



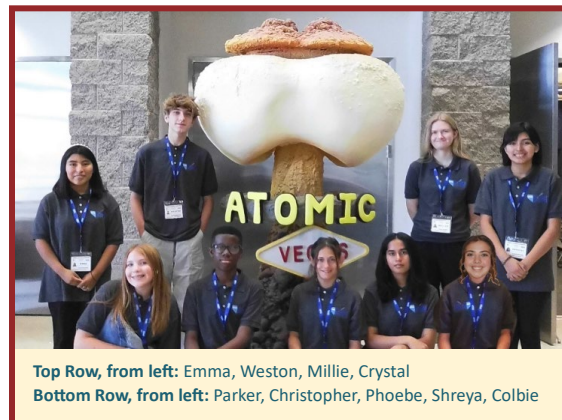
# Reach for the Stars: NV FLIGHT CREW GOES NUCLEAR



Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

On Thursday, June 12, 2025, The Nevada Flight Crew, an initiative of the Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN), hosted Reach for the Stars: NV Flight Crew Goes Nuclear! at the Atomic Museum. The event highlighted the significance of afterschool STEM programs, fostered partnerships, and celebrated the achievements of the 2025 Nevada Flight Crew cohort – youth from across the state of Nevada who are motivated to reimagine who can engineer, and who can build. These individuals were selected because of their engagement in afterschool programs and passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

A total of 62 attendees from various organizations, municipalities, and the community attended the event including families, representatives from the offices of Senator Jacky Rosen, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Congressman Steven Horsford, as well as representatives from the Nevada Department of Education, the Desert Research Institute, the Nevada National Security Site, and several departments from UNLV (School of Public Health, School of Nursing, & College of Engineering). Throughout the morning, attendees had the opportunity to network, hear from the Flight Crew, enjoy brunch and atomic mocktails, and explore the Atomic Museum.



Top Row, from left: Emma, Weston, Millie, Crystal  
Bottom Row, from left: Parker, Christopher, Phoebe, Shreya, Colbie



Top left: Christopher  
Top Right: Matt Malinowski  
Bottom Left: Millie  
Bottom Right: Parker

This event allowed the members of the Flight Crew to demonstrate their leadership and speaking skills. Flight Crew members, Millie & Parker, took the lead in welcoming attendees, introduced the Flight Crew program, and shared their personal STEM journeys highlighting the impact afterschool & STEM programs have had on their lives. Matt Malinowski, Education Director of the Atomic Museum also spoke about the vital role museums play in STEM education, the Atomic Era's lasting impact in Nevada and how it was driven by STEM, and exciting current initiatives at the museum. Next, Flight Crew member Christopher took the stage to share his STEM story and the importance of afterschool before introducing the first panel featuring Dr. Amber Guckes from the Nevada National Security Site and Flight Crew members: Crystal, Emma, and Weston.

To conclude the event, Flight Crew member Weston introduced the final panel moderated by Dr. Linda Johnson Mc-Clinton of Enriching Explorations in Engineering, and Dr. Kathleen Thimsen, a Forensic Nurse and Associate Professor-in-Residence at UNLV School of Nursing. They engaged in meaningful conversation with Flight Crew members: Millie, Phoebe, and Shreya. The discussion emphasized the significance of STEM in afterschool programs and overcoming challenges in STEM.

At the conclusion of the event, Flight Crew members were awarded certificates of recognition from the Nevada Afterschool Network, and the Offices of Senator Jacky Rosen and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.



## STEM PANELS

Top Row, from left: Emma, Crystal, Dr. Amber Guckes, Weston  
Bottom Row, from left: Phoebe, Dr. Linda Johnson Mc-Clinton, Dr. Kathleen Thimsen, Shreya, Millie

This annual event provides a unique and engaging opportunity to demonstrate how this program plays a pivotal role in equipping youth with training and opportunities to amplify their voices and share their unique STEM journeys, inspiring their peers to get involved in STEM, and encouraging professionals to offer support. With plans to continue the program through the 2025-2026 school year, NAN will not only bring in a new cohort of youth but empower previous members to serve as mentors ensuring that their voices continue to inspire and influence the STEM community.