Community of Practice Program at Western Nevada College

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The CoP Idea

- Engage community college students with hands on science
- Include students in both campus and statewide communities
- Build skills which aid in academic and career success
- Attract / retain more community college students in STEM fields
- Increase AS degree completion and college transfer / employment in STEM areas
- Provide $2000 per semester in scholarship support for each student (a participation based award)
A Statewide Program

- Faculty and students from all the community colleges in Nevada.
- Monthly interactive video conference meetings
- Online interactions through CSN’s learning management system
- Lots of support from the NV Space Grant Office
WNC CoP

- 2 WNC Campus Co-Leaders
- 5 students per semester
- Budget designed to suit WNC implementation / needs
- Student community focused
- Broad scope of topics
- Focused on student interests
Science Outreach
Field Trips
Research / Projects
**Challenges**

- Lack of Infrastructure
  - No dedicated lab space
  - Long term support for equipment and supplies
  - Confusion in the business office / financial aid
- Involving more faculty
  - Release time unavailable
  - Institutional rewards and recognition are lacking / absent
  - Overall time commitment
- Recruiting students
  - Overall time commitment
  - Non-traditional student schedules
- Better connections between campuses
  - Cross campus mentoring
  - Closing the leaky pipeline to transfer institutions
- Tracking Program Alumni
Future Plans

• Involving students other than scholarship recipients
  • Grow into a supported student club / cohort

• Bring students to NV Space Grant meetings

• Bring back CoP alumni for presentations

• More work at the Jack C. Davis Observatory
Thank You

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Nevada Space Grant Consortium
Award NNX14AQ94A