Abriendo Caminos/Opening Pathways for Students of Color into the Teaching Profession: Giving Back to the Community through Teaching

MESA is an initiative of the UNLV College of Education
Abriendo Caminos/Opening Pathways is a MESA project

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Goals
Funded through the Nevada Department of Education’s (NDE) Great Teaching and Leading Fund (GTLF) from August 2016-2019, the Abriendo Caminos/Opening Pathways project seeks to:

- Recruit students of color to college (especially to UNLV) and into teaching.
- Reduce teacher shortages in southern Nevada.
- Diversify the teacher workforce in southern Nevada.
- Improve the quality of teacher preparation and teaching in southern Nevada.

Mission: To end Nevada’s teacher shortage and to diversify its teacher workforce. To build and sustain a bridge from our students and their families, to PreK-12 schools, to various community partners, and to UNLV’s College of Education.

Vision: To build a diverse teacher workforce and to improve educational outcomes for all students in our state.

Partner High Schools: Chaparral, Desert Pines, Legacy, Rancho, Sierra Vista, Valley

Project Rationale: The Teacher Diversity Gap
In May of 2016, the U.S. Department of Education released a report titled, *The State of Racial Diversity in the Educator Workforce*. According to the report, students of color make up more than 45% of the PreK-12 population, whereas 84% of our public school teachers are white. The Abriendo Caminos/Opening Pathways project seeks to close this gap by recruiting and retaining more teachers of color.

#Love2TeachLV: Our Signature Program
#Love2TeachLV is a weekly meeting program for students who are interested in learning more about the teaching career, including how to become a teacher themselves. #Love2TeachLV is currently offered in our six Clark County School District partner high schools. It meets weekly, immediately after school, on each high school campus, usually in a classroom or the career center. Because there is a teacher shortage in southern Nevada, and because there are so few teachers from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, #Love2TeachLV is especially focused on recruiting students of color into teaching, but all students are welcome to join the program.

Research shows that giving back to community is especially important for first generation college students, especially college students of color. There is no more powerful way to give back to community than by becoming a teacher! Research also shows that teachers of color have higher expectations for the academic achievement of students of color.

2017-2019 Principal Investigator: Dr. Norma Marrun
2016-2017 Principal Investigator: Dr. Allison Smith