

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

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Summarizing their commitment to increasing the number of minority physicians in Nevada, University of Nevada School of Medicine officials presented a picture of the "science education pipeline" of potential medical students at a Board of Regents meeting today which shows the dramatic loss of students beginning in high school.

The rate of acceptance for minority students, according to Cheryl Hug, M.D., assistant dean for admissions, is slightly higher than that for non-minority students. Minority students are accepted at a rate of 28 percent while non-minority students are accepted at a rate of 22 percent. "Our higher rate of acceptance for minority students demonstrates our commitment to increasing the number of minority students in medical school, but we still have only a few minorities applying," Dr. Hug said.

Unfortunately, few Nevada minority students are majoring in the science courses that lead to a career in medicine. Last year, according to Dr. Jerry May, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, 12,020 Nevada students of all ethnic backgrounds graduated from high school. Of those students, only 4,688 entered college – less than 40 percent - the lowest rate of college-bound students in any state in the country. This according to data from the State Department of Education and the Chancellor's Office of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

"The pipeline narrows even further when you look at the number of minority students who are majoring in the life sciences," Dr. May noted. "Last fall, across all four

years of college, UNR had 72 underrepresented minority science majors and UNLV had 92." For example, there are currently 12 African-American students enrolled at UNR majoring in sciences and only 36 at UNLV. Underrepresented minorities in medicine include African-American, American Indian and Hispanic students. With so few minority students majoring in the life sciences, those who choose to attend medical school are usually accepted at multiple schools, Dr. May continued. Nevada has often accepted minority students, only to have them recruited away. Last year Nevada had over \$33,000 in scholarships available for minority students, but this doesn't begin to match other, larger schools.

What are the solutions? "We need to increase the number of interested and qualified students at all stages of the pipeline," he said. "Young children of all ethnic backgrounds need to know how exciting science and medicine are, and to know that they can become doctors." The medical school has developed a series of privately funded programs reaching out to students and teachers from elementary school through college. He outlined a few of the programs the medical school has underway:

Elementary School:

Science Partners: This program places college students who major in science with elementary school teachers to help provide hands-on science to students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade in Clark and Washoe Counties. Over half the elementary schools in the program are identified as having high minority populations.

Middle School:

Summer of Discovery: Students in grades seven through 10 attend a one-week science enrichment program in both Reno and Las Vegas. Minority students and students who would be the first in their family to attend college are eligible for the program.

High School:

High School Partnerships: The School of Medicine has long-standing partnerships with three Nevada high schools: Rancho and Clark High School in Las Vegas and Hug High School in Reno. Each of these high schools has a very high population of minority students. The program

includes science enrichment, specialized field trips, career exploration and teacher training.

Summer Science Seminar: This two-week teacher seminar for high school science teachers focuses on updating biomedical science content and the development of new curricula.

High School Medical Scholars: Students are competitively selected for this one-week residential program which focuses on helping students realize their ambitions to continue on to college and enter a career in medicine or science. Minority students and students who would be the first in their family to attend college are eligible for the program.

College:

Advisement sessions for minority students.

