Creating Futures

Pre-Collegiate Development Program
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Program Overview

Academic preparation, goal-setting, and support from program staff is a winning combination that helps inspire, motivate, and prepare middle and high school students throughout Southern Colorado to attend college. The University of Colorado Colorado Springs’ Pre-Collegiate Development Program currently helps nearly 900 students prepare for life after high school.

These students have the opportunity to attend the Summer Academic Institute and earn college credit while still enrolled in high school. Program staff coordinates among parents, counselors, teachers, and community members to help these students achieve their goals.

The program serves first-generation college students, children in single-parent households, and other demographic groups that face challenges matriculating to college. Eligible high school students earn at least a 2.5 GPA and express a strong desire to pursue higher education.

Pre-Collegiate Development Programs provide access to:

- Assessment and guidance from the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), a national consortium with well-regarded development programs.
- A five-year leadership development program for seventh grade through 11th grade students that follows the ILEAD model (Introduction, Learn, Establish a plan, Apply and Discover the future) to help students learn their leadership style and demonstrate self-leadership and leadership in their community.
- A new pilot program, the Leadership and STEM Academy (LSA), that reaches out to fifth grade and sixth grade students to provide an introduction to science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and leadership principles and practices.
- The affiliated Pueblo Rising Seniors program that orients high school students toward college life by providing an opportunity to stay in UCCS dorms for one weekend in the summer.
- The Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (CSTEME) has partnered with the UCCS Pre-Collegiate Development Program for the last five years to provide engaging STEM programming to students in a wide variety of STEM activities. Students are surveyed to track changes in their attitudes toward, and intention to pursue a STEM major. Findings from this research inform improvements to current programs to increase first-generation student participation in STEM fields after high school.

“I honestly wouldn’t have known what to do with college if I hadn’t been involved in the Pre-Collegiate Development Program. I was able to be more open and ask for help, and this gave me an advantage over other students. Being involved in the program helped me get out of my shell—now I’m able to speak up and be a leader.”

Maranda McGowan (’15) works as a Student Advisor for the Pre-Collegiate Development Program and is studying criminal justice at UCCS.
Areas for Support at UCCS

- Programs that foster retention of PCDP students from middle school, to high school, through college graduation. Support services are needed to help students develop strong study skills and choose the right major while they’re attending college.
- Resources for outreach to first-generation students and to enlist the support of their parents for elements of college preparation, such as guidance on college applications.
- Program development to reach fifth grade and sixth grade students for goal-setting and academic preparation for higher education.
- Additional infrastructure such as office and classroom space, full-time staff, and work-study student support.

To learn about the many ways you can make a donation, please contact:
719-255-5100
development@uccs.edu
cufund.org

Anthony Trujillo ('09) attended Pueblo Centennial High School and is a graduate of the Pre-Collegiate Development Program. Now a PCDP Recruitment and Enrollment Management Specialist, Trujillo plans on returning to UCCS to earn a master’s degree in communication.

“The program opened the door for me to know more about the college admissions process, financial aid, and how to look for scholarships. Now I work for the Pre-Collegiate Development Program and I love it. A big part of my job is recruiting students from middle school and high school to come into the program. That is one of my biggest rewards because it allows me to not only give back to the program, but to give students the opportunities that I had, too.”

University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

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