

Office Overview
The University of Arizona
Early Academic Outreach and Minority Student Recruitment
For Peter W. Likins Inclusive Excellence Award

The University of Arizona recognizes that the diversity of our student body is an integral component of academic excellence. In a campus-wide effort to increase the number of students from backgrounds underrepresented in higher education, the UA actively reaches out to low-income, first generation, and minority students and their families through a range of services. Early Academic Outreach (EAO) and Minority Student Recruitment (MSR) support UA's commitment to diversity by implementing intensive programs and annual events designed to inspire students and their families to attend college. Listed below is a sampling of such efforts.

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) – Recognized by President George W. Bush as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, MESA is an intensive and ongoing college preparation program designed for ethnic minority, low-income, and first generation college-bound students in targeted school districts. MESA includes hands-on activities related to math, engineering, and science; college preparation workshops to help build strong academic skills, and individual academic guidance and student evaluation. Since 1984, the UA program has grown from serving 61 students attending four high schools to over 1,000 students who attend 40 middle schools and high schools in southern Arizona.

College Academy for Parents (CAP) – College Academy for Parents consists of twelve, two hour workshops held in the evenings at local middle schools in an effort to increase parents understanding of the benefits of a college education and the academic expectation for college preparation. UA faculty volunteers lead workshops and information is offered in both English and Spanish. Two hundred, twenty-one parents, who represent 171 families, have graduated from the program. CAP is the 2006 Pathways to Postsecondary Education Award Winner and is currently a finalist for the Washington D.C. based, *Excelenica* in Education award as a best practice.

The Tucson GEAR UP Project – Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education in partnership with Pima Community College, Sunnyside Unified School District, Tucson Unified School District, KB Homes, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Tucson Medical Center and Principal Tutoring. The project provides college preparation activities and academic support to 3,500 students (and their families) who are currently in the seventh grade.

Building the Future (BTF) – In 1996, the Building the Future Program Partnership developed between the Rotary Clubs of Tucson, The University of Arizona, and Tucson Unified School District to address the issues of juvenile violence and crime in our communities by attacking their root causes, giving students and their families hope and support for the future. The program adopted the third grade class at C.E. Rose Elementary School and agreed to provide a four-year tuition waiver to The University of Arizona with the stipulation that each student successfully complete high school and the corresponding requirements for admission. Currently, the students are seniors and continue to receive support through mentors including Rotary and Tucson community members.

PSAT and SAT Preparation Workshops –The Office of Early Academic Outreach has offered low cost PSAT/SAT preparation workshops to southern Arizona high school students for 15 years and has served over 3,500 student during this time. The goal of these workshops is to familiarize students with the PSAT & SAT college entrance examinations and help them avoid common mistakes that can negatively affect a student's score. During the 2004-2005, 298 students attended the workshops and participants improved their mock test scores by increases between 10-35 points.

College Knowledge for Parents – This annual event brings parents of eighth grade students to campus on a Saturday for a series of workshops. Topics include: UA admissions requirements and processes, college costs and financial aid, how parents can help their student be successful in high school and college. Sessions are conducted in English and Spanish. College Knowledge for Parents serves between 250-300 families each year and because of its affects on Arizona families, was recognized by the Arizona Commission on Postsecondary Education as a best practice in 2003.

Peter and Pat Likins Day for Outstanding Seniors (formerly Outstanding Minority High School Senior Day) – High school seniors who rank in the top 25% of their graduating class are invited to this annual campus visitation program. Student participants are recognized for their academic achievement and provided information about admissions. In addition, participants meet with college representatives, attend sample lectures, and learn about the many opportunities offered at UA. Approximately 500 parents and students attend this event each year.

Visits to Target High Schools and Recruitment Phone Bank – Staff and student assistants make regular visits to high schools to meet with prospective seniors who might be the first in their families to attend college or those who might need additional assistance negotiating important enrollment processes. To reach prospective seniors who attend non-target high schools, a phone bank, staffed by trained student assistants provides assistance in the evenings. Student assistants make phone calls to students to assist prospective students with all the important paperwork needed to make a smooth transition from high school to UA.

Early Academic Outreach (EAO) and Minority Student Recruitment (MSR) enjoy partnerships with a number of UA academic colleges and departments, school districts, industry and business, and the community. These collaborations are critical to the work of EAO and MSR and much of the unit's success can be attributed to the contributions others have made toward our efforts.

The department consists of a team of dedicated individuals who are committed to bridging the gap that exists between higher education and diverse communities in Arizona. Lori Tochiara serves as the director office and works with the colleagues below:

Early Academic Outreach

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Minority Student Recruitment

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