

Go Girlz 2012-2013

Brief description of program / project:

The Go Girlz Community Initiative is a program the Women's Resource Center at the University of Utah developed in 2004 to target underserved populations, primarily minority, first generation, economically disadvantaged female students, grades 6-12, in the Salt Lake City school district, with the goal of early exposure to higher education through an empowerment based curriculum. We view Go Girlz as an early intervention, early recruitment effort to address not only the goal of educating young women who have historically fallen through the cracks of public education, but also to address the stated goal of the University of Utah to recruit and retain women and minority students.

This semester, the program was assessed through five surveys: a pre, mid, and post survey that the girls completed related to demographics, lessons learned and barriers to college attendance (during the regular meetings), and a survey of parents' perspectives that was given at the initial and end of year parent dinners.

Who was asked to complete survey:

All participants who attended the workshops when the surveys were distributed. All parents who attended parent dinners.

Respondents:

35 girls completed the pre survey (9 from Jackson, 10 from Bryant and 16 from East)

15 girls completed the mid-year survey (9 from Jackson and 6 from Bryant)

32 girls completed the end-of-year (8 from Jackson, 7 from Bryant, and 17 from East)

18 parents completed the initial Parent Dinner survey (8 from Jackson and 10 from Bryant)

7 parents completed the end-of-year Parent Dinner survey (all 7 from Jackson)

Administration Type: paper, with entry into Campus Labs

Summary of Key Findings:

Pre, Mid, and Post results for Jackson Elementary and Bryant Middle School

- 63% of the girls are Latina/Hispanic, 21% are White, and 16% Multiracial.
- 56% of the girls do not have a parent/guardian or sibling who has attended any college.
- At the beginning of the semester, 90% of the girls said they plan on attending college.
- At the end of the semester, 94% said they definitely plan on attending college.
- All girls reported gained confidence in their academic abilities and were more certain they will attend college since participating in Go Girlz.
- The primary barriers to attending college are cost and grades.
- 87% of the girls stated they are likely to participate in Go Girlz programming next year.
- All of the girls reported increased participation in academics and/or extracurricular activities, such as focusing more in class and participating more in class.
- Most girls report that they want to spend more time on the U of U campus with the Go Girlz program.

Post results for East High

- 82.36% Agree or strongly agree that since participating in Go Girlz they feel more confident in their academic abilities
- 87.50% of the girls are Latina/Hispanic, 6.25 % are White, 6.25% Multiracial
- 58.82 % of participants would like to spend more time on the University of Utah campus
- 54.54% of participants plan on attending college
- The primary barriers to attending college are grades and cost
- All reported no family members having attended college
- 76.47% are unsure if they will continue participating in Go Girlz next year

Results were separated out because this was a pilot year at this school. Go Girlz started mid-year at East High and students were required to participate in the program as a part of the LEAD Programs class time. We did not have a consistent meeting time, nor did we meet with the same of students multiple times, so the results indicate that.

Parent Dinner

- 84% of parents surveyed stated that their daughter will graduate from college
- 88% of parents reported above stated they have communicated those expectations to their daughters
- 64% do not know where to find resources for helping their daughters go to college
- All parents reported a change in their daughters since participating in Go Girlz, ranging from increased self-esteem to more motivation in their studies.
- All parents reported an interest in attending a workshop to learn more about resources for college preparation.

Actions Taken:

- Consider distributing surveys on 2-3 occasions to ensure all participants fill out to accurately track feedback.
- Developing an assessment to track program retention and participation.
- Assess parent program more in depth to determine parents needs.
- Explore barriers to Go Girlz and Parent Program expansion.

Which department and/or program goals does this program / project align with?

- Student Engagement
- Assessment, Research and Evaluation
- Recruiting, supporting, and retaining women and underrepresented groups.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program / project align with?

- Utilize a coordinated assessment, evaluation and research approach to promote data driven decision-making.

- Partner with faculty, staff and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community.
- Promote diversity on campus through effective programming and active recruitment of staff and students.
- Provide education that ensures all staff is properly trained to provide professional and competent service