

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, College Camp

August 2024

Nevada Native Youth Community Project



Prepared by
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Prepared for
Walker River Paiute Tribe
Nevada Native Youth Community Project

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, COLLEGE CAMP

Introduction

The two four-day *Native Youth College Camps* were held on June 10-14 and June 24-28, 2024, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The trip was funded by the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE's) Native Youth Community Project (NYCP). NYCP partnered with UNLV, ARIA Resort & Casino, and the Palms Casino Resort to provide Native students with information and experiences related to college and career readiness. Representatives from UNLV's Early Outreach Office of Admissions served as the primary designers and planners of the College Camp.

The NYCP UNLV College Camp included students from the Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) and the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes. Although these tribes are the recipients and main benefactors of the NYCP grant, other tribes are welcome to attend. Affiliated tribes include the Shoshone-Paiute of Duck Valley Tribe and the Pascua Yaqui Tribes, such as the Chemehuevi Tribe, the Moapa Tribe, the Fort Mojave Tribe, and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, as well as the Clark County School District Indian Education and the American Indigenous Business Leaders.

The NDE's NYCP, in the second year of its second grant, 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 College and Career Coaches and School Community Liaisons, (b) activities designed to improve student academic performance, and (c) community collaborative events. Students and community members from tribal groups receive support in these efforts.

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the importance of the UNLV visit for members of the WRPT and Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes and how the visit supports the goals of the NDE's NYCP.

The NYCP project has the following three long-term goals:

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

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

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

Figure 1. The group learned about the culinary arts program at UNLV's state-of-the-art facility.




Photo by Archie Hill

Participant Perceptions of the UNLV College Camp

Thirty NYCP students and 66 non-NYCP students attended the camp in its entirety (some students left early and did not complete the camp). Appendix A contains the number of students who took the pre- and post-camp surveys. Appendix B contains participant responses to the pre-camp survey. Appendix C contains participant responses to the post-camp survey. Appendix D contains pre-post changes in participants' understanding of six factors related to going to college covered during the camp. Appendix E contains participant responses to open-ended questions. Due to the small sample size, the results should be interpreted with caution. The table below reflects the distribution of NYCP and non-NYCP participants in Grades 6-12 by the end of the camp, where the lion's share of NYCP participants were in Grades 8-11; among non-NYCP participants, most were in Grades 7-9 (Table 1).

Table 1. NYCP and Non-NYCP participants attending the UNLV College Camp.

Grade Level	NYCP Participants		Non-NYCP Participants	
	n	%	n	%
12th	-	-	8	12
11th	2	7	6	9
10th	9	30	9	14
9th	6	20	17	26
8th	6	20	11	17
7th	5	17	12	18
6th	2	7	3	5
Total	30	100	66	100



Participants took a one-question pre-camp survey to measure their current understanding of certain aspects of the college-going experience, such as choosing and applying to college, choosing a major, financial aid, college life, and why it is good to have a college degree.

At the close of the camp, participants took a nine-question survey to get their impressions of the UNLV College Camp experience. This post-camp survey contained the same question asked in the pre-camp survey to measure the contribution of the camp content to the participants' understanding of these college-going aspects, four closed-ended questions that pertained to the impact of the visit on students, and four open-ended questions that asked students about (a) the most important things they learned, (b) what they would like to learn more about, (c) suggestions for improving the college visit, and (d) any questions they still have about applying to college or trade school.

Among NYCP participants, perceptions of the college visit were very favorable, with at least 90% agreeing to all but one of the six items in the first closed-ended survey question relating to what was learned during the visit. Participants agreed that the camp increased their desire to graduate high school more than before and increased their motivation and readiness to attend college or trade school. They also understand that they are in control of their future and know they can do well in school. However, many participants did not believe that attending the UNLV camp helped them get along better with other students (see Figure 2).

Over 95% of NYCP participants felt that the presenters held their attention and agreed that the visit helped them to learn (a) how to get ready for college; (b) what it is like to be a college student; (c) about programs, clubs, and activities specifically for Native students; (d) what to expect from going to college; and (e) what college majors are available and what might interest them (see Figure 3). Coincidentally, 97% of participants would recommend this college camp to a friend.

Figure 2. The UNLV College Camp visit helped NYCP students engage in self-reflection and increase their motivation and readiness for college or trade school.

