GEAR UP WYOMING has initiated a new summer program called Camp GEAR UP for current 8th grade through 12th grade GEAR UP students. Camp GEAR UP will be held at the University of Wyoming (UW) July 25-29, 2011. More than 300 high school students from Wyoming’s seven community college GEAR UP programs have already registered for the camp.

The Camp GEAR UP staff has planned an intensive schedule of events with activities in three different locations: the University of Wyoming main campus, Curt Gowdy State Park, and the University of Wyoming Recreation Camp, located in Medicine Bow National Forest.

A variety of college preparatory events are planned for the students, including leadership building activities, a college financial aid workshop, a career services workshop, a “Leave No Trace” canoe adventure, and a Wyoming college fair which will include Wyoming’s seven community colleges. There will also be evening activities such as “Movie on the Lawn”; a campus recreation night at UW’s Half Acre Gym; and GEAR UP’s Got Talent, a showcase highlighting student talents.

At Camp GEAR UP, students will truly “Experience the Possibilities.”
Student Resources

GEAR UP WYOMING is dedicated to student success in high school as well as to enrollment and success in college. To assist in this mission, GEAR UP WYOMING offers all GEAR UP students access to PrepMe, an online ACT preparation program. PrepMe provides students the opportunity to prepare for taking the ACT college admissions test and achieve the best score possible.

Because of its online format, many people might think that PrepMe can only be used if you have access to a computer - NOT TRUE. GEAR UP students have the ability to print off any of the quizzes and exams to practice at home. Once complete, they simply upload the answers into PrepMe to see their score and receive individualized guidance for areas which may need improvement.

Also, exclusively offered to GEAR UP WYOMING students is the ability to get printed copies of any of the 83 lessons included in PrepMe. These easy-to-follow lessons target specific academic areas a student may be working to improve.

Ask your GEAR UP Coordinator about PrepMe!

ACT College Entrance Exam – 2011 Test Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>(Late Fee Required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 11, 2011</td>
<td>May 6, 2011</td>
<td>May 7 – 20, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2011</td>
<td>November 4, 2011</td>
<td>November 5-18, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GEAR UP WYOMING students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT test fee waiver.

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/register.html

GEAR UP WYOMING students are able to interact with the evening and ask them questions they may have about college.

Community College Spotlight

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) serves 460 GEAR UP students in the five counties of Carbon, Sweetwater, Sublette, Uinta, and Lincoln. WWCC GEAR UP serves students in 35 schools in southwestern Wyoming.

Ten staff members provide services to the students. These services include lunch workshops, tutoring, after-school programs, and family events with topics ranging from test prep skills to college life.

WWCC’s biggest events are nights at the theatre. Students and their families come to WWCC’s campus, and the evening starts with dinner, followed by workshops. The night’s finale is a musical by WWCC’s theatre department. Students and their families love attending this event and are quick to ask when the next one will be. Workshop topics during the theatre events have included financial aid presentations, Hathaway Curriculum, United Way Services, Centsible Nutrition program, test-taking skills, college life, college housing, and a panel of current college students. GEAR UP students are able to interact with the panel and ask them questions they may have about college.

Each spring, WWCC GEAR UP students visit a community college in Wyoming. WWCC takes junior and senior students on the trip, stopping first at a museum and then visiting the campus. The two-day trip has been a great success, and WWCC values the importance of showing GEAR UP students their many college options. WWCC has taken students to Laramie County Community College, Casper College, Northwest College, Central Wyoming College, and Eastern Wyoming College. Each fall, WWCC also takes students to the University of Wyoming’s Campus Pass, a unique college visit to the university’s campus.

“WWCC values the importance of showing GEAR UP students their many college options.”

