

PUBLIC INFORMATION BRIEF, YEAR 1

Nevada Native Youth Community Project

January 2024



Prepared by
RMC Research Corporation
Tampa, Florida

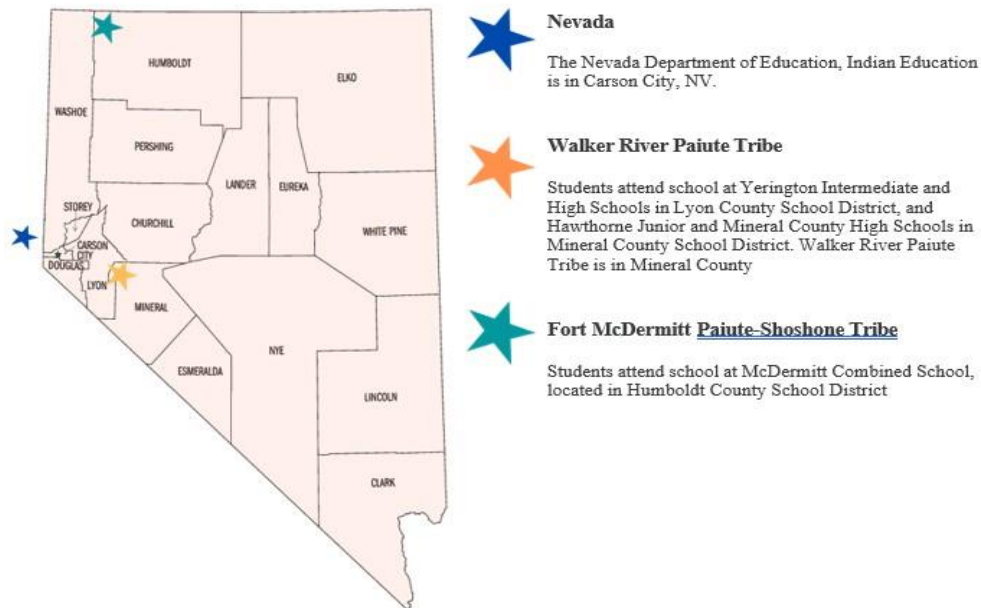


Prepared for
Walker River Paiute Tribe
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe
Nevada Native Youth Community Project

PUBLIC INFORMATION BRIEF, YEAR 1

The Nevada Department of Education’s (NDE’s) Native Youth Community Project (NYCP), in the first 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 (CCCs) and School Community Liaisons (SCLs), (b) activities designed to improve student academic performance, and (c) community collaborative events. 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 Figure 1). Across the two regional sites, 83 students in Grades 7-12 participated in the first year of the project’s implementation.

Figure 1. A Map of Participating NYCP Sites



RMC Research used a mixed-methods research methodology to collect information for the evaluation. Quantitative methods were used to collect and analyze community event participation, student academic learning plan completion, and college tour participation. Qualitative methods were used to collect and analyze perceptual data from NDE, tribal and school administrators and staff, as well as students, parents, and caregivers.

Project Description

Despite the late start to activities in Year 1 due to the delay in receiving legislative approval for grant expenditures, the key project components were implemented according to the approved plan. At both regional sites, the CCCs and SCLs worked towards preparing students for college and careers, both academically and emotionally, through a number of NYCP activities, such as college camps and visits.

Data collected via surveys at the conclusion of the three college camps and one college visit indicated that these events spurred students' desire to graduate from high school and positively impacted their motivation and readiness to attend college or vocational training.

“NYCP has increased student motivation to attend college.”
– School Administrator

Selected Findings

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the first year of implementation of the NDE's second NYCP. The project has the following three long-term goals:

GOAL 1: Implement a successful NYCP that promotes and prepares American Indian (AI) students for college and careers with an emphasis on careers in the teaching profession (Met).

