



## CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE JACKSON

### BRIDGE TO COLLEGE & SUCCESS – 2021

Launched in 2020, the CWC Jackson **BRIDGE to College & Success program** is designed to help recent high school graduates prepare to successfully transition to college, start to earn college credit, and explore career interests. Participants are often 1st-generation, underrepresented students who face many pressures while navigating the unfamiliar territory of college life.



This summer, 12 students participated in the BRIDGE Program, which included meeting regularly with wonderful mentors from the community and job shadowing with local industry partners. In addition they began their college career taking English Composition I and the College Student Success Course. By focusing on Academic Skills, Life Skills, College and Career Planning, and Self-Perception (an important, non-cognitive skill associated with college readiness), the BRIDGE Program successfully prepared these students for college level classes.



**12 were selected to participate in the Summer 2021 program; 18 students applied**

All are committed to attend CWC after high school graduation

75% are first-in-family to graduate from high school; 25% had 1 parent graduate from high school

100% are first generation to potentially graduate from college

100% identify financial stresses interfering with the completion of college

2 students recently arrived to the US and were English Learners



*"I would recommend the BRIDGE program...if they really want to achieve their dreams and hopes, the best way to help prepare is coming to the BRIDGE program"*

*2021 BRIDGE Participant*

## From June 7th to August 12th Bridge students

- Attended 120 hrs of class time
- Earned 5 college credits for completion of ENGL 1010, English Composition I; ENGL 1007 English Writing Workshop; UNST 1005, Student Success
- Interacted daily during the program with Bridge Coordinator Laura Perez-Garcia, English Professor Matt Daly, and Bridge Tutor Adele Farag. The Bridge Coordinator, Laura Perez-Garcia is a native Spanish speaker and comes from a similar background as many of the students in the program. This enabled strong trust to be built between the students and the Coordinator.
- Met throughout the summer with a Community Mentor
- Job shadowed or conducted informational interviews of approximately 2 different careers of personal interest.

### Career Tours & Informational interviews

- ❖ Accounting/Bookkeeping: Handle-IT, Amangani
- ❖ Counseling: Teton County School District, Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center
- ❖ Education: Children's Learning Center, CWC Education Professor
- ❖ Medical: St. John's Health
- ❖ Computer Tech/Science : St. John's Health, TMB, CWC Computer Professor
- ❖ Graphic Design: TMBR, STIO
- ❖ Veterinary: Jackson Animal Hospital
- ❖ Cosmetology: Teton County Salon Owners



#### OUTCOMES: Developing a Future

9 out of 12 students passed the summer college courses in English & Student Success  
7 students are enrolled in Fall classes with 12 or more credits  
5 currently unenrolled students plan to register in Spring classes  
25% students did not complete due to financial and family challenges  
89% Bridge Students stated they were "very sure" of their major



Students evaluated themselves higher at the end of the Bridge program in ALL areas of self-assessed skills needed for college success. This included:

- ▶ time management, preparedness to engage in college coursework, requesting assistance from professors, CWC administration, or community resources

#### IN THEIR WORDS

*"I've taken the initiative to come to class every day without fail to learn and participate in the hopes of a college education/experience. That experience I've gained from the BRIDGE Program has helped me grasp and understand what the college expectations are and how the classes are structured. With that experience in mind, I will go on with confidence in my college education. I can't wait for what's to come in my college life and for what's beyond that as well."*

*"The BRIDGE Program has taught me that in order for me to be successful, I have to be willing to leave some things behind and get rid of all my bad habits. I had to get used to the idea that school is more important than anything else. I also had to get rid of my bad habit of never turning in my assignments on time, because every assignment affects your grades tremendously. Thanks to the BRIDGE Program, I feel more confident that I will succeed in college and in the rest of my life."*

*"The Bridge program gave me the opportunity to do some Job Shadowing at places that are related to our careers. It gave the opportunity to meet mentors that could help us respond to our questions about the future; giving us an idea of what college looks like."*



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