

Go Girlz Assessment (Spring 2012)

Brief description of program and assessment project:

The Go Girlz Community Initiative is a program the Women's Resource Center at the University of Utah developed over the past seven years 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.

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 three surveys: a pre 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 end of year parent dinner.

Respondents: 26 girls completed the pre (13 from Franklin and 13 from Jackson)

16 girls completed the post (6 from Franklin and 10 from Jackson)

21 parents completed the parent survey at the dinner (12 from Franklin and 9 from Jackson)

*Due to a language barrier, students at Franklin Elementary filled out parent surveys.

Administration Type: paper surveys with data entry into Campus Labs

Summary of Key Findings:

- 65% of the girls are Latina/Hispanic, 15% are Pacific Islander, 12% are White, and 8% are Black/African American.
- 58% of the girls do not have a parent/guardian or sibling who has attended any college.
- At the beginning of the semester, 73% of the girls said they definitely plan on attending college. At the end of the semester, 56% said they definitely plan on attending college.
- The primary barrier to attending college is the cost.
- 93.75% of the girls stated they are likely to participate in Go Girlz programming next year.
- When the girls were asked to identify 1 thing learned in Go Girlz the 4 major themes are as follows; Learned new things, Self Esteem, Physical/Personal safety, Importance of College.
- The themes extracted from the parent survey for additional curriculum topics are as follows; Healthy Choices/Drugs, How to talk with parents and siblings about things learned in program, More Days in Go Girlz, and how to begin preparing for College.

Actions Taken:

- Consider having the parent survey in English and Spanish next year.
- Consider using results to shift curriculum to address participant and parent concerns/interests
- Create additional survey for mid year assessment
- Replicate Questions for each survey to track change in responses more efficiently
- Consider distributing surveys on 2-3 occasions to ensure all participants fill out to accurately track retention.
- Explore barriers to program expansion

Which Student Affairs goals does this program 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.