- In Year 1, the number of community collaborative events and attendees exceeded the prior year's totals (under the no-cost extension of the first NYCP grant). There were 13 community collaborative events held with a total of 448 attendees. This exceeded the number of events offered the prior year by 6 and the number of attendees by 54. Hence, there was an increase in community collaborative events that promote AI college and career readiness.

GOAL 2: Increase student academic performance by including opportunities in the local community to support AI students (In progress).

- In Year 1, developing student academic learning plans was a barrier to achieving the performance measure under Goal 2. For the project as a whole, 80 of 83 students (96%) had completed academic learning plans. While still a high proportion of students, this falls short of the target by four percentage points.
- Additionally, most parents and students were unaware or not familiar with academic learning plans, and there was no process in place to support the development and management of these plans. According to one school staff member, *“Everyone is relying on someone else to do the plans. The principals, the Tribal Education Director, the coaches are not taking the initiative to get the plan developed for students... how much of a game changer it is when students have a dedicated person going over their plans with them.”*
- Parents believe that NYCP has a positive impact on their children and that it provides opportunities that their students would not otherwise have.

GOAL 3: Increase student motivation and readiness to attend college or vocational training (Met).

- College camps and tours represented the majority of activities students engaged in during Year 1 of the NYCP. Project-wide, 30 of the 32 Grades 10-12 NYCP students (94%) participated in one or more college tours. This exceeds the target for this performance measure by 34 percentage points.
- Students saw value in attending these events because they were able to (a) access different cultural opportunities, (b) learn about majors and careers that they had not known prior to their visit, and (c) see Native university staff and students who helped them to envision themselves in a university setting. Adult leaders felt that the most valuable experience drawn from the college visits and tours was giving students experiences beyond the reservation and surrounding areas.

“MOST STUDENTS HAVE NEVER TRAVELED BEYOND [THE COMMUNITY]. SEEING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND [THE COMMUNITY] MAKES A PROFOUND DIFFERENCE.” – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Figure 2. Students take a culinary lesson from UNLV chefs in the Marriott Foundation Executive Kitchen at Hospitality Hall.



Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero

- NDE administrators and project staff thought that the college camps and college visits were especially effective in raising awareness in areas such as prerequisite classes, college applications, scholarship opportunities, housing options, and support services for Native students.
- An NDE administrator said that many of the activities provided by NYCP were designed to develop students' readiness for college or vocational training in several overlapping ways—academic preparedness, financial preparedness, and social and emotional preparedness.

Summary of Findings

Although there was a late start to Year 1 activities due to delays beyond the control of the NDE and sites, the implementation of the NYCP grant was successful. An overwhelming number of respondents value NYCP's contribution toward increasing student motivation and readiness for college and careers. The positive impact of NYCP

“SOME STUDENTS MENTIONED THAT THE COLLEGE VISITS CHANGED THEIR MINDS ABOUT WANTING TO GET A COLLEGE DEGREE.” – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

was attributed to the CCCs and SCLs, college visits and tours, motivational speakers, and activities that support positive student attitudes toward planning for college and careers. However, the lack of processes in place to track student academic performance via student academic learning plans needs to be further enhanced to ensure the future success of the NYCP.

Once student academic learning plans are implemented with fidelity for all students, NYCP administrators, students, and parents will begin to see the full impact of the grant on these tribal

communities.

Recommendations

A number of recommendations were put forth to the NYCP project staff based on the findings contained in the report. These included:

- Ensure that all students have an academic learning plan and that both students and parents review them at least once a year;
- Give students more opportunities to learn from, integrate, and share information received from college visits and other experiences;
- Arrange meetings with principals in Yerington, Hawthorne, and Schurz to discuss their roles and responsibilities;
- Hold trainings for teachers on the NYCP;
- Provide tours and additional information on trade/technical schools;
- Create regular channels of communication with parents; and
- Host more tours and activities related to teacher education programs.





With decades of experience in education, arts, humanities, and healthcare RMC Research engages with clients to measure their effectiveness and meet their goals to create opportunities for families, schools, and communities.

 <https://rmcresearchcorporation.com>

 @RMCResearch

 RMC Research Corporation