Each of Wyoming’s seven community colleges hosted summer academies for their GEAR UP students. Over 250 students participated statewide. They explored college resources, college academic life, financial aid options, and career opportunities.

Many of the summer academies emphasized science research and career exploration. Students had the opportunity to participate in science experiments involving air pressure, computer modeling, and flight in collaboration with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). Through this partnership, students were able to perform weather-related science experiments with graduate and undergraduate volunteers from the University of Wyoming. Some GEAR UP programs were also able to tour the NCAR facility in Boulder, Colorado and witness the installation of the NCAR supercomputer near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Students from Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) also visited Flaming Gorge Dam and experienced campus life at WWCC. Eastern Wyoming College students learned about birds and the science behind their ability to fly in different types of weather. Northern Wyoming Community College District students experienced an interactive tour of the Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Students at Northwest College wrote, edited, and performed their own radio shows which were then broadcast by KNWT, the college radio station.
Central Wyoming College students explored careers at the Cedar Point Biological Station, Ogallala Dam, and a small theatre. Laramie County Community College had an on-campus summer academy where students experienced mock college classes. The GEAR UP summer academy from Casper College worked on a service project on Casper Mountain in which they helped rebuild a fence around a 1891 cemetery plot in the abandoned mining town of Edesville.

Students also took trips to visit colleges or universities in Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Nebraska, and Colorado this summer. These trips enabled students to tour college campuses and explore their post-high school education options.

By the Numbers
GEAR UP Wyoming students enroll in college at a much higher rate than other Wyoming students. In 2008, 14% of low-income students in Wyoming enrolled in college. From 2005-2011, 67% of GEAR UP students enrolled in college the fall semester immediately following high school graduation, and 77% of GEAR UP students enrolled in college by June 2011.

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Student Resources

Strategies for Succeeding in College

Beginning your college education means you'll be exploring a new place, making new friends, and setting your own priorities. You are going to face a lot of big changes in a short time. That's exciting — and challenging. Here are some realities to consider, and a few common-sense ways to help you handle these new challenges.

College Work Is Harder

The material covered in college courses is more complex than material taught in high school classes, and it's presented at a faster pace. Professors may assign more reading, writing, and problem sets than in high school.

Your Strategy: Give yourself an opportunity to adjust gradually to the new academic demands. Choose a course load that includes some challenging classes and others that are less intense.

You Make the Schedule

You are responsible for managing your time in college. It's your responsibility to get to your classes on time, complete all your assignments, and be prepared for exams.

Your Strategy: Use a calendar to record when and where your classes meet, when assignments are due, and when tests occur. Create reminders for deadlines and important dates. When you plan your schedule, give yourself plenty of time to study and write papers. That way, you can avoid completing work at the last minute.

More Independence — and Responsibility

It's time for you to take control of your life. That means you have to manage your own finances and daily life, as well as keeping yourself healthy and focused. Colleges have support systems to help you, but now it's your responsibility.

Your Strategy: Make smart decisions. For example, when it comes to your money, stick to a budget and spend wisely. When it comes to your health, get enough sleep, eat well, and pay attention to what your body tells you. You need energy to enjoy all that college has to offer and to succeed in getting a good education.

A New Social Scene

Social opportunities abound. You may have the chance to meet different people, join a new crowd, and if you want, even remake your image.

Your Strategy: Join clubs, sports teams, and freshman interest groups. Say hello to people in the dorm and in your classes. Remember that new friendships can be exhilarating, but true friendships are formed slowly. When participating in social events and activities, consider your choices carefully.

Reach Out to Resources

College is full of resources — professors, tutors, counselors, and resident advisers. Help and advice are available, but it's up to you to seek them out. The good news is that once you do adjust to college life, it opens new doors to all sorts of learning — and living.

Your Strategy: Take advantage of the academic and other resources your college offers to help you in your transition and college success! Resources to help your studies may include tutoring, freshman interest groups, writing centers, mathematics labs, or informal study groups. Remember to ask your academic advisor for advice regarding your major and your course load. Other resources include the Financial Aid Office, Residential Advisors (RAs) in your dorm, Health Services, the Counseling Center, Religious Centers, Information Technology support, the Career Center, and the Student Activities Office.

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Each community college and UW will be serving GEAR UP first-year college students with peer mentoring, tutoring, advising, and more!