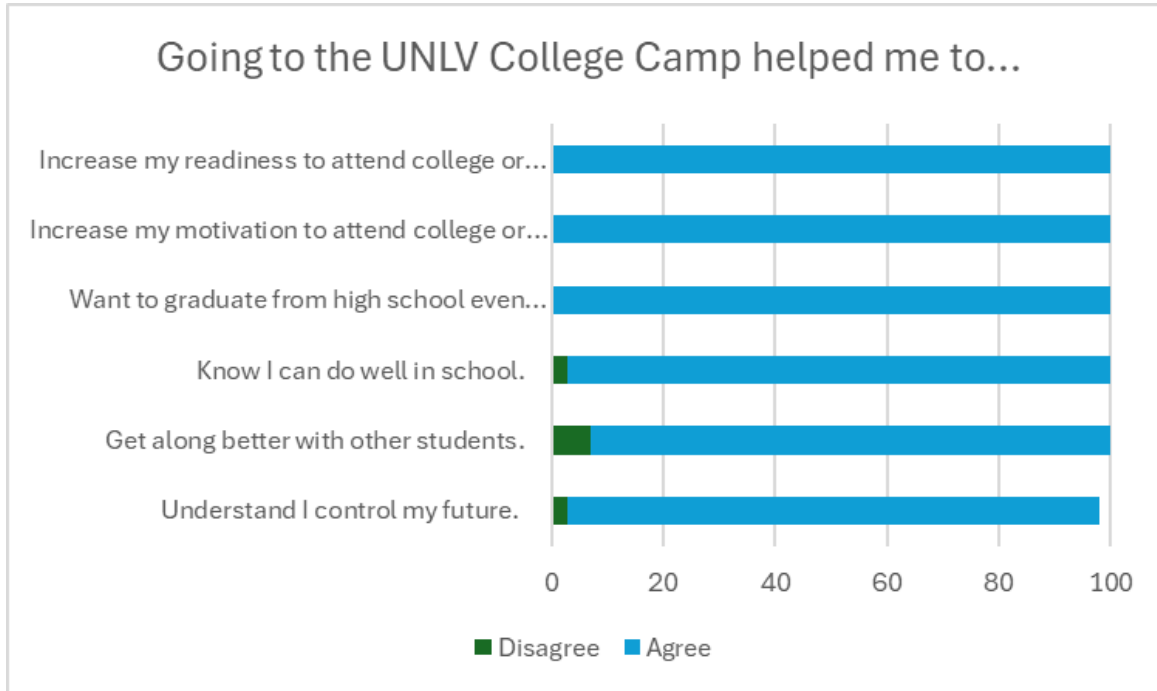
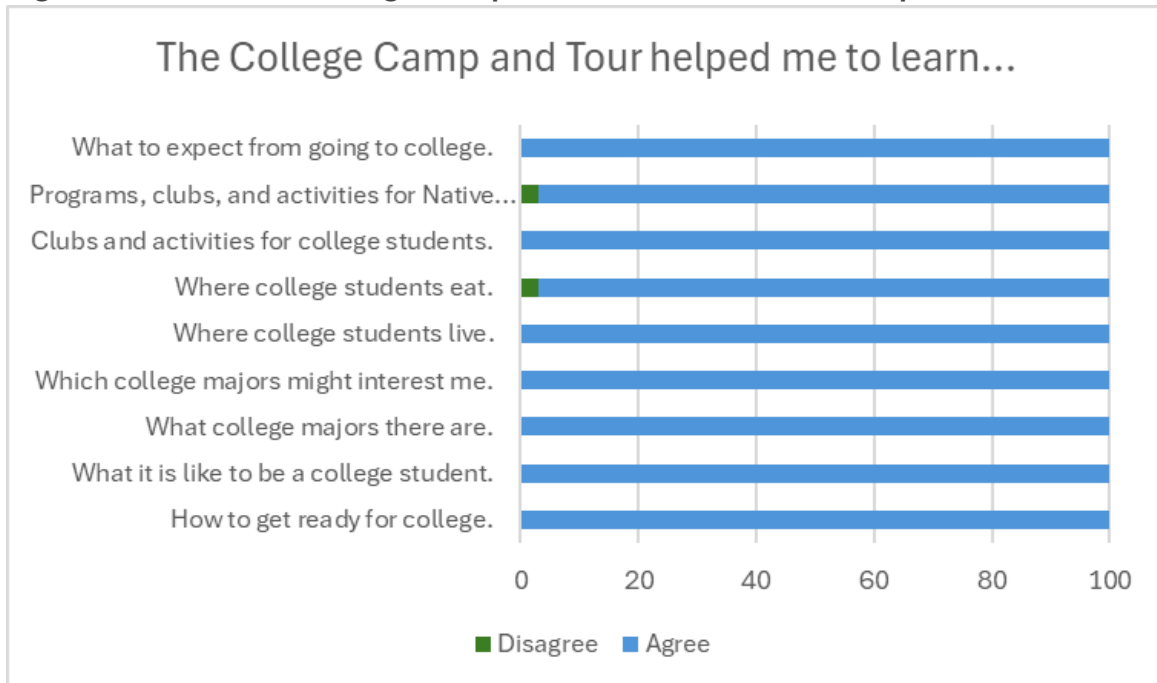


