E.L. Cord Foundation Center boosts literacy for local youth

Marie Tully's '10 M.Ed. (elementary education) first graders at Kate Smith Elementary School always look forward to the day when Reading Buddies from the University of Nevada, Reno stop by.

"The University's Reading Buddies were a great asset to my classroom last year," Tully says. "The students they worked with were always excited to see them and did wonderful work with their buddies. Each buddy came with a lesson that included reading, writing and games, and they made an effort to find books and activities that involved the students' interests. I am excited to have them back in my classroom this year!"

Reading Buddies is one of several programs at the E.L. Cord Foundation Center for Learning and Literacy at the University's College of Education. Since 1964, the center has focused on supporting children's literacy through research, teacher education and literacy services for children.

The center serves University students and local teachers and children through an on-campus clinical tutoring program, an undergraduate teacher program and various outreach tutoring programs.

"Literacy has evolved and transformed in the 21st century," says Julie Pennington, center director and associate professor of literacy studies. "Our literacy support emphasizes the multiple modes and purposes of literacy from listening, speaking, reading and writing to digital and content area literacies. All of our programs infuse the Common Core State Standards, integrate literacy and technology, and provide teachers and students with the concepts and tools to be successful and engaged in their education."

The center is comprised of four major areas: clinic tutoring, outreach tutoring, research and professional development. For clinic tutoring, the center utilizes course-based reading tutoring for elementary students by undergraduate education majors at the University. For outreach tutoring, the Reading Buddies program teams University undergraduates with local elementary students. The center is moving toward providing professional development workshops for teachers, as well as course credit certificates. Research programs are in development to prepare students to work with struggling readers.

Pennington became director in 2012 and restructured the tutoring programs to increase the number of students served from 80 to approximately 280. In addition to the in-house tutoring programs, Reading Buddies employs 10 grant-funded University student workers and one graduate student. Each student worker tutors four elementary students twice a week at a local elementary school, serving a total of 40 students.

Mary Czerwinsky '05 (elementary education), '12 M.Ed. (literacy studies), a second-grade teacher at Kate Smith Elementary School, says the Reading Buddies program has been an asset to the school.

"The Reading Buddies are always prepared and professional," Czerwinsky says. "They are able to work one-on-one with our struggling readers and give them the targeted instruction they need. The students enjoy the time that they get to spend with their Reading Buddy. We are so grateful to have this program at our school!"

Pennington says the center’s services would not be possible without the generosity of donors. The E.L. Cord Foundation provided the original building fund, and has continued its long-term support for 50 years. Additional support comes from the Stern Family of Nevada Foundation and the Satre Family Fund. Internal funding is supplied by the University and the Nevada Board of Regents Service Program.

For more information please visit www.unr.edu/cll.
SUMMER ON CAMPUS: ACTIVITIES, CAMPS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The University of Nevada, Reno strives to leverage the knowledge, resources and talent on campus for the advancement of the community. The University hosts or co-sponsors a wide variety of summer youth camp programs and other family-centered activities to promote a culture of cooperation and connection. Here’s a list of the top northern Nevada summer camps and activities for children, adults and families.

ARTOWN July 1 to July 31, a month-long celebration of the arts in Reno, including programs on campus. Call (775) 322-1538 or visit www.renoartown.com.

CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER DAY CAMP June 15 to Aug. 7, for children ages 5-10. Call (775) 784-6762 or visit www.unr.edu/education/centers/cfrc.

DEAN’S FUTURE SCHOLARS June 15 to July 31, an academic outreach program to encourage low-income, diverse and first-generation students to attend college. Contact Mariluz Garcia, (775) 852-3483 or visit www.davidsongifted.org.

DAVIDSON THINK SUMMER INSTITUTE July 11 to Aug. 1, for exceptionally gifted students ages 13-16. Call (775) 784-4812 or visit www.davidsongifted.org.

ENGINEERING SUMMER INSTITUTE July 1 to July 31, an academic day camp for children entering grades 2-8. Visit www.unr.edu/girls-math-camp.

GIRLS MATH AND TECHNOLOGY CAMP During July for girls entering grades 7 and 8. Visit www.unr.edu/girls-math-camp.

KIDS UNIVERSITY June 15 to July 31, an educational day camp for children entering grades 2-8. Registration begins March 22. Call Extended Studies, (775) 784-4062 or visit kidsu.unr.edu.

MOVIES AT THE JOE Dates vary. Call the Joe Crowley Student Union, (775) 784-6505, or visit www.unr.edu/studentunion.

NEVADA BOYS STATE June 21-27, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school juniors. Call (888) 646-6594, email info@nevadaboyssate.org or visit www.nevadaboyssate.org.

NEVADA GIRLS STATE June 29 to July 5, leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school students. Contact Daela Gibson at (775) 224-0073 or nevadagirlsstate@gmail.com, or visit www.nevadagirlssate.net.

NEVADA MATH AND SCIENCE CAMP June 15 to July 31, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school juniors. Call (775) 784-6594, email info@nevadaboyssate.org or visit www.nevadaboyssate.org.

NEVADA SUMMER SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER DAY CAMP June 21-27, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school students. Call (888) 646-6594, email info@nevadaboyssate.org or visit www.nevadaboyssate.org.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI) Educational experiences for adults 50 and over. Call (775) 784-8053, email olli@unr.edu or visit www.olli.unr.edu.

PACK PICNICS ON THE QUAD Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. July 8 through Aug. 12, free and family friendly, co-sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association and Summer Session. Call (775) 784-4652 or visit www.summersession.unr.edu.

