May 2024 - Issue #12

ALONG THE PATHWAY

MONTHLY UPDATE

It is with great pleasure that we present the May edition of Along the Pathway Newsletter. We would like to share some exciting news with you! The first cohort of mentees has successfully graduated from the Paraprofessional Pathway Project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). This is a significant milestone in their educational journey and a testament to the dedication and hard work of our mentors who have provided exceptional support to the 150 mentees throughout the school year. We couldn't be prouder to see many of our mentees accepted into UNLV's Rebel Start Academy or Paraprofessional Pathway Project, which will undoubtedly open up more opportunities for them in the future. As we commemorate National Teachers Day on May 7, 2024, let's take a moment to honor Nevada's newest teachers who demonstrated remarkable tenacity and perseverance throughout their journey. They will continue to inspire and shape the future of our community. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us on the Teacher Pathway this year, including our valued community partners and sponsors. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and resources have been instrumental in making this program a resounding success. We look forward to continuing this extraordinary journey with you all and creating a brighter future for the next generation of teachers.

22/23 mentees:	23/24 mentees:	Projected 24/25 mentees:
103	150	200+

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHER PATHWAY TEAM

As we come to the end of another school year, we wanted to take a moment to give a huge shout-out to all of our amazing mentees. We are truly grateful for the hard work and dedication you have put into pursuing your goal of becoming licensed educators. Y'all are truly amazing!

We also want to extend our warmest thanks to our mentors, who have been there to offer guidance and support every step of the way. Your unwavering commitment to our mentees' success is truly inspiring.

We'd also like to take a moment to celebrate those who are transitioning from UNLV's Rebel Start Academy (RSA) to the Paraprofessional Pathway Project (PPP). Congratulations on this incredible achievement! We look forward to connect with you during the upcoming Bridge Out series in July, which will be the perfect way to prepare you for the next phase of your licensure journey.

We also want to acknowledge our current mentees who have been accepted into or will be continuing in UNLV's Rebel Start Academy. This is a huge accomplishment, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for you all.

For those of you participating in the upcoming RSA cohort 2.0, we want you to know that we are here to support you every step of the way. You will be invited to continue to receive mentoring and related support through the Teacher Pathway program.

As we head into the summer months, we want to encourage all of our mentees to use this time to prepare for and complete any outstanding Praxis exams. This will help you stay on track and be ready for the next phase of your journey.

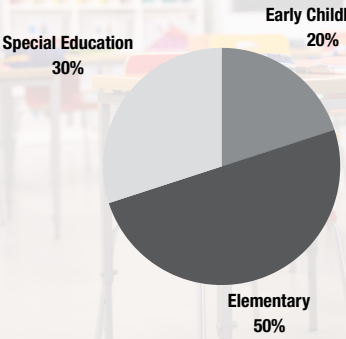
Finally, we want to remind everyone to take a moment to acknowledge all of the hard work you have completed this year and to take some time to enjoy yourselves over the summer. You have all done an amazing job, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

With gratitude and excitement for what's to come,

The Teacher Pathway Team

Path to PPP

Where will our newest teachers be?



Have you registered for your praxis exams yet?

All educators seeking licensure are required to pass Praxis® Core. Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) covers the following subjects: Math, Writing, and Reading. PEF has partnered with Study.com to provide free online Praxis tutorial programming for mentees in the Teacher Pathway program.

All mentees are eligible for free online Praxis tutorial programming through Study.com. All Praxis fees incurred after 1/31/23 are eligible for reimbursement. Information on how to register for Praxis can be found here.