Adapted from CollegeBoard http://www.collegeboard.com
Scholarships

- GEAR UP Scholarship recipients attending community colleges: please email bmarino1@uwyo.edu with your community college email address so that you will receive your Fall ‘12 award letters.
- Students transferring between community colleges and/or the University of Wyoming: please email bmarino1@uwyo.edu so that your GEAR UP scholarship is transferred.
- The deadline for the 2011 UW Institutional Scholarship for the Spring ‘12 semester is November 1.

Parent Pointers

Did you know when parents compliment their children, children are more likely to succeed in school and in the workplace? Compliments are a positive comment and should be tied to a specific action, choice, or behavior. For example “Good job on your free throws tonight” is more specific and meaningful than “Good game.”

Challenge yourself. Can you give your child three compliments this week? Try these for starters:

- When you do (fill in the blank), you make me proud.
- When you do (fill in the blank), you make me happy.
- I appreciate how hard you work at school (or a sport, job, task at home).
- I am proud of your good grades (or ____________).
- Thank you for being my child. I enjoy spending time with you.
- You are really good at this.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Remember that FERPA rights transfer from the parents to the student when a student enters college at any age. Students must sign a consent form to allow parents to see financial and educational records. For more information, visit:

http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/faq.html

ACT® College Entrance Exam – 2012-2013 Test Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>(Late Fee Required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 27, 2012</td>
<td>September 21, 2012</td>
<td>September 22 - October 5, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2012</td>
<td>November 2, 2012</td>
<td>November 3 - 16, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2013</td>
<td>May 3, 2013</td>
<td>May 4 - 17, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Wyoming eleventh-grade students will take the ACT in April at their schools. Students who want to take the test again can visit the following ACT website to register for the test and to locate testing centers:

www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

GEAR UP WYOMING students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT test fee waiver. (GEAR UP WYOMING cannot pay for or waive late fees.)

Also, GEAR UP WYOMING students have free access to ACT preparation programs.
Education Spotlight: GEAR UP at Eastern Wyoming College

Eastern Wyoming College asked their schools, students, and parents what they valued most about GEAR UP. Below are some of the answers they received.

“GEAR UP and its program has helped me to accomplish my goals. It also has helped me to be more prepared for college and to move on to the workforce. I have the confidence to achieve anything. A big thanks to EWC GEAR UP!”

– Constance Miller, Newcastle High School Student

“I have learned how important the “Eight Keys to Success” really are. I have made lifelong friends and established relationships with EWC GU staff and know they will be there for me when I need them.”

– Conrad Conner, Torrington High School Student

“GEAR UP has been one of the best experiences in my life, it gave me the resources to excel in college and put me ahead of everyone else by exposing me to the environment that college is. Also, it surrounded me with wonderful people, including the staff and students from around the state that are now life time friends. Overall GEAR UP is a blessing, and I'll take what I have learned from it to make a difference in the world.”

– Joe Banuelos, Douglas High School Student

“GEAR UP gives me the resources that will allow me to get ahead in life. This includes college and beyond.”

– Chrystian Saucedo, Torrington High School Student

“I have been given the chance to succeed in college and beyond. I won’t let the program down!”

– Tani Thomas, Glenrock High School Student

“The program is really cool that gets students excited to go college and beyond. Love it!”

– Jodi Palmer, Parent with two children in the EWC GEAR UP program

“GEAR UP means a good future for my children.”

– Diane Servantez, Parent with three children in the EWC GEAR UP program

“I just love GEAR UP. The support I have received is second to none, and they are always there for me when I need them.”

– Curtis Clark, Hulett High School Student

“I would not know what I would be doing with my life if I did not have GEAR UP. It helped me focus on the future, and the support I received I feel gives me a better start in life.”

– Kyler Copsey, Guernsey High School Student

“GER UP has helped me want to succeed with the confidence I needed.”

– Cole Conner, Torrington High School Student

“I love GEAR UP! I am so excited to go to college because of the support I have received from this program.”

– Finessa Palmer, Wheatland High School Student

“GEAR UP has helped me to accomplish my goals. It also has helped me to be more prepared for college and to move on to the workforce. I have the confidence to achieve anything. A big thanks to EWC GEAR UP!”

– Constance Miller, Newcastle High School Student
While in college, I realized I could accomplish more than I had believed possible. It took a long time for me to realize my own strength and that I could talk to people and make friends. GEAR UP helped me to do that. GEAR UP helped me to get into college and feel more aware of my own abilities.

