



Life Preparatory Academy

2555 Chelton Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Grades: 9-12

Director: Michael Shephard

Founded in 2006, Life Preparatory Academy (Life Prep) is a Hope Online Learning Center located in a low income area of Colorado Springs with a high concentration of gang activity. Hope Online at Life Prep offers students, who previously did not succeed in the traditional classroom, the opportunity to engage in online education.

“Hope Online students at Life Prep were failing; their report cards were all F’s,” reports Michael Shephard, Learning Center Director. “A one-size-fits-all approach to learning did not arouse their participation, and they assumed negative attitudes about school.”

Fortunately, however, Hope Online students at Life Prep overcame their dislike of academics. According to Mr. Shepard, “Each and every one of these students is very bright. With Hope Online’s curriculum, Individual learning plans, developed for each student by a highly qualified Hope Online teacher, small class sizes, and personal attention from a Learning Center mentor in a safe environment, the students are gaining confidence and excelling academically and socially.”

“Academically, the most notable improvements pertain to the students’ desire to succeed, finish their courses, and learn. With the flexibility to complete assignments appropriate to their ability and master lessons at their own pace, students, who once hated school and didn’t complete their work, are motivated to progress through their studies,” reports Mr. Shepard. “One 11th grader portrays the effectiveness of the Hope Online model. Upon arriving at Life Prep, the student was negative, angry, and didn’t like school, but after only a short time at Hope Online, this student’s entire persona is positive; he is currently the class president, and he is a great leader for other students.

“Our students have dealt with their fair share of failure in their short lives,” explains Mr. Shepard. “But, we believe that our students’ futures are greater than their pasts. With hard work, a positive attitude, and the right learning environment, they are turning failures into successes every day.”

Learning Center Administration

Michael Shephard - Director

Michael Shephard was an active U.S. Army Military Serviceman for over 23 years. He served as direct supervisor to 2,500 soldiers, and he trained over 20,000 soldiers in the performance of their duties. His experience caused Mr. Shepard to dedicate himself to providing youth with a positive academic influence through quality educational options. Mr. Shephard earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from Texas A & M in Prairie View, TX and a Bachelor of Science in Counseling Psychology from Freedom Bible College and Seminary in Rogers, AK.

Drew Powell - Lead Mentor

After his active duty in the military, Lieutenant Drew Powell worked with the Fellowship of Christian athletes and the Colorado Springs chapter of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He is passionate about advancing opportunities for the at-risk youth of his community. Mr. Powell possesses a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Arts in Math from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Hope Online Teacher

Robert Tait – Hope Online Teacher

Rob Tait is an eager and enthusiastic Colorado licensed teacher with a passion for working with youth. He served as the Area Director for Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch for several summers and, while attending college, he was the Director of the International Film Series. Mr. Tait earned a Bachelor of Arts in History with an emphasis in Secondary Education and Philosophy with an emphasis in Ethics and Public Policy from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.