ON THE FastTrack

December 2024 - Issue #15

MONTHLY UPDATE

As we approach the close of the year and the December issue of On the FastTrack, we encourage our mentors and mentees to dive deep into the enriching practice of reflection. This moment serves as a vital opportunity to take stock of the significant progress made throughout 2024, allowing for the celebration of both achievements and the identification of growth opportunities that lie ahead.

With winter break just around the corner, we strongly urge everyone to carve out time for self-care. This period is not just a chance to relax, but a crucial time to recharge, reflect on your journey, and gather the strength needed to launch into the new year filled with possibilities.

Looking forward to 2025, the Teacher FastTrack Team is thrilled to continue supporting our mentors and mentees. We are excited to welcome Jessica Rodriguez, who joins us as the Coordinator of Education and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiam to our team.

Additionally, we are excited to celebrate the mentees who will be making the transition into UNLV's Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program in January, previously known as the Paraprofessional Pathway Project. This transition marks a significant milestone in their educational journeys, and we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success.

5189 tasks completed

451 mentoring connections made this year

1751 meetings had this year

431 mentoring goals met

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

Jessica Rodriguez

COORDINATOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

My name is Jessica, and I'm thrilled to join The Public Education Foundation team as the new Coordinator of Education Programming. Teaching has been one of the most impactful and beautiful chapters of my life. I began my career as a high school English teacher, where I had the privilege of guiding students through the power of words and stories. Those years shaped me in profound ways, as I witnessed my students grow, challenge themselves, and find their voices. Originally from Long Beach, California, I moved to Las Vegas in 2020 with a passion for education and a desire to go into a meaningful career path. I earned my master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction for Secondary English from UNLV, which deepened my understanding of how to create meaningful learning experiences for students. After transitioning from the classroom, I served as a voter education coordinator, where I worked to empower communities and elevate civic engagement. Now, at The Public Education Foundation, I'm excited to bring my love for teaching and mentorship full circle by supporting aspiring teachers on their journey to the classroom. I look forward to collaborating with mentors, mentees, and the entire FastTrack community as we continue to address Nevada's teacher shortage and inspire the next generation of educators

Path to PPP

Mission Accomplished: Degree Completed

PEF Teacher FastTrack

40 MENTEES ONTO THE NEXT PHASE OF THE JOURNEY!

Teacher FastTrack *addresses the teacher shortage crisis by identifying school employees who dream of becoming licensed teachers and preparing them for a fast-track preparation program at UNLV. We also mentor hundreds of new teachers through the first three years in their own classrooms.*

Get Ready for the Golden Apple Gala: A Night to Celebrate Education and Community!

We are excited to announce that the Public Education Foundation will hold its Golden Apple Gala on January 4, 2025! This important fundraising event brings our community together to support public school students and teachers, all while celebrating.

The Golden Apple Gala helps fund the Foundation's programs and recognizes the generous donors who make these programs possible. This year, we invite everyone to join our theme: “High School Nostalgia.” Wear your favorite high school spirit gear on top, like letterman jackets or spirit shirts, and pair it with something festive for the party below!

We will also celebrate recent graduates from our Teacher FastTrack Recruit program. These new teachers show the success of our efforts, and we look forward to honoring their achievements.

Grant Hanevold
Chief Education Officer

TAKING TIME TO REFLECT ON 2024, LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As we close another productive year, let us embrace the opportunity to celebrate our remarkable achievements. We are proud to announce that 100 mentees are transitioning from the Rebel Start Academy into UNLV’s Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program. This transition embodies growth and the success of our dedication to creating comprehensive pathways for our students.

Additionally, our participant numbers have surged from 136 in December 2023 to an impressive 198 in 2024. This increase reflects a vibrant community of learners eager to engage and thrive. We are also excited to introduce a new Professional Development Milestone in the Mentoring Connection Plan, allowing mentees to observe how their future peers cultivate Building Positive Relationships and implement Classroom Management strategies within their learning environments.

Taking Time to Reflect

As we approach the year’s end, it’s vital to pause and reflect on our journeys. Consider the successes you’ve experienced. What strategies truly worked? Reflecting on how you navigated the challenges of 2024 can inspire new insights and approaches as we welcome the new year.

Amidst the holiday bustle, don’t forget to prioritize self-care. Taking time to recharge is essential for maintaining our well-being.

Here are four simple self-care practices to consider:

1. ***Mindfulness Meditation: Dedicate 10 minutes daily to mindfulness or meditation.***
2. ***Outdoor Activities: Immerse yourself in nature—take a walk, hike, or simply enjoy the outdoors.***
3. ***Creative Outlets: Engage in a hobby that fosters your creative spirit, like painting, writing, or crafting.***
4. ***Quality Time with Loved Ones: Set aside uninterrupted moments to connect with family and friends.***

New Year, New Goals

The beginning of a new year is a powerful opportunity to set fresh goals. Goal setting is a cherished tradition and is especially vital within our mentoring framework. In Chronus, goal setting serves as a cornerstone of each mentee’s Mentoring Connection Plan. Mentors are instrumental in guiding their mentees to develop career-based goals and identify the essential tasks to achieve them.

As we embark on this journey of goal setting, let’s remember to be SMART:

S: Specific M: Measurable A: Achievable R: Relevant T: Time-Based

We wish you great success as you pursue your goals in the new year. Here’s to new beginnings filled with opportunities and achievements!

PEF Teacher FastTrack

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