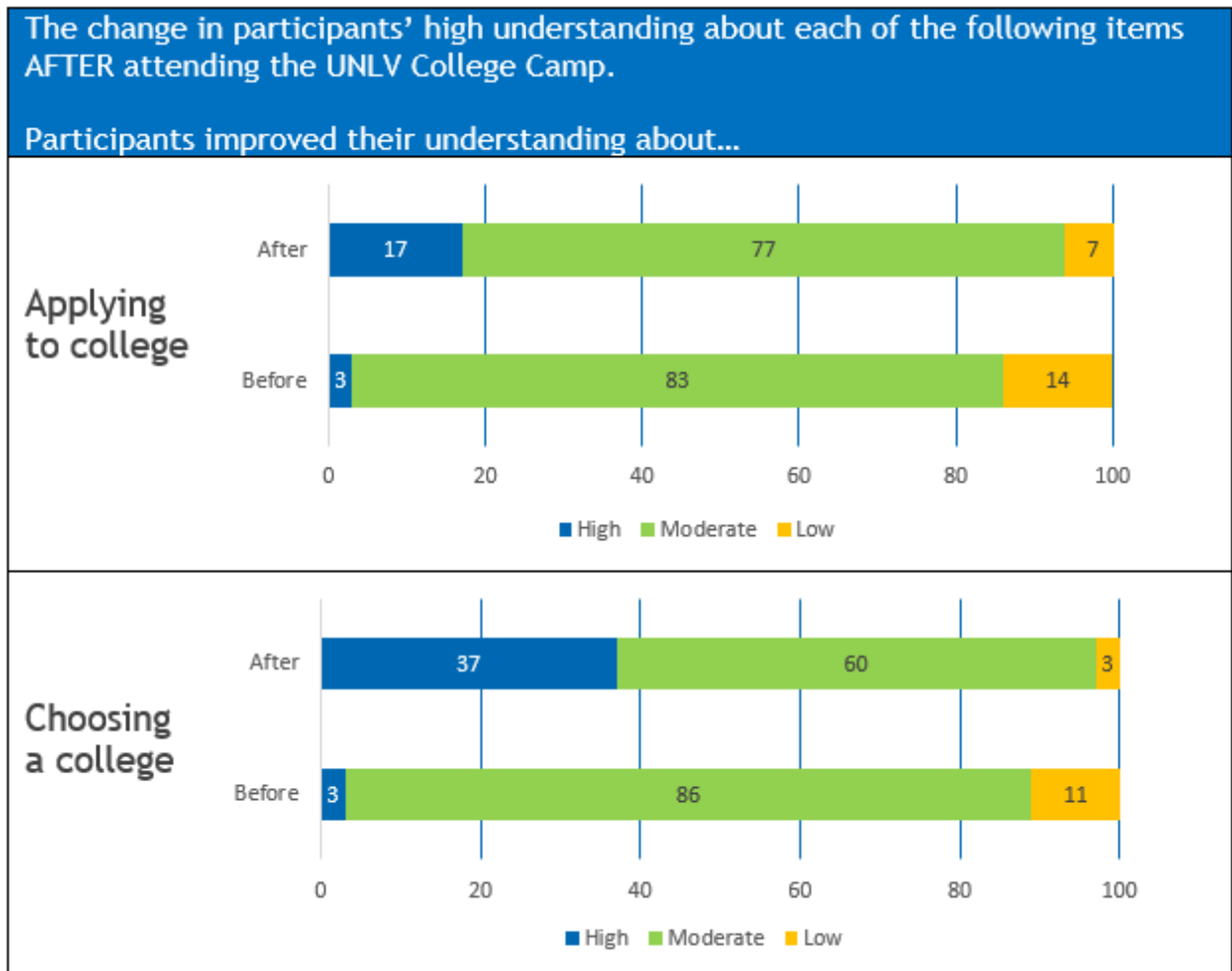
Figure 3. The UNLV College Camp answers NYCP students' questions.



