



GEAR UP WYOMING Awarded New Grant!

Looking Forward; Looking Back

GEAR UP WYOMING is pleased to announce that it has received a new seven-year grant from the United States Department of Education and is looking forward to continuing to provide eligible students and their parents with academic support and college preparation as well as providing educators with the necessary training to prepare these students for college.

GEAR UP WYOMING had its beginnings in 2002 when Fuji Adachi, former director of the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) at the University of Wyoming, learned of a federal grant that would help under represented students realize their dreams of attending college. He had a vision for the grant proposal and developed a partnership between the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education, and Wyoming's community colleges.

On April 8, 2005, Governor Freudenthal officially designated the University of Wyoming as the lead agency to apply for and to administer the state GEAR UP grant. During that same year, the grant was submitted and awarded. The grant provided funding for six years and has been renewed twice since that time.

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Under the new GEAR UP grant, at least 2,000 7th-12th grade, income-eligible students will be served by GEAR UP WYOMING each year. Through a partnership with Wyoming's community colleges, students will receive academic guidance and support to prepare them for high school graduation and college success.

In addition to student support, GEAR UP WYOMING will offer professional development opportunities for 7th-12th grade school personnel in a partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education. These programs will be aimed at increasing student academic performance and supporting a college-going culture.

The grant will allow GEAR UP WYOMING to continue to build upon its accomplishments. 🇺🇸

GEAR UP WYOMING Welcomes New Grant Manager

In July, Kristi Russow joined GEAR UP WYOMING as grant manager. Prior to accepting the position, Kristi served as project coordinator with Educational Opportunity Center, a TRIO program that helps qualified individuals in Wyoming enter or continue a program postsecondary education. The majority of her career had been working to prepare students at the college level to become K-12 educators.



Kristi Russow of

Kristi received her Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and her Masters of Education in school administration from South Dakota State University. She has three children. Two are attending the University of Wyoming, and one is in high school.

Kristi's expertise is a great asset to the GEAR UP program, and GEAR UP WYOMING is pleased to welcome her. 🇺🇸

Looking Back: Memories From the 2011-2017 Grant



My favorite memory was my first overnight trip to NWCC and Yellowstone in 2014.

*Angela Maaaman
Laramie County Community College*

My favorite times with GEAR UP have always been getting to know students and their families and helping each student navigate their path to college and beyond. Being asked to write recommendation letters for scholarships and jobs and speaking on behalf of students is one of the best things about my job. Traveling and spending extended time with students allows the opportunity to really get to know each student and their interests. Many wonderful memories to cherish and many more to make.

Andrea Covert, Casper College



Some of my favorite memories were enjoying fun evenings with students and their families at financial aid and game nights!

Tami Shultz, Central Wyoming College

One memory that stands out for me is from about a month ago. One of my seniors had applied for the STARS scholarship (which is a full-ride scholarship) at Michigan State University. She didn't receive it, and as a result, thought her hopes for going to college had been dashed, because her family's financial situation is dire. She thought receiving that scholarship was the only way she would be able to afford higher education. I visited with her about attending a Wyoming community college, instead. I let her know that if she decided to attend Sheridan College and live at home, her Pell Grant, Hathaway and GEAR UP scholarships would most likely cover all of her tuition, books and other expenses. She let out a huge sigh of relief and the look of excitement on her face was priceless. It was like a whole new world had opened up to her! She is planning on attending Sheridan College this Fall and is very excited about the music program. This is why we do what we do!

Denise Scammon, Sheridan College

I have many wonderful memories from my middle school days; however, I believe the overall experience of working together with students, parents, and administration along with GEAR UP staff has made the influential difference in the program there. I always encouraged student feedback whether it was as trivial as decorating a bulletin board, or full blown discussions concerning student rights and responsibilities. And I always included parents and administration to attend monthly meetings or holiday events. Although I'll miss the students at the middle school, I love seeing them as adults attending Eastern Wyoming College and continuing their education. I have thoroughly enjoyed my roles within GEAR UP, and look forward to the future of this amazing program and its supportive opportunities for our Wyoming students.

Judy Brown, Eastern Wyoming College

My best moments of working with GEAR UP are the memories created with the students and families we serve. I find that as I assist students, I often assist parents in returning to college as well. Many times over the years, parents have also returned to college after filing the FAFSA with their student!

My proudest moments as a professional in the past decade is mentoring young scholars. In particular, one of my students was nominated and awarded the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) Student of the Year. GEAR UP was able to take him to the annual conference in San Francisco, where he delivered a phenomenal speech in front of 1,500 people. He was offered a job afterward, and he was stopped and congratulated many times by those who attended his speech. A year later, Texas Instruments did a follow-up article on him. It was really special that GEAR UP was able to provide the opportunity for him to attend the conference. He now attends Purdue on a full-ride scholarship from Daniels Fund and is currently studying abroad in Japan.

