

# Monthly News & Updates



[www.unlv.edu/asc](http://www.unlv.edu/asc)

December 2020 Issue

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### **Message from ASC Founding Dean**



**Dr. Ann McDonough**

In the academy-award winning movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*, prisoner Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) turns to Ellis Boyd “Red” Redding (Morgan Freeman) in the middle of a conversation about things looking hopeless and states intensely to Red, “Hope is a good thing—maybe the best of things—and no good thing ever dies.”

That line came to me as I thought of our December newsletter and the season of light and hope that is supposed to be the holidays. For many of us, it’s challenging to see light and hope in the environment of an unprecedented pandemic that is causing suffering for many in our campus community and our surrounding communities.

In the Academic Success Center (ASC), I believe we have sought and created hope for our students and our communities by doing whatever we could to be accessible with online academic support, by being inspiring and creative in the delivery of the largest first-year seminar program at UNLV and by doing whatever we could to continue to offer financial support through work opportunities for our students.

I have seen hope flourish in the generous and collegial collaboration of our faculty and staff not only in the ASC, but also across our campus. I have seen hope flourish in the welcoming of our eleventh

President, Dr. Keith Whitfield, and our longtime, highly-respected colleague, Executive Vice-President and Provost, Dr. Chris Heavey. I've also seen hope flourish between our students—peer mentors, student ambassadors, tutors, coaches, student-athletes, Supplemental Instruction mentors and leaders—who have gone the extra mile in doing whatever they could to help each other and our UNLV undergrads. Finally, hope was offered to our students in the support and help from faculty and staff across UNLV.


When asked how the ASC is doing in this pandemic, my response is, "We're focusing on supporting and fostering the right services in the midst of our challenges, and we're focusing on putting into place initiatives that will make for a smooth transition into a post-pandemic UNLV and ASC -- hope in what we're presently doing and hope for what we look forward to accomplishing in the future."

Back to "The Shawshank Redemption"—screenwriter Stephen King summed up the essence of the importance of hope in the midst of this story of hard times in a corrupt prison: "Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free."

The ASC wishes you and yours hope in both our present challenges and our future triumphs.

Dr. Ann McDonough  
Founding Dean

## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!



UNLV ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

*Congratulations,  
Class of 2020!*

**The ASC sends congratulations  
to the Spring & Fall Classes of  
2020!**

**We are proud to be partners in your  
success!**

[View our Congratulatory Video](#)

## POINTS OF PRIDE

 <p>96.95% OF STUDENTS IN SUMMER 2020 MATH BRIDGE INCREASED THEIR ALEKS SCORE</p>	 <p>92 STUDENT-ATHLETES EARNED THE MOUNTAIN WEST SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD IN 2019-2020</p>	 <p>163 STUDENT-ATHLETES EARNED ACADEMIC ALL- MOUNTAIN WEST HONORS IN 2019-2020</p>	 <p>9 ADVANCED STUDIES STUDENTS ENROLLED FULL TIME AT UNLV IN FALL 2020 TO PURSUE THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES</p>
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### Recognition:

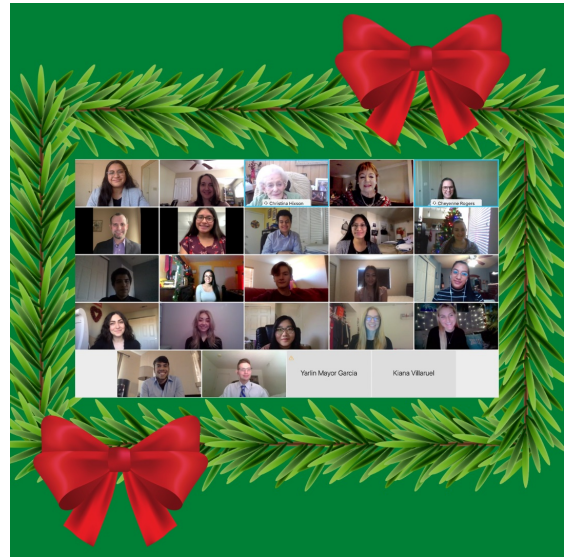
- Colonel Layton Hedge, Student-Athlete Academic Services Tutor, was chosen to be UNLV's student speaker at the 12/3 NSHE BOR Meeting. He represented the work of the UNLV ROTC Flying Rebels.
- ASC Peer Mentor Annika Roseen was chosen as the new Mx. Native UNLV.
- Founding Dean and Professor Ann McDonough was recognized for 30 years of service with

**Awards:**

- Dr. Brandy Smith, ASC Executive Director of Finance and Administration, received an Administrative Faculty Professional Development Award.

**The ASC's Hixson-Lied Success Scholars met in early December with Miss Christina Hixson to celebrate the accomplishments of all of the scholars over the past semester. A few notables include:**

- Yarlin Mayor conducted and presented research on the history of Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia in the Fall 2020 Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- Andrea Santillan was appointed as Associate Chief Justice of CSUN. She previously served as Captain and President of the UNLV Criminal Justice Mock Trial Team.
- Gisela Molina was awarded a Sankofa Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### Julio Mancilla

UNLV Junior

ASC Front & Center Ambassador

Admissions Rebel Recruiter

UNLV Star of Nevada Marching & Pep Bands

#### Why did you choose to come to UNLV?

I was getting along very well with my admissions counselor. She was very helpful, helped me find scholarships, and really understood my background. She was the first person I spoke with on campus and she was giving so much help. I figured maybe this would be a good school to try.