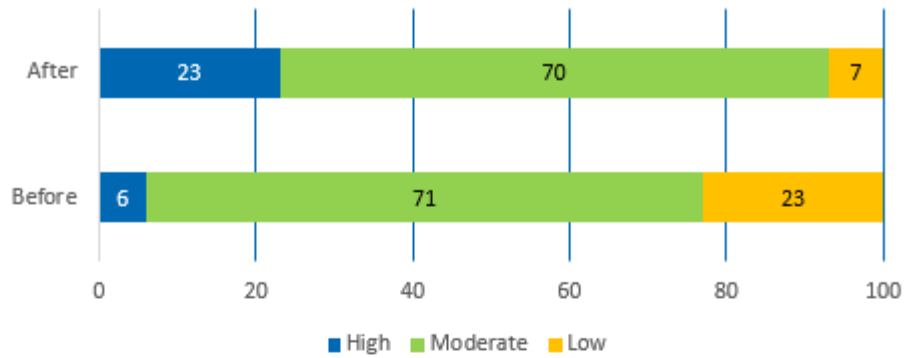
Participant Perceptions of Efficacy of the UNLV College Camp

All participants found that their experience at the UNLV College Camp improved their understanding about (a) applying to college, (b) choosing a college, (c) choosing a major, (d) applying for financial aid, (e) living life as a college student, and (f) why it is good to have a college degree. Among NYCP participants, their understanding increased exponentially in the areas of choosing a college, applying to college, choosing a major, and living life as a college student (see Figure 4).

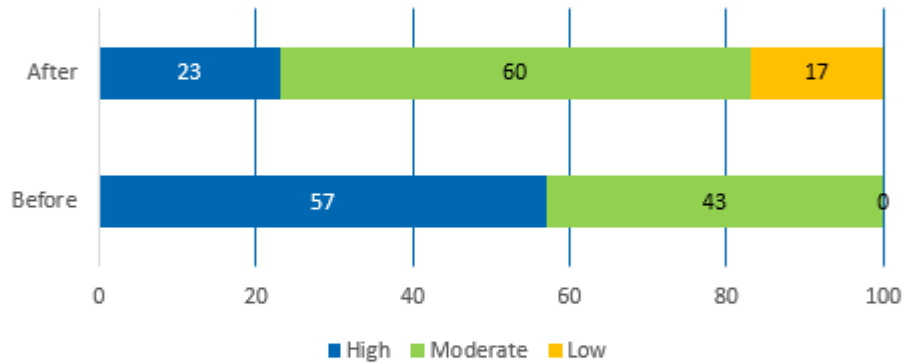
Figure 4. NYCP students' understanding of the college process and the value of a college degree improved by attending the UNLV College Camp.



