



Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

Program Description:

Since 1998, Nevada's graduation rates have fallen an incredible 24.6 percent. According to the Editorial Projects in Education (EPE) 2011 report, Nevada's graduation rate is 44 percent, ranking 50th in the nation. An estimated 133 Nevada students drop out each day, most students leaving during their freshman or sophomore years.

Communities in Schools (CIS) - Nevada will use Aspire funding to grow the Fellows Academy at Canyon Springs High School in Las Vegas and to implement a Freshman Fellows Academy at Spring Creek High School in Elko. Both schools currently run successful Fellows Academy programs. The Elko School District graduation rate is reported by EPE to be a dismal 55 percent and the Clark County School District has a tragic 43 percent graduation rate.

The Fellows Academy boasts these successes: 100 percent of students decreased days spent in out-of-school suspensions; 85 percent decreased days spent in detention; 100 percent decreased the number of truancies; 71 percent decreased their number of tardies; 72 percent decreased absences; and 92 percent increased their GPAs. This success is due, in part, to a rigorous staff training program coupled with high performance standards. All CIS Site Coordinators and Case Managers - staff that work directly with the students - complete an intensive on-line training program that is comparable to a graduate-level course aimed at ensuring they demonstrate the requisite skill set for the position. Consistent, regular training is provided to help advance the skills of each Site Coordinator and Case Manager while efficacy and progress are closely monitored through collection of student data. The organization's local administration and advisory board as well as the state CIS office monitor the data continuously and aggregate data is submitted to the national office.



(From right to left): CIS Site Coordinator Hernandez Cooper, student Joi-Bernice Agee, and CIS Academy teacher Raj Gupta.

At Canyon Springs High School, this grant will fund an expansion of the existing program from 2 to 4-5 sections, allowing 2-3 sections for new freshman. The funding will provide for enrichment programs, such as a field trip to the local University, as well as expand our ability to collect and analyze data on the efficacy of this program. With the growth of this program, we will also expand our staffing to include a Case Manager designated specifically to provide wrap-around services to the students in the Fellows Program. The Case Manager will work directly with school staff and the staff of the feeder middle schools to identify students that will benefit from the intensive services and support the Fellows Academy provides.

In Elko, the Freshman Fellows Academy will directly assist 30-45 at-risk freshman students at Spring Creek HS, in 2-3 classes. The final numbers will be determined when funding and school district contributions are finalized. These students will be identified using their 8th grade CRT testing scores and Spring Creek Middle School staff referrals. Both programs will enroll students with identified risk factors, such as poor attendance, behavior issues, a challenging academic history, or other factors that put students at-risk for dropping out.



Students:
95



Funding:
\$178,000

- To support at-risk students toward high school success, CIS-Nevada provides Fellows Academy, a proven program through which students receive quality, individualized attention and planning, along with critical skills to support and empower them to stay in school and graduate on time.
- CIS of Nevada's mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. In the 1970's, CIS founder Bill Milliken developed the "five basics" framework of essentials that every child needs and deserves: a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult; a safe place to learn and grow; a healthy start and healthy future; a marketable skill to use upon graduation; and a chance to give back to the community. This replicable model has grown to a network of **180 local affiliates, 5,000 professionals, 50,000 volunteers and 13,000 partner organizations**. Annually, we help **1.3 million students in 3,400 schools** to succeed in school and give back to their community. CIS of Nevada, with two nationally accredited affiliates in Southern Nevada and Northeastern Nevada, has been operating since 2004 and will serve **25,000 students** this school year.

*"I learned that I **will** attend college and **will not** give up on myself in my education."*

Breann Busick, Sophomore and CIS Academy Student