#### What is a goal you would like to achieve within five years after graduation?

A goal five years after graduation would be domestic stability - it's been an eventful four years. I'd like to find a job as a researcher in a lab, but I'm open to anything. My goal would be to complete my bachelors and then after finding a career, then come back for my masters.

#### What's one good thing you've learned or discovered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

From being isolated due to the pandemic, I've really been thinking a lot more. I've done a whole self-exploration and found out who I am.

#### What is one piece of advice you would give to new UNLV students?

This is the same as drumming. When you're frustrated in the moment you can throw down your sticks or throw down your books and pace outside for five minutes. Then, you need to walk right back in. In the moment, it can be no, but then you have to come back.

### **Who is one person you are thankful for at UNLV?**

This is tough - there are a number of people. I would have to thank Fred Tredup, the President's Chief of Staff. I remember going to his office in FDH and having a meeting. He was willing to listen and make sure everything was going okay. It was amazing.

### **What is one thing you are going to celebrate once the pandemic is over?**

I'm looking forward to going back home to California and celebrating the 4th of July. It's a grand time - catching up with high school friends.

### **What is your favorite holiday food?**

Usually, around Christmas or New Years, my aunt makes my favorite soup: Albondigas. I love it! It was my favorite growing up. It gives me a feeling of comfort.

## **NEWS AND UPDATES**

### **Building and Winter Break Information**

The ASC is abiding by the Nevada "Statewide Pause" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the ASC building will be closed until 1/19/2021.

**ALL ASC services are available online at [www.unlv.edu/asc](http://www.unlv.edu/asc).**

**Representatives are available to answer questions at  
702-895-3177 during normal business hours.**

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday  
8 AM - 5 PM

Christmas Eve: 8 AM - 1 PM  
New Year's Eve: 8 AM - 4 PM  
Closed Christmas & New Years Day

## **STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS - Faculty Edition**

### **Integrating Tutoring into Course Curriculum**

**by Michael Ramirez, Senior Coordinator for Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring**

If you are a UNLV professor or instructor teaching a challenging course in Spring 2021, consider integrating ASC Tutoring support into your course curriculum. According to Pearson Education, "Research consistently shows a positive correlation between students' use of tutoring and completion and success in their courses." One of the ways that you can give students the best access to support and to see the best results in your course next semester is by incorporating the use of ASC Tutoring in your class. ASC Tutoring offers support to UNLV undergraduate students in a variety of general course subjects such as:

- Lower-division (100 level) Biology



- Lower-division (100 level) Physics
- Lower-division (100-200 level) Chemistry
- Lower-division (100-200 level) Math
- Statistics
- Economics
- Kinesiology
- Lower-division (100 level) Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Lower-division Business courses like Accounting
- And many more

Support is provided by high quality tutors who are rigorously screened and hired directly from the UNLV campus. Our tutors are trained throughout the semester to use innovative, research-based pedagogical methods when tutoring their peers in course material. After UNLV transitioned to an online format in Spring 2020, 83.58% (850/1,017) of students that used ASC Tutoring in general subjects received grade of C- (Satisfactory) or higher (2019-2020 Academic Success Center Annual Assessment Report by Unit).

Here are a few ways ASC Tutoring can be integrated into a course:

- Include an assignment that involves the use of ASC Tutoring in the course syllabus.
- Include time cues for visiting ASC Tutoring into your syllabus.
- Explicitly remind students that ASC Tutors can help them with both preparation for and post-reviews of exams or other assessments.
- Include brief reminders in course announcements.

*Students with posted grades between B- and A after Spring 2020 visited ASC Tutoring an average of 3.4 times during the semester for support in a general course subject.*

*ASC Tutoring can provide proof of attendance for a class or program credit.*

As we move into Spring 2021, consider incorporating ASC Tutoring into your course as another way to support students in your class. If you would like to learn more or would like to discuss further ways ASC Tutoring can partner with your course, please don't hesitate to contact us at [tutoring@unlv.edu](mailto:tutoring@unlv.edu) or (702)895-3199. You can also visit our website for more information at [unlv.edu/asc/tutoring](http://unlv.edu/asc/tutoring).

**Be sure to follow the ASC on Social Media!**



## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship Program: Applications Open Now!

Thousands of students across Nevada may never have the opportunity to earn a college degree primarily because of economic and academic challenges, and there are very few programs in place to help these students. The UNLV Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Program helps make a difference in the lives of these students by providing both financial and academic support through the ASC.

The program provides students:

- A scholarship in the amount of \$1,250 per semester (\$2,500 per year) for up to eight semesters.
- Academic Success Coaching sessions.
- The ability to make a difference through serving peers and giving back to UNLV.
- Access to the Hixson-Lied Success Scholars Newsletter, a monthly newsletter created by the

scholars.

Additional Information & Application

UNLV Academic Success  
Center [www.unlv.edu/asc](http://www.unlv.edu/asc)