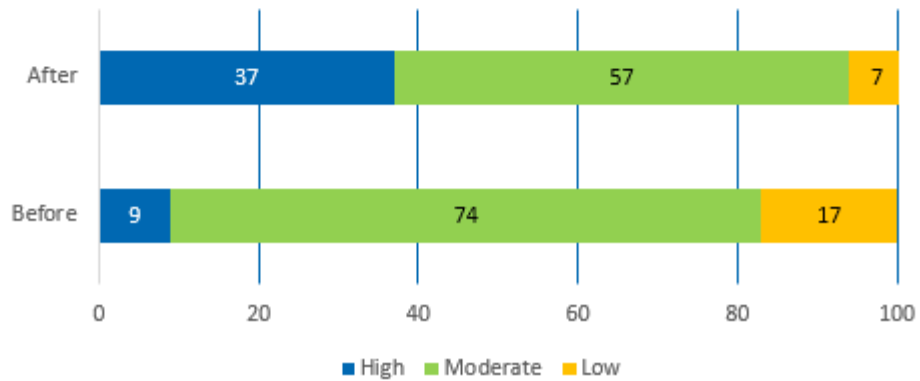
Choosing a major

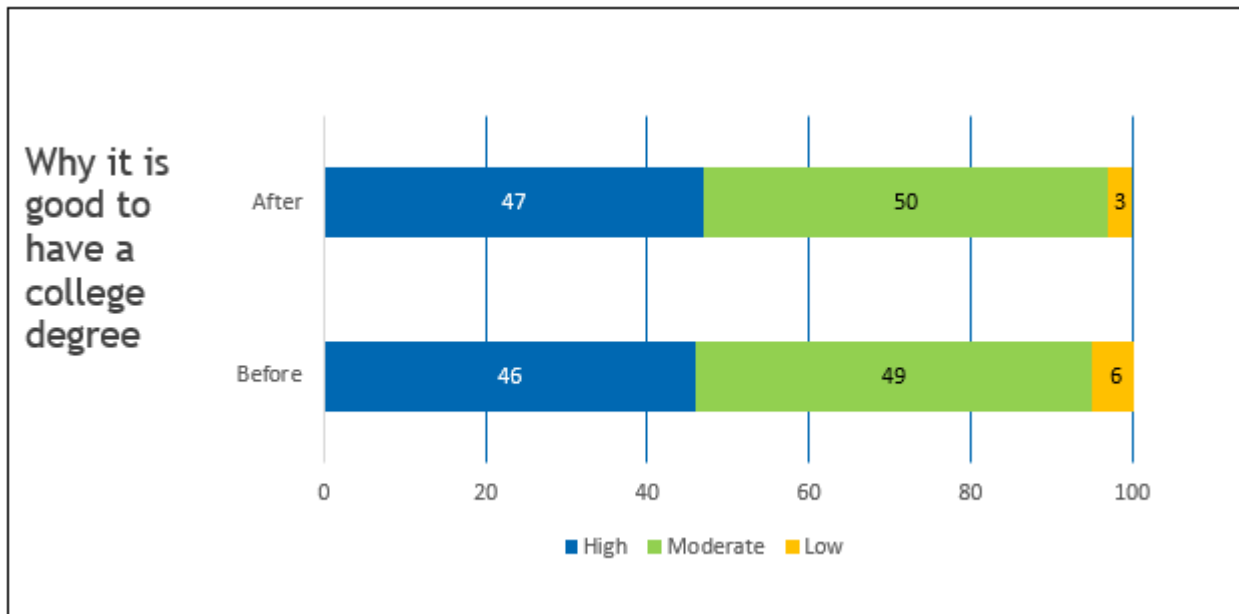


Applying for financial aid



Living life as a college student





All students’ answers to the open-ended questions (Appendix E) suggest that the two most important things they learned at the UNLV College Camp were ways to pay for college and the number of majors available to them.

Paying for college

Many respondents said that earning a college degree was important in *pursuing a better future* for themselves and were happy to realize that UNLV offered a number of scholarships and grants to help them achieve that goal. They learned *what scholarships to apply for as a Native student and how to apply*. One student mentioned the *importance of applying for all scholarships and grants [while another] plans to use the Native Waiver* to pay for school.

Majors

Students learned about some of the majors offered at UNLV to address students’ interests. Respondents were pleased to know that UNLV provides academic advisors to help them pick their own course of study and that they have the freedom to change their minds *if they feel that the major they chose may not be right for them*.

When asked what they would like to learn more about, their responses addressed individual interests. Participants wanted to know more about a variety of UNLV majors and courses that can be taken, such as tribal law, veterinary science, culinary arts, gaming, medicine, hospitality, and mechanical engineering. Other students wanted to know *more about law enforcement and hospitality management and*

college courses that involve wildlife, as well as obtaining a degree in American Sign Language.

When asked how the UNLV College Camp could be improved, participants suggested increasing the amount of free time either by *taking more breaks* or *extending the lights out time*. However, many respondents felt that no change was needed and that *the whole UNLV college camp was just perfect*.