SUMMER OF DISCOVERY June 21-26, a one-week camp for Nevada high school students grades 8-10 with an interest in science. Contact the High Sierra Area Health Education Center at (775) 682-5744, email Rhona Reynolds, rhona@medicine.nevada.edu or visit www.highsierrahec.org.

THE NEVADA 4-H CAMP is owned and operated by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The camp sits on 32 shoreline acres on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and is available for rental year round. Contact the Nevada 4-H Camp at (775) 588-6943 or visit www.unce.unr.edu/4h/camp.

UPWARD BOUND A free college preparatory program for qualified students. Call (775) 784-4978 or visit www.unr.edu/upward-bound.

WOLF PACK SPORTS CAMPS Includes: football, baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, softball and volleyball camps; call (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/sports camps.
$3.8 million project to help northern Nevada build future drought resiliency

Managing water in northern Nevada’s Truckee-Carson River System requires local communities to balance urban, agricultural and ecosystem needs. Changes in historical climate trends are increasingly expected to make this balancing act more challenging.

A competitive grant totaling $3.8 million has been awarded to the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute (DRI), in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to integrate science and water policy research with extensive community outreach to identify the expected impacts of climate change and solutions for protecting valuable water resources throughout northern Nevada.

The “Water for the Seasons” project will focus on the Truckee-Carson River System as a model for snow-fed arid-land river systems across the American West. Funding includes $1.8 million awarded by the National Science Foundation to the University and $2 million awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to DRI and the USGS.

Water supplies in these regions are dependent on the timing, duration and form of winter precipitation and spring run-off. Throughout much of the West, demand for these water supplies is increasing, and many are already stretched to capacity.

Recent climate extremes and trends – including continued drought, increased winter rain instead of snow, reduced annual snowpack, earlier spring runoffs, flash floods and higher temperatures – present challenges to agency water managers, local farmers and ranchers, urban developers and the general public. This project aims to identify new strategies for enhancing the resiliency of communities in northern Nevada to adapt to these challenges and changes.

A proactive approach

An interdisciplinary research team with expertise in hydrology, climate science, environmental policy, resource economics, public policy and community outreach will work closely with the region’s diverse stakeholder communities to assess impacts of different drought scenarios and climate extremes; develop models of water supplies and demands resulting from those scenarios; and develop policy options to help stakeholders evaluate and meet challenges posed by warming temperatures and unpredictable water supplies.

“Our goal is to be proactive so that the region can be better prepared to meet future water management challenges,” said Maureen McCarthy, interim director of the University’s Academy for the Environment and the project’s director. “Ultimately, we are looking for options that will protect our ecosystems, support economic development and enhance the livelihoods of our communities and agricultural producers.”

Collaboration with the community

A stakeholder advisory group, led by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, will work closely with the research team and represent interests of tribal communities and municipalities; tribal, federal, state and local water managers; agriculture producers; state and regional economic developers; and federal, state, tribal and nongovernmental groups dedicated to ecosystems protection.

Loretta Singletary, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension professor and interdisciplinary outreach liaison, is co-principal investigator in the project with Derek Kauneckis, associate professor of political science, and Staci Emm ’96 (journalism), Extension educator. Emm’s programs focus on community development, natural resources and sustainability, while Kauneckis works in public and environmental policy. Singletary has 22 years of experience in Extension work, most of them in Nevada’s communities.

“The project honors the University and Cooperative Extension’s legacy of working in and with communities,” Singletary said. “It’s what we do. We partner with scientists and commu-
nity stakeholders to better understand and address complex public issues such as adapting to climate change and managing water supplies, which don’t always offer simple solutions.”

Greg Pohll ’91 (secondary education), ’93 M.S. (hydrology & hydrogeology), ’96 Ph.D. (hydrology), research professor of hydrology and hydrogeology and the project’s principle investigator from DRI, will co-lead the modeling portion of the project.

Pohll, who has studied and modeled snow-fed arid-land river systems for nearly 20 years, will focus on the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basin system with three other DRI surface and groundwater experts, Associate Research Professors Justin Huntington ’00 (environmental & natural resource science), ’03 M.S. (hydrology), ’11 Ph.D. (hydrology) and Matt Reeves ’06 Ph.D. (hydrology) and Assistant Research Professor Seshadri Rajagopal ’06 M.S. (hydrology).

“DRI is excited to be a part of the collaborative team to develop state-of-the-art computer models to predict how rivers and groundwater will respond to prolonged droughts. We expect these tools will help the team build sustainable solutions to adapt to a variable climate,” Pohll said.

Opportunities for student research

Richard Niswonger ’01 M.S. (hydrology) and Michael Dettinger, senior research hydrologists and the project’s principal investigators from the USGS, will co-lead the climate scenario development and the modeling portion of the project focusing on the Carson River system. Dettinger is a leading expert in climate modeling and extreme climate scenarios such as the well-known USGS ARkStorm project. Niswonger is one of the lead developers of the hydrology model that will be used for the study.

Additionally, Shane Coors, water resource engineer with Precision Water Resources Engineering, will utilize the new Truckee-Carson Planning Model to conduct operational modeling on the Truckee River.

Three post-doctoral researchers, two graduate students and eight undergraduate summer researchers will be part of the project team, engaging in hands-on learning and supporting all aspects of the project. The undergraduates at the University will be funded for summer research experience in association with the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates.

More information on the Water for the Seasons project will be available online at the University’s Academy for the Environment website, http://environment.unr.edu/academy.

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