

## ***History of the Adelina Gomez Scholars Program***

Beginning in 2010, Dr. Kee Warner—former Associate Vice Chancellor of Inclusiveness and Academic Affairs at UCCS and founding director of the Adelina Gomez Scholars program—began building a partnership with Denver Public Schools and the Denver Scholarship Foundation Future Center counselors to select Adelina Gomez Scholars from every high school in Denver.

The program honors retired UCCS professor Dr. Adelina “Nina” Gomez. Dr. Gomez was raised in Silver City, New Mexico at a time when college was a far-off dream for most Latinas. With few role models from her own social and cultural background, she was often discouraged as she made her way through her undergraduate and graduate education. Yet Dr. Gomez was not deterred; and with the support of mentors and peers, she earned her doctorate in communication from the University of Colorado Boulder. She went on to serve as a cherished faculty member in the UCCS Communication Department for 29 years. The Adelina Gomez Scholars Program honors Nina’s academic career; her passion for making college possible for students from all cultural backgrounds; and her recognition that active support and collaboration across cultural barriers is necessary for this passion to become a reality.

In 2020, the UCCS office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion built a partnership with the UCCS Pre-Collegiate Development Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. The Adelina Gomez Scholars program is now built on a strong collaboration with the University of Colorado Colorado Spring’s (UCCS) office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and the UCCS Pre-Collegiate Support and Success Center.

The Adelina Gomez Scholars are a diverse cohort of rising sophomores and juniors representing 18 schools across the Pikes Peak region. Participating students undergo a rigorous selection process whereby they must complete an application, submit a grade report to confirm their academic standing, write a personal essay and submit two recommendations from their high school teachers or counselors. Students are then selected based on their first-generation status—ie. the first in their family to attend a four year institution—and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

While participating in the Adelina Gomez Scholars Program, students have the opportunity to earn up to eight college credits through UCCS in specially selected courses, including courses in Women’s & Ethnic Studies (WEST), Sociology (SOC) or other foundational courses for students interested in pursuing service-based career paths in the education or human services fields.

## ***The Role of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AVCEDI)***

- Meeting with Gomez Scholars for informal mentoring lunches while students are on-campus during the Summer Academic Institute.
- Participating in Gomez Scholars career pathway field trips as available.
- Serving as a guest speaker/lecturer to share expertise on topics relevant to Gomez Scholars’ coursework during the Summer Academic Institute.
- Meeting with matriculated Gomez Scholars once per semester during students’ first academic year on campus at UCCS.
- Promoting participation of matriculated Gomez Scholars in campus and community events by communicating potential events of interest and extending invitations, as appropriate.