Application Process

When asked if there were any questions they still had about attending or applying to college or trade school, respondents wanted to know about the specifics of applying to college. They wanted to know *if it is better to apply right after high school or in the fall*, how they *actually apply*, and *if there is an [accommodation during the application process] when a student has a disability*. Some of the most insightful questions were: *(a) What are they looking for, and what traits do I mostly need for college?* *(b) What other ways are there to get into UNLV by having a low GPA?* *(c) How do they accept you, and what happens if you don't make it in?*

Figure 5. UNLV faculty members provide students with an overview of the Hospitality program's admissions, financial aid, and academic concentrations.



Photo by Archie Hill


Figure 6. Students take time to pose in the hallway after the school visit.



Photo by Belinda Hooper

Summary of the UNLV College Camp

The two four-day *Native Youth College Camps* were held on June 10-14 and June 24-28, 2024, at UNLV. Due to the small sample size, the results should be interpreted with caution. Overall, and especially among NYCP students, the UNLV College Camp was very well received, with at least 90% agreeing that the camp increased their desire to graduate high school more than before and increased their motivation and readiness to attend college or trade school. Furthermore, all participants agreed that the visit helped them learn (a) how to get ready for college; (b) what it is like to be a college student; (c) about programs, clubs, and activities specifically for Native students; (d) what to expect from going to college; and (e) what college majors are available and what might interest them.



NYCP students found that their experience at the UNLV College Camp improved their understanding about (a) applying to college, (b) choosing a college, (c) choosing a major, (d) living life as a college student, and (e) why it is good to have a college degree. Students' high understanding about applying for financial aid fell from 57 to 23, and the number of students who reported having a low understanding increased from 0 to 17. This change indicates that most students have neither high nor zero understanding of applying for financial aid but fall somewhere in between.

Three major themes emerged from the UNLV College Camp experience. Students want to learn more about paying for college, the majors offered, and the application process.

APPENDIX A. PRE- AND POST-CAMP SURVEY - PARTICIPANTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, COLLEGE CAMP

Number of Pre- and Post-Camp Survey Participants

Had permission & attended 1 st day of camp			131	100.0%
Completed pre-camp	35	70	105	80.2%
Completed post-camp	30	66	96	73.3%
Completed both	30	66	96	73.3%

APPENDIX B. PRE-CAMP SURVEY - PARTICIPANT PERCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, COLLEGE CAMP

NYCP Students (pre-camp)

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items BEFORE you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	35	3	83	14
b. Choosing a college.	35	3	86	11
c. Choosing a major.	35	6	71	23
d. Applying for financial aid.	35	57	43	0
e. Living life as a college student.	35	9	74	17
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	35	46	49	6

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Non-NYCP Students (pre-camp)

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items BEFORE you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	70	21	66	13
b. Choosing a college.	70	31	57	11
c. Choosing a major.	70	21	59	20
d. Applying for financial aid.	70	11	50	39
e. Living life as a college student.	70	33	53	14
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	70	56	34	10

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

NYCP and Non-NYCP Students (pre-camp)

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items BEFORE you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	105	15	71	13
b. Choosing a college.	105	22	67	11
c. Choosing a major.	105	16	63	21
d. Applying for financial aid.	105	8	52	40
e. Living life as a college student.	105	25	60	15
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	105	52	39	9

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

APPENDIX C. POST-CAMP SURVEY - PARTICIPANT PERCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, COLLEGE CAMP

NYCP Students (post-camp)

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
3. Going to the UNLV College Camp helped me to ...					
a. Understand I control my future.	30	40	57	3	0
b. Get along better with other students.	30	33	60	7	0
c. Know I can do well in school.	30	37	60	3	0
d. Want to graduate from high school even more than before.	30	40	60	0	0
e. Increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or trade school.	30	53	47	0	0
f. Increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or trade school.	30	30	70	0	0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
4. I would like to recommend this College Camp to a friend.	30	57	40	3	0
5. The UNLV College Camp and tour presenters held my attention.	30	27	70	3	0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
6. The College Camp and tour helped me to learn...					
a. How to get ready for college.	30	43	57	0	0
b. What it is like to be a college student.	30	43	57	0	0
c. What college majors there are.	30	33	67	0	0
d. Which college majors might interest me.	30	33	67	0	0
e. Where college students live.	30	47	53	0	0
f. Where college students eat.	30	47	50	3	0
g. Clubs and activities for college students.	30	40	60	0	0
h. Programs, clubs, and activities for Native college students.	30	37	60	3	0
i. What to expect from going to college.	30	37	63	0	0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	30	17	77	7
b. Choosing a college.	30	37	60	3
c. Choosing a major.	30	23	70	7
d. Applying for financial aid.	30	23	60	17
e. Living life as a college student.	30	37	57	7
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	30	47	50	3

