

# NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECT

## Q3 Progress Toward Meeting Project Goals

September 2025

The Nevada Department of Education's (NDE's) Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) seeks to prepare American Indian (AI) students in Grades 7–12 for college and careers using a three-fold plan that includes (a) the support of College and Career Coaches and School Community Liaisons; (b) activities designed to improve student academic performance; and (c) community collaborative events that foster student connections and opportunities for development. Students and community members from three tribal groups in three geographic locations receive support in these efforts. Members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) and Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) attend school in the Yerington and Hawthorne, NV, areas. Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone tribal members attend school in the McDermitt, NV, area (see Exhibit 1). Across the two regional sites, students in Grades 7–12 participated in the third year of the project's implementation.

RMC Research submitted an Annual Performance Report update in April 2025, covering work from January 1 to March 31, 2025. This quarterly report covers work done from April 1 to July 31, 2025. It highlights the ways in which NYCP project staff led and chaperoned students on NYCP activities. These include the hosting of community collaborative events, discussing efficient ways to collect program data, conducting research and facilitating discussions on how to support students' mental health and academic needs, training school administrators and staff on NYCP requirements and the role of expectations on student achievement, and strengthening community ties to increase their knowledge and support of the NYCP.

### Exhibit 1. Participant Characteristics

#### Number of American Indian (AI) and Number (Percent) NYCP Students, 2024-25 School Year

Grade	McDermitt		Yerington		Mineral Co.		Across Sites	
	AI N	NYCP N (%)	AI N	NYCP N (%)	AI N	NYCP N (%)	AI N	NYCP N (%)
7	8	8 (100)	22	8 (36)	3	0 (0)	33	16 (48)
8	13	13 (100)	13	8 (62)	2	0 (0)	28	21 (75)
9	11	11 (100)	27	7 (26)	4	0 (0)	42	18 (43)
10	12	10 (83)	18	2 (11)	3	1 (33)	33	13 (39)
11	11	11 (100)	14	7 (50)	1	0 (0)	26	18 (69)
12	4	4 (100)	13	3 (23)	2	0 (0)	19	7 (37)
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57 (97)</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>35 (33)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1 (6)</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>93 (51)</b>



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## Goal 1: Implement a successful NYCP that promotes and prepares AI students for college or careers, with an emphasis on careers in the teaching profession.

### College Visits, Camps, and Related Activities

In total, there were five college visits, camps, fairs, or similar activities for NYCP students that took place from April 1 to July 31, 2025. Overall, students found these activities informative and useful in considering and preparing for their options after high school. Details are shown below.

- On April 7, 2025, NYCP students toured two college campuses of Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). The Dandini Campus hosted discussions about the student service center, academic advising, computer labs, tutoring, and the Learning Center. The Edison Campus hosted discussions on career and technical education training for high-skill jobs in advanced shops, as well as labs in construction and design, manufacturing, automotive, diesel, fabrication, HVAC/R, and welding.
- NYCP students toured the Ironworkers Training Facility in Stead, NV, for the Build Your Future with the Ironworkers event on May 10, 2025. They learned about the Apprenticeship Program and the Ironworkers' importance in societal development. They also learned about Native American Ironworkers' contributions and experiences in the field, as well as future advancements in ironwork.
- On May 14, 2025, NYCP students participated in Walker River Paiute Tribe's College Career Fair in Schurz, NV.
- The Native Youth College Camp at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) took place from June 22-26, 2025. This was an opportunity for NYCP students to explore the UNLV campus, learn about degree programs and campus life, meet other Native youth from across the region, and discuss topics such as tribal hospitality/gaming, Indian law, and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- NYCP students attended the 2025 National UNITY Conference that took place in San Diego, CA, on June 27–July 1, 2025. As part of the conference, NYCP students had opportunities to participate in conferences sessions, regional caucuses, workshops, as well as take part in an expansive career/education fair.

- On July 6–10, 2025, NYCP students participated in the Native Students LEAD Program at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). LEAD is a culturally enriched, immersive higher education exploration program for Native American students to stay on campus and learn about how to prepare for the college application process, financial aid, and degree options. This free, one-week immersive program is designed to help AI students explore higher education opportunities and set them up for success after enrollment. NYCP students had the chance to experience life on campus by staying in the residence halls, connecting with cultural and academic resources, and gaining valuable tools for navigating college life.

### Community Collaborative Events

In total, there were five community collaborative events for NYCP students from April 1 to July 31, 2025. These events were considered highly positive overall. Details are shown below.

- An outdoor excursion to White Mountain in Schurz, NV took place on April 4, 2025. This was an opportunity for NYCP students to engage with and learn from storytelling by the elders.
- A trip to Walker Lake, NV, took place on April 5, 2025. This involved cultural activities and an educational discussion about the lake and its significance by local Paiute elders.
- On April 6, 2025, NYCP students travelled to Grimes Point, Fallon, and Lovelock, NV, to tour the hidden caves together and learn about the “Tale of the Giants” through storytelling.
- The Walker River Paiute Tribe’s Education Department transported NYCP students to the Youth Day Camp in Lake Tahoe, NV, on June 9, 2025.
- The Discover Your Path: American Indian Alaska Native Summer Camp took place on July 28-August 1, 2025, at Lake Tahoe, NV. NYCP students had an opportunity to increase their indigenous knowledge through self-discovery as well as meet AI representatives in the region.



## Staff Changes or Updates

Ms. Fawn Lewis stepped down as NYCP Coordinator on July 25, 2025, to take a new role as a School Counselor in Nye County. The new NYCP Coordinator is M-Ache Martinez from Clark County School District, where he worked in the Indian Education Opportunities Program (IEOP).