WWCC also provides two summer academies for high school students. GEAR UP students live on campus for three full days of workshops, classes, and team building activities. Other events include human foosball, dodgeball, swimming, and using WWCC’s game room. A highlight of summer academy is Reality Town, an educational program that gives realistic financial experience. Students are given a family scenario and a job. They have to visit businesses in Reality Town such as Buckaroos Daycare, Mustang Mall, or Western Insurance Company. The goal is to have money left over at the end of the month after visiting all the businesses. Students come to realize the importance of having a quality education and budget planning. Reality Town has been an eye-opener for WWCC’s GEAR UP students, and they thoroughly enjoy the event.

WWCC has built a successful GEAR UP program because of the relationships staff members have built with students and their families. Those relationships are key to helping students be successful in school and create aspirations of post-secondary education.
Scholarship Corner

Alina Fatima is a graduate of Rock Springs High School who participated in the Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) GEAR UP program. She recently graduated from WWCC with an Associate of Science degree and transferred to the University of Wyoming (UW). While attending WWCC, Alina received the GEAR UP WWCC institutional scholarship.

GUWY: How did you learn about the GEAR UP Program?
Alina: I joined in April of 2006, so I was a sophomore.

GUWY: What type of scholarship were you awarded?
Alina: When I started college, I received the WWCC institutional GEAR UP scholarship.

GUWY: Why did you choose the colleges you attended or are attending?
Alina: I chose WWCC because it’s close to home, and I wasn’t ready to leave. Plus, I received so much money that I could pay for everything easily. Also, the in-state tuition was affordable, and UW has a good engineering program.

GUWY: What are you majoring in?
Alina: Chemical Engineering

GUWY: Did the scholarship at WWCC meet your needs?
Alina: Yes, more than enough. I’m a non-eligible, non-U.S. citizen, so I am not eligible for the GEAR UP scholarships offered at UW.

GUWY: Did you receive support from GEAR UP staff while attending college?
Alina: Yes, I came to Laura (Grossnickle, GEAR UP Assistant Coordinator) every time I was feeling down, or I would text her. It really helped.

GUWY: How did having your financial needs met affect you?
Alina: I didn’t have to worry about my job, as I only worked one day per week. I didn’t have to stress about my dad working hard and having to use his money. I have a big workload as an engineering student so it allowed me to focus on school. I am really thankful to the GEAR UP program.

GUWY: When will you graduate and what are your plans?
Alina: I will graduate in 2013 and will look for a job or return to Pakistan.

Quantum Learning for Teachers (QLT) Levels 1-5

Upcoming Professional Development

May 14, Cheyenne
The R Rules Facilitator Training
This workshop is for staff at alternative high schools or who work with at-risk secondary students.

June 21 and 22, Casper
Coaching for Student Success
This workshop is for secondary Instructional Facilitators.

GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development

GEAR UP WYOMING offers the following professional development opportunities at no cost to schools with GEAR UP students.

aha!Process Workshops
aha!Process is an organization founded by Dr. Ruby Payne who is well known for her 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. Some specific examples of those workshops include “A Framework for Understanding Poverty”, “School Improvement: Raising Achievement with 9 Systemic Processes”, “Engage and Graduate Your Secondary Students: Preventing Dropouts”, “The R Rules Facilitator Training” and “Under Resourced Learners”. For more detailed information about these workshops and others visit http://www.ahaprocess.com/.

ACT, PLAN and EXPLORE Data Interpretative Workshops
In ACT, PLAN or EXPLORE workshops, staff will learn how to quickly interpret student and school reports to improve student achievement. Workshops are usually three 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.

In Remembrance
Ms. Ann R. McNeal,
our GEAR UP Program Officer at the U.S. Department of Education, passed away on December 16, 2010.
Educational Access Day

On February 24, 2011, forty students and staff from the Laramie County Community College GEAR UP and SAGE TRiO programs visited the Wyoming State Capitol. First Lady Carol Mead delivered a proclamation, signed by Governor Mead, declaring the day as Educational Access Day, a day to celebrate and advocate for federally funded programs that increase access to education for students who are under represented in college such as those with limited income, disabilities, or first generation.