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Non-NYCP Students (post-camp)

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
3. Going to the UNLV College Camp helped me to ...					
a. Understand I control my future.	66	53	41	3	3
b. Get along better with other students.	66	44	41	8	8
c. Know I can do well in school.	66	47	47	3	3
d. Want to graduate from high school even more than before.	66	59	33	5	3
e. Increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or trade school.	66	70	23	3	5
f. Increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or trade school.	66	47	47	3	3

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
4. I would like to recommend this College Camp to a friend.	66	47	47	3	3
5. The UNLV College Camp and tour presenters held my attention.	66	30	55	14	2

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
6. The College Camp and tour helped me to learn...					
a. How to get ready for college.	66	45	47	8	0
b. What it is like to be a college student.	66	53	41	6	0
c. What college majors there are.	66	41	52	8	0
d. Which college majors might interest me.	66	38	52	11	0
e. Where college students live.	66	47	48	5	0
f. Where college students eat.	66	56	42	2	0
g. Clubs and activities for college students.	66	52	42	6	0
h. Programs, clubs, and activities for Native college students.	66	58	41	2	0
i. What to expect from going to college.	66	39	53	8	0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	66	26	65	9
b. Choosing a college.	66	36	56	8
c. Choosing a major.	66	36	53	11
d. Applying for financial aid.	66	33	50	17
e. Living life as a college student.	66	45	52	3
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	66	53	41	6

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

NYCP and Non-NYCP Students (post-camp)

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
3. Going to the UNLV College Camp helped me to...					
a. Understand I control my future.	96	49	46	3	2
b. Get along better with other students.	96	41	47	7	5
c. Know I can do well in school.	96	44	51	3	2
d. Want to graduate from high school even more than before.	96	53	42	3	2
e. Increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or trade school.	96	65	30	2	3
f. Increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or trade school.	96	42	54	2	2

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
4. I would like to recommend this College Camp to a friend.	96	48	45	5	2
5. The UNLV College Camp and tour presenters held my attention.	96	29	59	10	1

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
6. The College Camp and tour helped me to learn...					
a. How to get ready for college.	96	45	50	5	0
b. What it is like to be a college student.	96	50	46	4	0
c. What college majors there are.	96	39	56	5	0
d. Which college majors might interest me.	96	36	56	7	0
e. Where college students live.	96	47	50	3	0
f. Where college students eat.	96	53	45	2	0
g. Clubs and activities for college students.	96	48	48	4	0
h. Programs, clubs, and activities for Native college students.	96	51	47	2	0
i. What to expect from going to college.	96	39	56	5	0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Item	N	% High Understanding	% Moderate Understanding	% Low Understanding
7. For this question, think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp.				
a. Applying to college.	96	23	69	8
b. Choosing a college.	96	36	57	6
c. Choosing a major.	96	32	58	9
d. Applying for financial aid.	96	30	53	17
e. Living life as a college student.	96	43	53	4
f. Why it is good to have a college degree.	96	51	44	5

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

APPENDIX D. PARTICIPANT PERCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, COLLEGE CAMP

NYCP Students (post-camp)

Item	Pre-camp	Post-camp
Think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp (i.e., the degree of improvement in understanding these items).		
a. Applying to college.		
High Understanding	3	17
Moderate Understanding	83	77
Low Understanding	14	7
b. Choosing a college.		
High Understanding	3	37
Moderate Understanding	86	60
Low Understanding	11	3
c. Choosing a major.		
High Understanding	6	23
Moderate Understanding	71	70
Low Understanding	23	7
d. Applying for financial aid.		
High Understanding	57	23
Moderate Understanding	43	60
Low Understanding	0	17
e. Living life as a college student.		
High Understanding	9	37
Moderate Understanding	74	57
Low Understanding	17	7
f. Why is it good to have a college degree		
High Understanding	46	47
Moderate Understanding	49	50
Low Understanding	6	3