PEF Teacher PATHWAY

BANK OF AMERICA · CAESARS FOUNDATION · CANARELLI & FAMILY FOUNDATION · CCSD CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT · DR. LIU FOUNDATION · JOHN C. KISH FOUNDATION · MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL · Alan & Christy Molasky Family Foundation · NEVADA GOLD MINES · NVEnergy · NV EPIC · Select Health · Study.com · UNLV COLLEGE OF EDUCATION · WELLS FARGO

Teacher Pathway *recruits, supports, and retains diverse, qualified individuals committed to a teaching career in CCSD. This "grow your own" teacher training program helps current paraprofessionals become licensed teachers to address Clark County's chronic teacher shortage.*

MEET NEVADA'S NEWEST EDUCATORS

The PEF Teacher Pathway initiative was launched in the fall of 2022, marking the beginning of a transformative journey for exceptional paraprofessionals and guest teachers. Despite facing initial challenges in reaching our target of 100 students during the first semester, our commitment remained steadfast. While we had the financial resources to provide mentoring from experienced educators and a modest stipend each semester, securing funding for Praxis preparation and scholarships for tuition and fees remained a significant barrier. We assisted students as best we could; however, this funding gap was a constant reminder of the many exceptional candidates we were unable to support fully.

Through the unwavering tenacity of the PEF team and the generosity of our earliest donors, significant progress was made. Midway through our inaugural year, scholarships became available, marking a pivotal turning point. By second semester we had well over 100 participants, and by the start of our second year we had almost 150. Perhaps a quote from one of our early participants said it best, "Being a part of the PEF Teacher Pathway Program offers me the chance to learn and grow alongside my students. I would not have had the financial capability to pursue this career without the support of this program. I finally feel like I am truly one step closer to my goal of being a special education teacher, and making a difference every day". Another participant expressed gratitude for the scholarship stating, "As a recipient of the PEF Teacher Pathway Scholarship, I can finally fully focus on my studies instead of wondering if I will have to make the hard choice of paying for a course dedicated to my future career which will change my future earning ability, or paying for basic living requirements for my daughter and myself. This scholarship ensures my academic journey is fully funded, which takes a huge amount of pressure off of my shoulders, and allows me to simply be a student and attain the knowledge necessary to become the top-tier educator my future students deserve."

Crucial to the success of the program has been the support from various companies and organizations whose contributions have made this initiative possible. These include Bank of America, Caesars Foundation, Canarelli Family Foundation, Clark County School District, XNL Foundation, John C. Kish Foundation, MGM Resorts International, Alan and Christy Molasky Family Foundation, Nevada Gold Mines, Nevada Energy, Select Health, NV EPIC, Study.com, UNLV College of Education, Wells Fargo, among others.

The PEF Teacher Pathway program continues to thrive through our collaborative partnership with UNLV's Rebel Start Academy (RSA). Prospective paraprofessionals now have the opportunity to join RSA with varying academic credits ranging from 0 to 60. While enrolled in RSA, participants benefit from PEF's comprehensive wrap-around support services, designed to ensure their seamless progression through the program, ultimately leading to their successful matriculation into UNLV's accelerated one-year Paraprofessional Pathways Project (PPP) program.

It is with profound pride that we celebrate the emergence of Nevada's newest cadre of educators. Among the most recent graduates of the PPP program are 46 former Teacher Pathway participants. These 46 individuals utilized the comprehensive resources offered by PEF, including mentoring, scholarships, Praxis examination support, and stipends, enabling them to fulfill the prerequisites necessary for admission into the UNLV PPP program by June 2023. PEF intends to honor and acknowledge the achievements of these individuals through an in-person commemorative event tentatively scheduled for July 30, 2024.

Recently, Zivon Sewell, one of our remarkable Teacher Pathway participants, was recognized as the CSN Education Department's Student of the Year. In her acceptance speech, she remarked, "In a world full of 'no's' all I needed was one 'yes', and PEF was that 'yes'."

The latest goal for the PEF Teacher Pathway program is to provide support for more than 200 paraprofessionals for the 2024-2025 school year, and PEF Teacher Pathway remains committed to growing more local teachers, one 'yes' at a time!

PEF Public Education FOUNDATION

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