

MOSAIC²: Moving Our Students Academically into College and Career Central Washington University with NLA Group and Nine Districts

Central Washington University (CWU) and the Northwest Learning and Achievement Group (NLA) are lead agencies in Project MOSAIC², a GEAR UP project to help more than 2040 students (Classes of 2018 and 2019) in Manson, Chelan, Brewster, Omak, Oroville, Tonasket, Quincy, Highland, and Wenatchee School Districts prepare for college. This two-grade cohort comprises a student body smaller than many urban high schools but they represent a vast, rural and isolated area in north central Washington. Poverty rates (free and reduced lunch eligibility) range from 55 to 85%. An estimated 87% are first generation college students and include significant numbers of Hispanic, American Indian and poor white students. Most families rely on hourly wages in agriculture and depend on social services.

This project will partner with schools to augment science and math curricula, improve teacher preparation, and connect districts to the STEM community to build engaging, standards-based, rigorous curricula and enrichment activities that will significantly strengthen math and science performance. Partners include Washington STEM, DigiPen, CWU STEM-based Programs, US Forest Service, LIGO, and others.

Students will be helped to form long-term plans that include postsecondary enrollment, work on skill building, participate in visits to college campuses and STEM business sites, engage in college planning activities in print, online and in day and afterschool programs, including summer STEM camps and get additional academic support in-class and afterschool for rigorous content coursework.

Informing our efforts is a two-year longitudinal study of 450 Class of 2011 district students whose path into postsecondary institutions will be tracked to identify the challenges faced by district students as they seek postsecondary training. Research outcomes will clarify the type and dosage of services our students need to successfully enter postsecondary training.

GOAL: To prepare MOSAIC GEAR UP students to enroll and succeed in postsecondary education.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for MOSAIC students.

OBJECTIVE 3: Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation and financing.

OBJECTIVE 4: Encourage students' engagement with STEM learning and careers.

Each year, STUDENTS.....

- Receive college preparation booklets and complete college planning activities
- Receive a hard-copy dashboard on their academic strengths and areas for improvement
- Participate in parent/student/teacher conferences, including student-led conferences.
- Participate in a college campus visit or STEM (four visits over 7 years)
- Be exposed to AVID or AVID-like planning and support (Cornell notes) and study habits.
- Be encouraged to take rigorous courses for which they are qualified.
- Receive support appropriate to their needs.
- Be included in a tracking system to ensure success.

TEACHERS.....

- Access teacher professional development for ESL, STEM endorsements and for coursework enabling them to teach college-in-the-high school courses
- Participate in PLC (professional learning communities) to include AVID instructors and districts, principals promoting STEM learning, etc.

PROGRAMMING:

- Focuses on a STEM-infused approach to extracurricular clubs, projects, afterschool programs and clubs in support of the importance of STEM In Washington State college and career opportunities.
- Partners include: LIGO, Wild Horse Wind Farms, Grant County PUD, CWU
- Students attend four STEM and/or campus visits.
- Financial Planning each year helps strengthen students' financial awareness
- Districts offer more college credit-earning coursework to help improve students' readiness for postsecondary programming and to ameliorate cost of college.