Non-NYCP Students

Item	Pre-camp	Post-camp
Think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp (i.e., the degree of improvement in understanding these items).		
a. Applying to college.		
High Understanding	21	26
Moderate Understanding	66	59
Low Understanding	13	9
b. Choosing a college.		
High Understanding	31	36
Moderate Understanding	57	56
Low Understanding	11	8
c. Choosing a major.		
High Understanding	21	36
Moderate Understanding	59	53
Low Understanding	20	11
d. Applying for financial aid.		
High Understanding	11	33
Moderate Understanding	50	50
Low Understanding	39	17
e. Living life as a college student.		
High Understanding	33	45
Moderate Understanding	53	52
Low Understanding	14	3
f. Why is it good to have a college degree		
High Understanding	56	53
Moderate Understanding	34	41
Low Understanding	10	6

NYCP and Non-NYCP Students

Item	Pre-camp	Post-camp
Think about how much you understood about each of these items AFTER you went to the UNLV College Camp (i.e., the degree of improvement in understanding these items).		
a. Applying to college.		
High Understanding	15	23
Moderate Understanding	71	69
Low Understanding	13	8
b. Choosing a college.		
High Understanding	22	36
Moderate Understanding	67	57
Low Understanding	11	6
c. Choosing a major.		
High Understanding	16	32
Moderate Understanding	63	58
Low Understanding	21	9
d. Applying for financial aid.		
High Understanding	8	30
Moderate Understanding	52	53
Low Understanding	40	17
e. Living life as a college student.		
High Understanding	25	43
Moderate Understanding	60	53
Low Understanding	15	4
f. Why is it good to have a college degree		
High Understanding	52	51
Moderate Understanding	39	44
Low Understanding	9	5

APPENDIX E. SELECTED RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

8. The two most important things I learned at the UNLV College Camp are...

College is important and its expensive
The culinary arts and digital artist styles
What college is like and natives have clubs for them there
I can change my major when I feel the one I chose may not be right for me and I can choose how I want my college life to go
Learned how to pick my major and be better prepared
Majors and scholar ships
What kind of scholarship and opportunities there are to college
About how much it costs and how collage life is and what to expect from it.
You don't have to do all classes all day and you need at least a 3.0 GPA to apply there
I leaned how to wake up on time and opportunity there are what life is like and how to prepare
The native fee stuff and all the stuff that I can partake in when I go to collage
How life works in college and that I would have to become more mature over the years to take it
The importance of applying for all scholarships and grants to pay for college and why it's always good to have a college education.
education and what clubs there are
To have fun and learn
To peruse a better future for myself and to continue to understand that I do have a better future

9. I would like to learn more about...

About law
Options for veterinary school
The business and culinary, tribal law
Gaming
Helping decide my major
The downsides of going to collage both online and offline
I would like to learn more about English
choosing what i wanna do
Financial aid and all the majors I can choose
College clubs
Picking classes and fitting it into your schedule, guidance classes
if they have a tennis team or club
The process of applying to collage and what it's like applying for a scholarship

Their mechanic engineering
Security and veterinary school also military.
I would like to learn about medical
the different type of clubs and activities
More about law-enforcement and hospitality managing
Financial aid and scholarships

10. The UNLV College Camp could be improved by...

Nothing it's perfect
not walking so much and more transportation
The Whole UNLV college is just perfect
Going to different places like shark reef and the lion sanctuary
Nothing
Giving us more ways to be engaged and awake during the presentations or not waking up as early since if we wake up to early we won't be engaged during the sessions
to go to the gym for free
I think the college camp is all right
More apples
Extending the lights out time by a little longer ex. 30 extra minutes
a little more free time
Less walking

11. Questions I have about attending or applying to college or trade school are...

What are the other ways to get into unlv by having a low gpa
Is it better to apply right after high school or in the fall
How to apply to a college
What they are looking for and what traits I mostly need for collage.
How can I figure out what's better for me, and what would be best.
How do they accept you
Aid applying when student has disability.
Will I qualify for financial aid
How to get scholarships and learn more about financial aid
What happens in I don't make it in



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