



Name of Project:	UNR Dean's Future Scholars
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Number of students in FY09:	70

UNR Dean's Future Scholars (DFS) GEAR UP Abstract

The Dean's Future Scholars (DFS) was created in 2000 by the University Nevada Reno (UNR) College of Education as a means of mentoring ethnically diverse, first generation, college going students from Washoe County School District (WCSD) in order to increase the number of students prepared to go to college and become teachers. Approximately 50 students are selected each spring from schools located in economically disadvantaged communities. Currently approximately 350 students participate in DFS. The 52 DFS students enrolled in 8th grade during the 2007-2008 school year are also identified as GEAR UP students. They currently attend ten middle schools. 52% of the students are Hispanic, 25% are Asian/Pacific Islanders, 9% are African Americans, 9% are Caucasian and 5% are Native American.

The DFS program consists of two components, mentoring/tutoring and a summer institute. College students with similar backgrounds as DFS students mentor and tutor students each week at their home school. During the mentoring sessions, the focus is on goal setting, enrolling in a strong academic curriculum and the student academic progress. Tutoring reflects the student's academic needs. DFS also builds strong relationships between parents, students and school staff in order to provide seamless support to the students as they progress through school. Each summer DFS sponsors a seven week summer institute, during which DFS students are invited to UNR to take high school math classes, participate in an orientation to campus life, and academic enrichment in courses (particularly science) not taught in middle school. They also participate in a camping experience at Lake Tahoe.

This school year the program added approximately 20 ninth graders at Sparks High School because of a generous grant from AT&T, the ASPIRE grant.