Core Academy believes all children have the right to reach their full potential and pursue individual success.

Our mission is to strengthen character, build brilliant minds and create brighter futures for our community’s most under-resourced youth.
The majority of our Scholars attend a Title 1 School in Clark County where 90% of the current student population qualifies for the Free & Reduced Meal Program. Our Scholars often grow up in homes of generational poverty, located in disadvantaged neighborhoods. They are children whose full potential is limitless, children living in situations that lack the resources necessary for their pursuit of individual success.

What is Core Academy?
We are an in- and out-of-school model that focuses on the development and empowerment of Southern Nevada’s under-resourced youth. Our staff invests an average of 886 hours a year per Core Academy Scholar, individualizing programming to fit their different needs. Our approach is based on the philosophy that long-term, comprehensive support, partnered with a collective impact model, will break the cycle of poverty and allow the young adults we serve to reach their full potential.

Who is a Scholar?
We refer to our students as “Scholars.” Using “Scholar” is one of our tools to help a student begin to untangle a Fixed Mindset and shift towards a Growth Mindset, working towards greatness from the get-go.

What is a Cohort?
Cohort (kō-hôrt) n. 1. a group of people banded together or treated as a group with a common goal.

We are currently serving two cohorts of students. Our Dreamer Cohort are all high school freshman, and have been in the Core program since 6th grade. Our second group of students, the Tomchin Cohort are 6th graders and will continue with us through their high school graduation.

Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.
-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
Character Education

Core believes that having a Growth Mindset and strong foundation of self, grounded in confidence, integrity, respect and worth, are necessary to achieve success. Our Scholars participate in an extensive character education curriculum professionally designed to help them build these powerful character traits. Through one-on-one guidance, they learn how to conduct their lives in-and-out of school, with positivity, curiosity, purpose, gratitude, grit, optimism, self-control, and social and emotional intelligence.

Academic Engagement

We strive to nurture the next generation of innovative, out-of-the-box thinkers, by presenting our curriculum in a variety of unique ways. We provide space, guidance and one-on-one support for each Scholar to be able to uncover their own passion for learning. Core uses the unique teaching method, 4 C’s of Learning in the 21st Century, to promote Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity and Innovation.

Community Service

We believe that the best path to a higher sense of purpose and gratitude begins with serving others. At Core, every Scholar understands the importance and the opportunity of giving back to the very community that supports them. Each month, Scholars work together to identify, plan and execute community service projects rooted in their own passions and interests. Volunteering at the animal shelter or food bank, serving dinner at the rescue mission or assisting local charities, our Scholars are on a mission to inspire others to Do Good Things.

Cultural Enrichment

A very important component to rounding out our model is regularly immersing our Scholars in culturally-enriching activities locally and out-of-state. According to a report published by Child Trends Data Bank, “researchers have found a positive association between arts participation and a number of desirable academic and social outcomes, such as school grades, test scores, enrollment in post-secondary education, attainment of a bachelor’s degree, and higher levels of literacy and civic engagement.”

Basic Needs

As a result of our proven approach to building one-on-one relationships with our Scholars, we are able to quickly identify their basic daily needs, as well as their social-emotional needs, of which both are essential considerations in working to clear a Scholar’s path to success. We work with Core designated community businesses and organizations that align with our Mission, and can help fulfill basic daily needs such as food, clothing, school items, access to health care, in addition to the social-emotional needs of our Scholars both at school and at home.

Mentoring

At Core, our mentoring programs - Individual, Group, and Project-Based - are an essential and necessary component to our program, and even more importantly, to our Scholars’ short-and long-term success. Our committed and dedicated mentors, all of whom are well respected and high achieving members of our community, help our Scholars navigate the many obstacles that may deter them from reaching their goals. Our volunteer mentors are the foundational piece of our successful mentoring program.
“Getting the most out of life isn’t about how much you keep for yourself, but how much you pour into others.”
- DAVID STODDARD

99
AVERAGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS EACH SCHOLAR GIVES BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY EACH YEAR

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There are after-school programs, basic needs providers, and mentoring programs in Southern Nevada. But we pride Core Academy as being all three - the whole package, from the start of our Scholars’ Core career all the way through to their graduation and beyond. Executive Director, Lindsay Harper, has been successfully working with this model since 2005. The Core Academy staff and its Board of Trustees, work diligently with passion and personal investment to achieve Core Academy’s mission on a daily basis. We are committed to operating with the utmost integrity and transparency, meeting the highest ethical and legal standards. Our leadership and how we - as a staff, board and organization - conduct ourselves daily, creates an important imprint on and sets an unparalleled example for the students we work so hard to serve.

The Rogers Foundation is proud to support Core Academy. We believe in the impact and potential of the Character Education model and Core Academy’s goal to bring individualized resources, support and hope to empower Scholars for future success.
How do we help these students believe in themselves? How do we help them be their best and shift their generational path towards success?

With your help. This is how:

Be A Mentor

Core mentors can potentially change the trajectory of a Scholar’s life. We seek mentors who lead by example - as role models who exemplify approachability, accountability, positivity, guidance, honesty, responsibility, respect, ownership, strong work ethic, objectivity, fairness, compassion and genuineness. We hold our mentors in the highest regard and with the greatest respect. These student-mentor relationships, which set us apart from other organizations, are an essential cog in Core’s wheel.

INDIVIDUAL MENTORS work with a single Scholar, one-on-one, to build trust and mutual investment in each other. Individual mentors commit for a minimum of two years, meeting twice monthly, at a minimum. Mentors work to build academic accountability, character development and life-building skills with their Scholar - skills important to their long-term, ongoing success.

GROUP MENTORS guide a larger number of Scholars to set specific goals, define steps to achieve those objectives, and guide the Scholars in making good decisions.

PROJECT-BASED MENTORING, is one of the most impactful services we provide to our Scholars. This internship program redefines what it means to be a true community partner. A fabulous example is Core’s partnership with Las Vegas Chef and Restauranteur, Natalie Young, and the creation and fantastically successful, Chow To The Core program. As participating Scholars progress through the ranks learning every facet of the restaurant business under Chef Natalie’s guidance, they will undoubtedly garner social support and skills training that can catapult them to greater professional success once they finish school.

All mentors must pass an FBI and state background check before becoming a mentor.