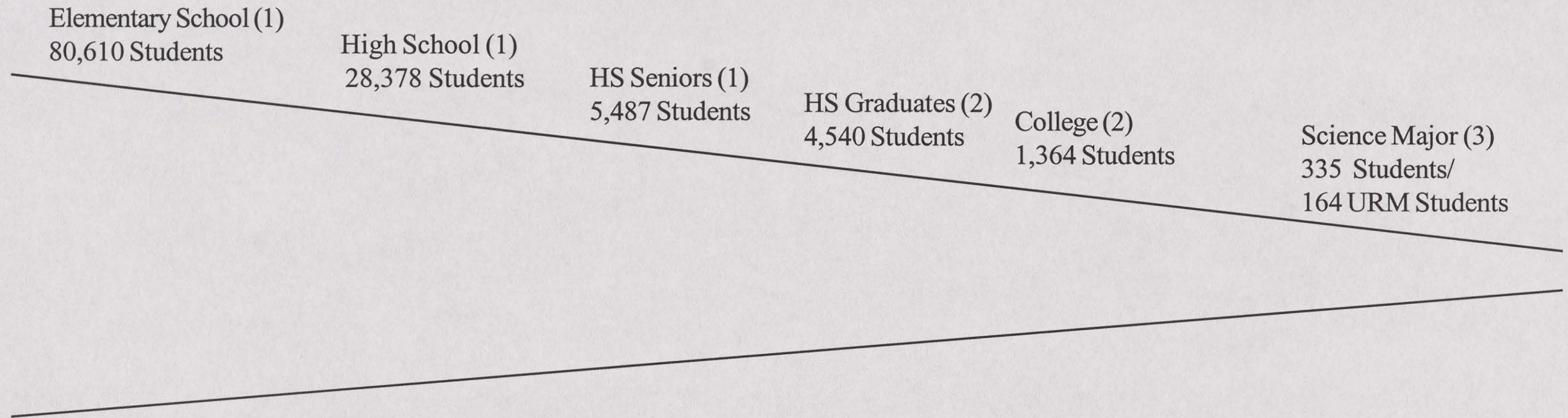
Tours, physician shadowing and research experiences. Staff make particular efforts to recruit minority student participants for these programs.

“This complex problem of losing minority students in the science education pipeline will not be solved by short term solutions only,” Dr. Hug said. “Instead we believe what we have been doing for almost a decade – combining short term and long term efforts – will help solve this problem. Our community – Nevada, higher education, Las Vegas and Reno – need to work together to bring our minority students into higher education, into science, and into careers in medicine. Until we do, minority students will continue to be lost.”

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Nevada College Pipeline

Minority* Students 1998/99



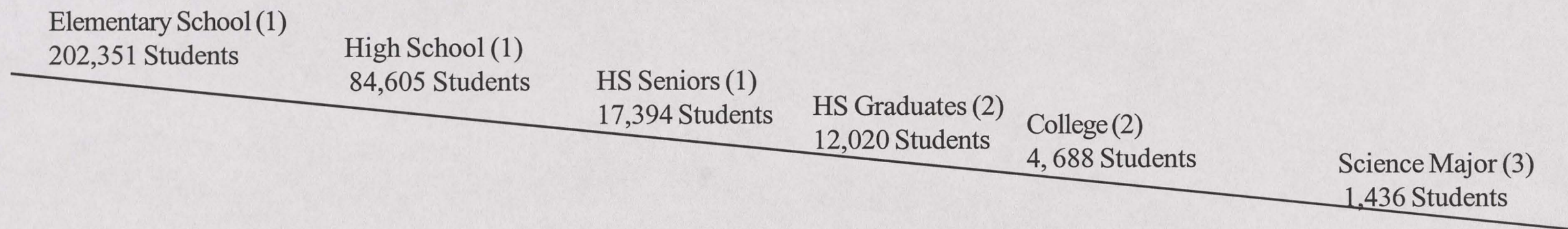
1. 98/99 Nevada Department of Education - Fall Enrollment
2. UCCSN Strategic Planning Workshop Undergraduate Access and Growth, 1999
3. UNR and UNLV Institutional Analysis of Enrollment, four year current total.

* African-American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native

URM - Underrepresented Minority students in medicine - African-American, Hispanic, American Indian

Nevada College Pipeline

All Students, 1998/99



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| <p>Science Partners Program
Science Education Reform</p> | <p>High School Medical Scholars
Summer of Discovery
Partnership Programs
Science Teacher Education Programs</p> | <p>Science Partners
Advisement
Advance Program
Physician Shadow
Freshman Outreach
Research Experiences
SNMA student chapter
Pre Med Advisor Education
Scholarships
Diversity Week
Committee on Minority Student Affairs</p> |
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