Ms. Tonya Johnson is the new Administrative Assistant at the Nevada Department of Education.

## Communications with Schools/Professional Development

NDE met with College and Career Coaches/School and Community Liaisons regularly to discuss issues and answer questions related to the grant. RMC participated in one of these meetings in July (2025) to go over recommendations for improving the support and services for NYCP students in the upcoming school year.

## Parent Outreach

There were no NYCP parent outreach activities identified during this quarter.

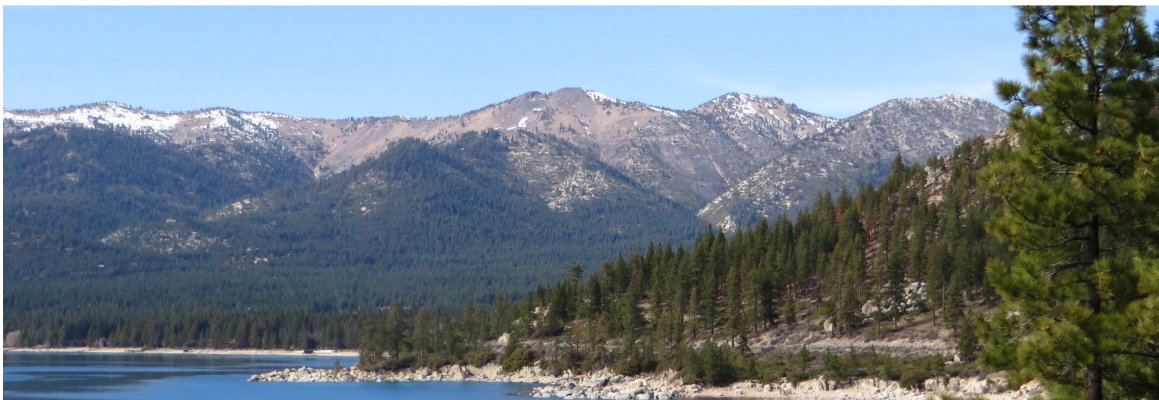
## Goal 2: Increase student academic performance by including opportunities in the local community to support students.

### Academic Learning Plans

Academic learning plans (ALPs) were discussed during the recommendations meeting with the NDE staff and school and community coaches/liaisons. To facilitate reporting on ALPs, RMC developed a one-pager for guidance (called a “cheat sheet”). This sheet outlines when and where to enter information for performance measures (including the ALPs), and it is complemented by a spreadsheet template to record and submit this data.

### Academic Tutoring and Credit Recovery

There were no academic tutoring or credit recovery activities identified for this quarter.



Goal 3: Increase student motivation and readiness to attend college or vocational training.

Help with Career Inventories/College or Trade School Applications/Financial Aid

NYCP students had several opportunities to visit and learn about college and trade schools in the region during this quarter, including admissions requirements, application procedures, and financial aid. However, no specific instances of NYCP students asking for help with college applications or financial aid were identified, though it is possible that these will be reported in the upcoming APR.

Motivation/Readiness to Attend College or Trade School

Although preliminary, feedback data from the college visits, camps, and fairs taking place during this quarter show that NYCP students found these activities informative and useful in their planning for life after high school. This suggests such activities help improve their motivation/readiness to attend college or trade school. Nonetheless, we note that for some of these surveys, the number of responses was very small, making generalizations difficult.

Dropouts

There were no NYCP student dropouts identified during this quarter, though this may be revised in the upcoming APR.

Project Achievements in Q3

181	93	0	5	6
AI Students	NYCP Students	PD Opportunities	Community Activity	College Visits/Activity

Project Challenges in Quarter 3

Several noteworthy changes and challenges arose during quarter three. Ms. Fawn Lewis, NYCP Coordinator from 2024-25, departed in July for a new position. Ms. Lewis was an effective, committed steward of the program during her tenure, and her departure left a sizable hole to be filled. Ms. Fredina Drye-Romero acted quickly to help fill the role, and Mr. M-Ache Martinez has stepped into the role of NYCP Coordinator. There will likely be a learning curve as Mr. Martinez adjusts to the position and its responsibilities, but he brings an extensive background in education programs.

Part of the challenge in the NYCP project coordination is establishing and maintaining consistent communication among internal stakeholders. This includes the NDE team, College and Career Coaches/School and Community Liaisons, and the RMC team. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Drye-Romero have



done well in facilitating this communication, and now Mr. Martinez can assist in the continuation of this task.

An additional challenge is to consistently obtain useful, applicable student feedback on program activities and events. The development and implementation of increasingly effective program activities hinges on student feedback. This challenge—an ongoing one for student-focused programs—requires the continued refinement of the ways in which student feedback is solicited. This includes considerations for implementing both surveys and focus groups.

## Recommendations

1. The first recommendation relates to fostering and maintaining continued communication among internal stakeholders (the NDE team, College and Career Coaches/School and Community Liaisons, and the RMC team). The NDE team (Ms. Drye-Romero and Mr. Martinez) and the RMC team have re-established regular monthly check-in meetings to stay informed of upcoming events, address potential challenges, and maintain consistent communication. We recommend the continuation of these meetings. We also recommend that Mr. Martinez establish such regular meetings to stay in continual communication with the College and Career Coaches/School and Community Liaisons.
2. The second recommendation is to continually explore ways to effectively solicit participant feedback, especially from students. This includes fostering conversations and identifying ways to increase survey response rates for the purpose of refining program events and features to meet program objectives.

The contents of this report were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.