YES
YOUNG EXECUTIVE SCHOLARS
HOSPITALITY & TOURISM PROGRAM
#FUTURECEO
The Young Executive Scholars Hospitality & Tourism Program (YES) is where university, nonprofit, industry, and community come together to build a better future for Las Vegas’ under-resourced youth. YES’s educational vision brings together the gaming-hospitality expertise of the UNLV International Gaming Institute (UNLV IGI), the project-based mentoring approach of Core, powered by the Rogers Foundation, and the career-focused model of CCSD’s Career & Technical Education Department.

Mission

Our hope is that through exposure and access to a diverse pool of successful executives and leaders, we will create a strong pipeline of homegrown talent who will become the next generation of Nevada hospitality industry trailblazers.
Modeled after IGI and University of Nevada, Reno’s renowned Executive Development Program for industry professionals, YES is a rigorous four-week, five-day-per-week summer intensive of applied learning, team collaboration, and a mentor-guided, case-study analysis of the global hospitality-tourism industry.

Rising stars in the Clark County School District discover the managerial and executive-level career opportunities available in the industry of their backyard, gain insight into the UNLV college experience, and develop new skills to excel in the classroom today and the workplace tomorrow.
In the Classroom...

Scholars learn from and engage with some of the most prominent figures in the hospitality industry, including senior-level executives from across Las Vegas’ multiple Fortune 500 integrated-resort companies and leading academic experts in the field, as they mentor them through their challenging hands-on project.

“Before YES, I never knew about the career opportunities that existed for me on the Las Vegas Strip. YES was an eye opener for me. Anyone can make it if they really put their mind to it.”

— WESLEY, YES CLASS OF ’19
We believe in the power of learning through experience. Students participate in experiential moments outside of the classroom, such as exclusive back-of-the-house tours and field trips to the Strip, to apply the knowledge learned in the UNLV classroom to the business world of Las Vegas Boulevard.

“I learned a lot about Las Vegas through the YES program. I started to see my hometown differently when I really started to look close. Las Vegas is a place that opens up many doors for those who want to learn more. It’s a place that isn’t defined by one thing, but by so many things.”

—JIMENA, YES CLASS OF ’17
YES students take on a challenging academic project with real-world business implications. This mentor-guided, hands-on team project frames learning throughout the program by asking the next generation of leaders to imagine and design their own world-class integrated resort.

Students respond to a mock request for proposal from the City of Las Vegas, applying key course lessons to their own resort plan. They explore a wide range of career paths along the way, including finance, marketing, communications, public relations, architecture, community relations, sustainability, diversity, government relations, leadership, and much more.

At the end of the four weeks, teams pitch their business plan to a panel of industry and academic experts, competing for the winning team prize of individual scholarships that can be used towards any university or major of their choosing. All other participating students receive an individual scholarship for completing the rigorous YES program. YES students, faculty, and community members join together afterwards to celebrate the students’ success at a fun and well-deserved awards banquet.
A Day in the YES Life

Take a peek at the day in the life of a YES student on a field trip day:

**11:50 a.m.**  
Arrive at Bellagio

**12:00–1:30 p.m.**  
Lunch at the Bellagio

**1:30–3:30 p.m.**  
Tour of The Fountains of Bellagio  
**LED BY:** Loni Singer, Lead Engineer

In 1998, the Bellagio brought a water attraction to the desert on a scale that was unheard of. Today, the Fountains of Bellagio are still one of the most iconic and popular attractions of Las Vegas. It takes a group of 30 engineers, mechanics, and pool specialists — all dive certified — to keep the attraction firing on all cylinders from the “Bat Cave.”  
Here, we’ll tour the “Bat Cave” — the control center of the Fountains — and learn the importance of “WOW” attractions that help turn your resort from “OK” to “timeless.”

**3:50 p.m.**  
Arrive at Mandalay Bay

**4:00–5:00 p.m.**  
Back-of-House Tour of Lupo by Wolfgang Puck at Mandalay Bay  
**LED BY:** Tom Kaplan, Senior Managing Partner, Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group

Lupo by Wolfgang Puck is the Chef’s first Italian restaurant. Here, Tom will discuss the many career paths in the restaurant industry, the importance of food and beverage in the resort experience, and how exceptional service, cuisine, and hospitality can turn your resort into a dining destination.

**5:00–7:00 p.m.**  
Dinner at Lupo by Wolfgang Puck with Tom Kaplan

**7:00 p.m.**  
Departure