids
- Giving them the opportunity to interact with other native students they may never interact with.
- Giving them the opportunity to interact with other native students they may never interact with.
- Grad Monitoring & Counseling
- Graduation Requirements. College App process Financial Aid, Having/supporting, Teresa throughout the school year.
- How it gets him into a social group and outta the home, while being safe.
- I think they give a lot of encouragement that the kids need to want to try harder
- It has helped him to learn more about college and tips to be a good student
- Keeping them busy.
- Making the program and staff available to our kids!
- Making their education available to them
- My children are shy and a lot of times dont participate
- Offering new opportunities/supportive
- Participate on the youth council & shows her leadership qualities.
- Prepping for future
- Teaching them about their culture
- They work as almost like an advocate for our children. Rewarding for good grades/behavior. [My daughter] is a tutor and gets paid. Took a trip last year to visit native colleges

- This is my child's first year participating.
- To be aware of colleges to further education.
- Trying to get my children out of their comfort zone
- Trying to get them to participate
- Tutoring
- Tutoring

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

- Allowing him to participate
- Allowing me every possible access to their school & work
- Another voice to the process of education
- Assist with school supplies. They host events for the kids as well as the family unit.
- Assists w/school supplies, They host events for the kids!
- Be there no matter what
- Be there no matter what
- Being available to answer any questions.
- Being involved
- Being involved
- Caring for my children's grade's
- Did not help
- Encouraging him to get his work done and asking for help.
- Finding ways to better my child's learning
- Giving me tons of information to follow along
- Grades
- Grades
- Having staff that make every event important.
- I'm still learning
- Importance to embracing their heritage & culture
- Inspiration/motivation
- Just being active
- Just communicating with me and letting me know what's going on.
- Keep them informed when their grades are slipping and help them get on track
- Keeping me posted on whats going on.
- Knowing more opportunities are out there for our youths
- My daughter has come home with new questions for me to answer things she would like to know. Communicator
- Provide me information
- The adults helping to watch the grades and when they bring grades up they are rewarded (Giving An Incentive for hard work)
- There is a lot of activities I'm trying to get my kids to attend.
- To communicate with our child & we are here to support her goals
- To complete school assignments
- Tutoring

- Tutoring

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

- One-on-One counseling
- One-on-One counseling
- Any assistance w/the college application process
- College application process & scholarship information
- College tours
- Economics real life "off the Res" situations
- Encouragement, Positive outlook and Input
- I am hoping the tutoring program will get my son involved. He has a very hard time with school.
- Interviewing when they choose to single out my child.
- More information on culture
- More Native Language.
- More Tech School info and Tours
- More Tech School options & Tours
- More working with the youth. NYCP youth and staff working with other youth, siblings to show more strength
- My wish is to send my senior to college. But it is financially challenging. help with options.
- None, they are doing phenomenal
- Not sure right now, maybe more about choices after high school ex colleges, trade schools, jobs how to be on your own.
- Paiute language
- Program offers a lot. I have enjoyed every event.
- Programs like RYLA camp (Leadership Awakening Camp)
- Real economics Debit/credit cards knowledge, you know real life
- Real life skill class; How to balance a checkbook, Debit/credit card awareness
- Economics that matter in real life
- Some input from the children of how us adults can help if we don't understand what they are saying so the child doesn't get frustrated.
- Tour college campus & arrange a meeting with track coaches to discuss my child's future.
- WIFI for distance learning

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

- Not certain but I'm open
- Positive Parenting.
- Children that are not outgoing to be or go out of their comfort zone.
- Preparing for college / scholarships
- School! GPA's and what to expect.
- Teen stress-attitudes-helping them cope with increasing stresses in this crazy world, "Outlets"

- The kids graduating
- They already do everything
- Where they stand at in school grades.

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

- Online class resources
- Preparing for college / scholarships
- Programs or scholarships to start or help one for future plans with student
- Teen stress-attitudes-helping them cope with increasing stresses in this crazy world, "Outlets"
- The instruction learning of what they teach the high school students ex how many credits need to graduate, etc.
- Trying to get my g.e.d. so that I could try and help my children some help with their homework.
- Tutor for the student.
- Unsure.
- Volunteering
- What can I do to show support.
- What I can do to show support
- I think better involvement with filling out applications for schools if their interested.
- What they need 1yr before they graduate if the children is interested in college/sports.