A lot has changed in the last four years. I became happier with who I was. I became happier with my own abilities and with my creativity. I was able to use my voice with poetry, and that was a big accomplishment for me. In these past four years, I have grown so much. I’ve made great friends. I continue having a supportive family; I’m happy about that. My mom, my dad, and my sister have always been supportive. But growing and having friends as well as a new family was a big thing for me. In these four years, I never thought I’d be where I am right now.

I had the opportunity in my sophomore year of college to go to China as an ambassador for the University. I’ve gone to multiple student Alternative Spring Breaks to volunteer at animal shelters or to volunteer with the homeless. I’ve also attended conferences and have been involved in class presentations about sexual violence and substance abuse.

This past year, I received UW’s award for outstanding top graduating male. I’m planning on going to graduate school in a few years, but for now my goal is to work in social services. When I do return for graduate school, I want to get a Masters in Social Work and Public Health. My ultimate goal is to create programs that are research based, but also can address community health issues and create stronger communities and relationships. GEAR UP helped pave the way, but I know now that I can do a lot myself. You have to have faith in yourself.
GEAR UP WYOMING offers the following professional development opportunities at no cost to GEAR UP schools. GEAR UP students are 7th through 12th graders who meet income-eligibility requirements and want assistance in graduating high school and enrolling in college. GEAR UP WYOMING welcomes the opportunity to discuss sponsoring other types of professional development beyond what is listed below, providing the training meets the GEAR UP goals and objectives.

**aha!Process Workshops**

aha!Process is the organization founded by Dr. Ruby Payne who is most well known for her book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, and work regarding educating students from low-income backgrounds. There are several workshops offered by aha!Process that fit well with the GEAR UP WYOMING mission of helping students graduate from high school and enroll in college.


**ACT, PLAN and EXPLORE Data Interpretative Workshops**

In an ACT, PLAN or EXPLORE workshop, staff will learn how to quickly interpret student and school reports to improve student achievement. Workshops are usually 3 hours and include training with your own student data. The workshop can be completely customized to meet the specific training needs of your staff.

**Ignition**

Ignition is a comprehensive research-based transition to high school and peer mentor program. Students in transition who have a mentor are more academically and socially successful. Upperclassmen and advisors receive the training and curriculum they need to develop a sustainable program that has a positive impact on the entire school.

**GEAR UP WYOMING Quantum Learning Site License**

Quantum Learning for Teachers (QLT) Levels 1-5 (Each level is a one-day, six-hour workshop)

This professional development program for educators provides proven strategies that motivate students and boost achievement. Under the GEAR UP WYOMING site license, QLT can be offered at any Wyoming school or district where at least 50% of the staff attending are secondary educators. The workshops are delivered by one of the fully certified Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators at a rate that is far less than the typical Quantum Learning Network charge. Summer dates are currently available but you are encouraged to book early. GEAR UP WYOMING does not sponsor this workshop but instead coordinates the booking with a Wyoming facilitator so that schools and districts can receive the greatly reduced site license rates.

For more information about workshops sponsored by GEAR UP WYOMING or the Quantum Learning for Teachers workshops, contact Sara Whittle at (307) 766-6736 or swhittle@uwyo.edu. At least thirty days advance booking is required for most workshops. These workshops may be scheduled during school days, staff development days, or summer.

GEAR UP Wyoming is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling $3,548,876 annually with an additional $3,548,876 annually provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions.
GEAR UP Wyoming is a statewide program that serves 2,000 7th-12th grade income-eligible students each year. Wyoming's seven community colleges provide services to these students and encourage them not only to complete high school, but to enter and succeed at a postsecondary institution. The GEAR UP WYOMING program also supports students through their first year of college.

GEAR UP WYOMING is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling $3,548,876 annually with an additional $3,548,876 annually provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions.

National GEAR UP Week - September 10-14, 2012

GEAR UP WYOMING staff members visited the offices of Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso, and Representative Lummis during the National GEAR UP Conference in Washington, D.C. during July 2012.

Front row (left to right): Judy Trujillo, Gabe Eklund Rowley, Rakhshi Hamid, and Shelley Cole
Back Row: Michael Wade

GEAR UP will be celebrating National GEAR UP Week across the state with a variety of activities.