

REACH FOR THE STARS: NV FLIGHT CREW CSI EDITION



On Monday, September 9, 2024, The Nevada Moonshot Flight Crew, an initiative of the Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN), hosted Reach for the Stars: NV Flight Crew CSI Edition at The Mob Museum. The event highlighted the significance of afterschool STEM programs, fostered partnerships, and celebrated the achievements of the 2024 Nevada Flight Crew cohort – youth from across the state of Nevada who are motivated to reimagine who can engineer, who can build, and who can make. These individuals were selected because of their engagement in afterschool programs and passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

A total of 63 attendees from various organizations, municipalities, and the community attended the event. Representatives from Senator Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, and Congresswoman Susie Lee's office were present at the event. Throughout the night, attendees had the opportunity to network with one another and the Flight Crew, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and participate in The Mob Museum's special exhibit, The Crime Lab. In this experience, participants explore the work of crime scene investigators, fingerprint analysts, DNA profilers, ballistics experts, and medical examiners.



Before the event, Flight Crew members gathered in the Mob Museum's exclusive secret room, located within the Speakeasy, where they spent time connecting and preparing for their panel discussions. The event began with a brief introduction to NAN, followed by a handover to the Flight Crew, where they outlined their missions, provided an



overview of the event agenda, and introduced the keynote speaker. Kimberly Murga, Executive Director of the Criminalistics Bureau at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) shared her journey as a woman in STEM and in Forensic Science and highlighted notable forensic scenic cases she has worked on throughout her career, connecting them to STEM. Kim also moderated a panel with Flight Crew members Malia, R'mani, and Danielle where they discussed leadership, their personal STEM journeys, and the impact of the Flight Crew on future career paths.

Following the keynote, Flight Crew members Haizel, Melody, and Teresa led a panel discussion featuring Dr. Margaret Trnka, Assistant Director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Nursing and Dr. Kathleen Thimsen, Forensic Nurse of UNLV and the Academy of Forensic Nursing. The discussion emphasized the significance of STEM in afterschool programs, the integration of STEM in Nursing, and overcoming challenges in STEM. Flight Crew members successfully applied the tools and techniques they have learned throughout the program, effectively amplifying youth voice. The event concluded with a special recognition ceremony, where Flight Crew members were awarded certificates of recognition from Governor Joe Lombardo, Senator Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Congresswoman Susie Lee, and Congressman Mark Amodei.



Attendees were “impressed with the event, the program, the mentors, and the students and are looking forward to the next cohort of the Flight Crew.” They were equally enthusiastic about partnering with the Flight Crew to foster continued growth in STEM education. This program plays a pivotal role in equipping youth with training and opportunities to amplify their voices and share their unique STEM journeys, inspiring both peers and professionals to get involved in the STEM field. With plans to continue the program in 2025, NAN will not only bring in a new cohort but empower previous members as alumni, ensuring that their voices continue to inspire and influence the STEM community.