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## College Access through the Eyes of GoToCollege Ambassadors

In our previous issue we highlighted NSHE's GoToCollege Ambassadors. Through a partnership with AmeriCorps, NSHE recruited current college students and recent college graduates to volunteer as near-peer mentors to Nevada high schools. The Ambassadors are a part of the GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign and are housed at the Nevada System of Higher Education. In this issue we highlight college access efforts through their eyes and share their experiences as GoToCollege Ambassadors.



GoToCollege Ambassadors with Mallory Levins

## Nevada College Fair Plus

*By Raquel Landeros, GoToCollege Ambassador*

This year approximately 1,700 students along with their families attended the Nevada College Fair Plus held at Cashman Field Center. As I approached the Cashman Center I could hear the enthusiasm of the students as they filled the rows of all the booths. Many students were curious about the different colleges available for them while others were there for information on the colleges they wanted to attend. As the GoToCollege Ambassadors were setting up, a rush of students came up to our booth and immediately began asking questions about our program. Our booth drew a large crowd because of the spinning wheel that the students were able to spin and win a prize. The prizes consisted of GoToCollege penants, lanyards, folders, and backpacks. We provided students with our informational brochures and spoke to them about the importance of a higher education. Many parents and students thanked us for having a campaign that promotes college and also added how our booth was the most popular one in the event.

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

*Nelson Mandela*

### *Did you know?*

*GoToCollegeNevada.org has over 1,800 followers on Facebook! Everyday the ambassadors provide useful information and resources to thousands of students via social media.*

*Like us, add us, and subscribe!*



## CACG Team

*Dr. Magdalena  
Martinez*

*Asst. Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs*

*Mallory Levins  
Coordinator*

### **GoToCollege Ambassadors**

*Abraham Gomez  
CSN Student*

*Erika Herrera  
UNLV Student*

*Raquel Landeros  
CSN Student*

*Juan Lopez  
CSN Student*

*Beatriz Martinez  
UNLV Student*

*Jonathan Senda  
NSC Student*



## *Take part in the Nevada Student Profile*

*The GoToCollege Campaign wants to showcase college and college-bound students in Nevada. Tell us about yourself and why college is important to you. Visit the website [GoToCollegeNevada.org](http://GoToCollegeNevada.org) and tell us your story!*



## **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat Festival**

*By Jonathan Senda,  
GoToCollege Ambassador*

In October 2011, Luz Community Development Coalition hosted their annual Trunk-Or-Treat event in North Las Vegas. Over 40 different community organizations and non-profits participated in distributing treats from their festively decorated car trunks. The event allowed the surrounding neighborhoods and community to have a safe, friendly, family oriented environment to celebrate the Halloween holiday. The event was a tremendous success with over 2,000 people in attendance!

This year I had the pleasure of attending Trunk-Or-Treat with my fellow GoToCollege Ambassadors while representing the GoToCollegeNevada Campaign. We not only successfully scare



*Trunk-or-Treat Event Neighbor, LVMPD Officer*

kids but also educated them on the importance of college.

We provided kids and youth with a goody bag packed with candy, pens, tattoos, and informational brochures. You might go as far as to say we scared them into going to college! Our Asylum-themed SUV set up was definitely one of the night's highlights. Throughout the night

volunteers from surrounding organizations stopped by our canopy and received resources and information about the GoToCollege campaign. I look forward to spending more time at community events such as this Truck or Treat.

***"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."***

***Martin L. King***

## Hewetson Elementary Career Fair

*By Juan M. Lopez, GoToCollege Ambassador*

GoToCollege Ambassadors attended a career fair at Hewetson Elementary School. The students at Hewetson were excited and interested in learning about college. They were bright as can be and filled with high expectations. It was a very interactive experience for us Ambassadors, as they not only listened to what we had to say, but also asked questions and were quickly engaged in our conversation about college.

There were approximately 30 students at a time, forming a line around our booth, waiting to talk to us. The give-a-ways such as folders, pencils, tattoos and magnets helped attract the majority of these

young students, but the knowledge they left with is worth much more than any material gift.

We wanted to give the children individual attention, We talked to each and every one of them as they approached our booth. At the end of each individual dialogue with a student, we had but one question to ask: "What do you need to get an education and become what you want to be?" We are proud to say that our mission was considered accomplished; every time we heard a child enthusiastically respond to our question with: "Go to college!"

## PBS 5K Run

*By Abraham Gomez, GoToCollege Ambassador*

In October PBS hosted the Second Annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk. The event was a huge success with more than 300 participants in the race and 1 mile walk. The event was held at the newly built PBS educational technology campus on East Flamingo in Las Vegas. The event was to support the Keeping Kids Fit program which assists low-income families with children from the ages of 2 to 12 to create healthy habits. A number of sponsors supported the race, including organizations such as Wells Fargo, MGM Resorts International and our very own GoToCollegeNevada.org campaign. The GoToCollege Ambassadors contributed to the event by running the 5k in their GoToCollege attire and hosting in an informational booth to the public.



GoToCollege Ambassadors with Rachel Coleman from PBS

The GoToCollege booth was filled with resources on how to go to college and how to stay on the correct path to be college bound. My fellow co-workers and I handed out backpacks, pencils and crayons to community members interested in learning more about our campaign. The GoToCollege team worked hard all morning discussing the College Journey Brochure with students, parents and teachers. When the event came to a close it was without a doubt a huge success for PBS and for us.

## Nevada Student Profile: Jonathan Senda

*"I am currently a senior at Nevada State College majoring in psychology with a minor in counseling. At an early age, the idea of college was appealing to me. I remember being asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, and already knowing I was interested in becoming a clinical psychologist. A college degree was clearly needed, but I did not realize how much schooling was actually going to be needed. I was in for a pleasant surprise when I found out a doctoral degree is required. Although after all, Dr. Senda does have a nice ring to it! To obtain experience in the field, I acquired a position as an Applied Behavior Analyst,*

*which provides tutoring for students who have been diagnosed with autism. Through AmeriCorps I was also able to work with at-risk youth as a Youth Program Coordinator for a local non-profit in the Las Vegas Valley. As of now, I am in the process of applying to doctoral programs in clinical psychology. I am pursuing out of state schools, preferably somewhere on the east coast. Once licensed, I plan on coming back to Las Vegas to practice psychology at a counseling center."*

- Jonathan Senda



**Nevada State College  
Jonathan Senda**

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