GEAR UP 2014-2015 SUBGRANT
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015

Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2015

Note:
(1) Submit via email to minsun_park@nshe.nevada.edu
(2) The section III-budgetary summary MUST be reviewed and signed by PI’s Office of Sponsored Programs/Projects or Grants Office. See instruction document for further requirements.

Project Title and NSHE Subaward No.: GEAR UP Ambassador Grant

NSHE Institution: University of Nevada, Reno

PI Name: Rita Escher  
PI Signature:

Please address all questions thoroughly and attach additional sheets as necessary.

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Provide a two-page description of your project. Describe the extent to which you have implemented all program activities and components planned for the reporting period. Highlight your major outcomes, successes, and challenges.

2014-2015 Ambassador Program Outcomes

Outcome: Parents will demonstrate an increased knowledge of post-secondary options, preparation and financing following all Ambassador led presentations.

Actual Outcome: MET
- 74% of parents who participated in ambassador led presentations indicated increased knowledge of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- 90% of parents reported learning about different ways to finance college
- 70% of parents indicated having a high to very high level of knowledge regarding preparation for post-secondary education

Outcome: All students who participate in workshops and summer programs will demonstrate increased knowledge of post-secondary options, preparation and financing.

Actual Outcome: MET
- 80% of students who participated in ambassador led workshops indicated an
increase in knowledge of post-secondary options

- 80% of students indicated an increase in knowledge of Nevada admissions requirements
- 72% of students indicated knowledge of the Free Application of Federal Student Aid

**Outcome:** SPIFs and Site Coordinators will provide a program evaluation to the Ambassador in order to make mid-grant programmatic changes.

**Actual Outcome:**
SPIFs indicated a need to increase presentations regarding the rigor of college along with college terminology. As a result of this feedback, the ambassador implemented workshops regarding high school and college degrees to help students familiarize themselves with the process. In addition to the workshop, the 2015-2016 Ambassador Sub-Grant Proposal incorporated SPIF responses in the development the plan of operation.

**Outcome:** UNR personnel, NSHE personnel and GEAR UP personal involved with the supervision of the Ambassador will rate the professional expertise of the GEAR UP Ambassador.

**Actual Outcome:**
The University of Nevada, Reno Ambassador underwent the annual review process approved by the Division of Student Services. Through the process, the supervisor and the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services indicated the performance of the Ambassador to be categorized as Excellent.

**Program Highlights**

- The GEAR UP Ambassador contributed materials for the College Corner in all GEAR UP target schools. The ambassador developed and maintained an online GEAR UP College Corner website with resource information regarding college preparedness, admissions, financial aid, GEAR UP Ambassador contact information, and applicable events and programs.
- The GEAR UP Ambassador implemented regular communication with SPIFs and counselors regarding information related to the goals of the GEAR UP grant at target schools. The following schools were visited during the reporting year:
  - Vaughn Middle School
  - Traner Middle School
  - Hug High School
  - Wooster High School
  - Pershing Co. Middle School
  - Mineral Co. Middle School
  - Yerington Intermediate School
  - Silver Stage Elementary School
  - Harney Middle School
  - Woodbury Middle School
  - Las Vegas High School
A new graduate assistant was hired to help with outreach efforts. This assistant was able to set up tutoring at all Washoe County sites and Silver Springs Middle School.

University of Nevada hosted a three day STEM camp for Lyon, Mineral and Pershing county students. The camp brought in 120 students. The camp partnered with the College of Science, McLean Lab, and the NASA Mars Simulator to provide an academically stimulating program for all participants.

The GEAR UP Ambassador coordinated and implemented the first Northern Nevada GEAR UP Summit. This brought in over 150 Lyon county, Mineral county, Washoe county, and Humboldt county students. The UNLV, WNC, TMCC and the NSC Ambassadors all participated in the summit by conducting workshops.

The Nevada Ambassador aided in the implementation of the Washoe County two-week, half day, summer college camp.

The Nevada Ambassador program recognized Washoe County GEAR UP students who had a 3.0 GPA or higher. This led to the recognition of over 400 students.

2. Describe any significant changes in your project design and any barriers you have encountered since the approval of your grant application. How have any changes affected your budget? How will these changes impact quantitative outcomes and your ability to meet the project’s goals?

Due to the new restructuring of the Washoe County GEAR UP SPIFs, we now have better access at Traner, Vaughn and Hug middle and high schools. While many attempts were made to coordinate similar events at Wooster high school, implementation has been difficult.

Overall, no significant changes were made which would affect the quantitative outcomes of the grant.
SECTION II: ADMINISTRATION

1. Program Structure

   a. List the names and titles of key personnel that are paid by GEAR UP Federal or matching funds, and indicate the percentage of time each individual spends working on the grant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>% of Time</th>
<th>Federal Amount</th>
<th>Non-Federal Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monika Mala</td>
<td>GEAR UP Ambassador</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melisa Choroszy</td>
<td>Assoc. VP Enrollment Services</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita Escher</td>
<td>Director, AOSP</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Maples</td>
<td>Director, Admissions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Martinez</td>
<td>Admissions Coordinator</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinten Owens</td>
<td>Admissions Coordinator</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Lane</td>
<td>Admissions Coordinator</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saundra Mitrovitch</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; Retention Coordinator</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdes Gonzales</td>
<td>Asst. Director Financial Aid</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   b. Describe any changes to key personnel of this grant that have come about over the past year, including changes in titles, changes in percentage of time that a person is devoting to the project, hiring of a key staff person, departure of a key staff person, or addition or elimination of a position. Discuss any significant changes to key personnel proposed or anticipated for the coming year.

   No changes to key personnel were made.

2. Coordination

   a. How did you coordinate GEAR UP activities and services with other programs in your state that assist students in preparing for and graduating from postsecondary education?

   The University of Nevada, Reno’s Ambassador Program prides itself on being able to connect different GEAR UP schools, ambassadors and other outreach programs with one another in order to maximize students’ experiences and use funds most effectively. Through programming such as the Northern Nevada GEAR UP Summit, STEM Camp and Family Access Day, the Ambassador Program is able to strategically collaborate with GEAR UP Ambassadors throughout the state as well as other opportunity and access programs.

   The University of Nevada, Reno also has many opportunities for different summer camps, such as the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) camp hosted by the College of Engineering. The GEAR UP Ambassador has promoted the camp to GEAR UP target schools in order to expose first-generation, students of color and income qualified students to the engineering field.
The GEAR UP Ambassador is also part of the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP), which brings together access and opportunity programs, such as TRIO, Upward Bound, McNair and Talent Search. The ambassador is co-located with the University of Nevada, Reno’s TRiO programs, making collaboration seamless.
SECTION III: BUDGET SUMMARY

Reporting Period: September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015

Complete a budget summary using the table below and attach a brief budget narrative (if the summary is not fully explanatory) describing expenditures made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Salaries &amp; Wages</th>
<th>Approved GEAR UP Federal Funds Budget</th>
<th>Actual Federal Expenditures</th>
<th>Actual Cost Share Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Personnel</td>
<td>[List each by name followed by title in brackets]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>A. Total Direct Costs (Sum of lines 1-6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Employee Benefits</td>
<td>B. Total Indirect Costs: (cannot be greater than 8% of Total Modified Direct Costs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Travel</td>
<td>C. Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Materials and Supplies</td>
<td>D. Scholarships/ Tuition Assistance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Consultant and Contracts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other (specify)</td>
<td>E. TOTAL (Lines A+B+C+D)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature of SPO/Grant Office, or Finance Officer: ________________________________________________________

Name & Title of SPO/Grant Office, or Finance Officer (printed): _______________________________________________