Kristin Young, Gillette College

Where are they now?

Sean Miller is a GEAR UP Alumnus who graduated from Cheyenne East High School and University of Wyoming. He continued his education and received a Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in special education.

Could you give us a short biography of your experiences since high school?

I am GEAR UP WYOMING alumnus and also a 2009 Daniels Fund Scholar recipient.

I was introduced to GEAR UP when I was in middle school. My older sister was in the program, and my mom, being a single parent and caring about our future, enrolled me as well. I know this sounds cliché, but without GEAR UP, I probably would not have gone to college.

I graduated from University of Wyoming in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Gender and Women's Studies with a minor in Disability Studies. After I graduated, I served two years as an AmeriCorps volunteer with City Year, an education nonprofit dedicated to helping at risk students succeed.

Next, I received my Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in special education and taught in middle school for two years in Roanoke, Virginia.

What are you doing now?

I'm now working with City Year in Boston. I manage a group of AmeriCorps members through a year of service where we tutor and mentor students who are at risk of dropping out of high school.

What resources did you use while in college?

Student Educational Opportunity was very helpful, particularly Student Success Services. I also used Disability Support Services when I needed some extra assistance in some of my classes. I learned that if I didn't ask questions, I was most likely not going to get the answers I needed.

What strategies would you encourage for students struggling in academics?

Definitely talk to your teachers and get help! It is never too late to ask for help. I have seen and worked with



Sean Miller served for two years as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

amazing people who care about student success. No one likes to see anyone fail, but I have learned the hard way that if you do not seek help and ask questions, no one will know that you are struggling. Learn to self-advocate for your educational goals and desires, because when you are in a class of over 100 people, your professor might not know who you are. I also tried to meet with most of my professors throughout the course, so they could put a face with a name.

Were you a peer mentor, and if so, what was one of your fondest memories from being a peer mentor?

Yes I was. My favorite was participating in Camp GEAR UP. The opportunity to expose students to higher education at a young age is super important.

What are some of the most important things you learned from GEAR UP?

GEAR UP provided me with the knowledge of how to get to college and, most importantly, how to find the support network to keep me in college. GEAR UP provided me with the opportunity to go to college, since my family would not have been able to support me.

“GEAR UP provided me with the knowledge of how to get to college and, most importantly, how to find the support network to keep me in college.”

What is one thing you wished you knew when you were a high school student?

Having confidence in myself and truly knowing what I wanted to do in college. I went through the first two years of college struggling to find my identity and the career path I wanted. I was the student that would bounce through a few majors, because either my interests changed or the classes that I needed for a particular program didn't stick with me or keep me engaged.

What would you like to say to other GEAR UP students?

I would say to find that person or a group of people who are not only going to motivate you to be your best, but to also support you no matter what. When you go to college or in any career, try to find a mentor who will not only support you but to push you to be your best. Another piece of advice that I would tell students is to enjoy every moment you can. High school goes by so fast! Enjoy every moment you can while still thinking of the long term. 📷

GEAR UP Summer Academies

This summer, Wyoming's community colleges hosted summer academies for their GEAR UP students. They explored topics such as college resources, financial aid options, and career opportunities. Students also experienced a college readiness bus tour.

Eastern Wyoming College

Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP students visited Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. They toured the campus and learned about financial aid and scholarships.

They also spent time on the Eastern Wyoming College campus where they studied the art of welding. Groups of students designed and produced sculptures using math, art, and welding concepts. The individual sculptures were joined into one large sculpture to be raffled to raise money to aid GEAR UP students attending Eastern Wyoming College.



Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP students studied the art of welding and the concepts involved in creating sculptures.

Laramie County Community College

Laramie County Community College kicked off summer by discussing the various GEAR UP summer activities and giving participants an opportunity to meet and work with participants from other schools.

Summer activities included college visits and career exploration. Students visited the University of Wyoming campus to learn about financial aid and the various college majors. GEAR UP students also met with professionals to explore career opportunities and the education required for specific careers.



Students volunteered at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens to learn about careers in horticulture.

Northwest College

GEAR UP students from Northwest College toured Rocky Mountain College and Montana State University, Billings. They learned about financial aid and scholarships.

Afterwards, they went to Camp Roberts in the Bighorn Mountains. Students were challenged to interact and participate in activities that are out of the norm of daily life. Camp life centered on breaking down barriers, seizing the moment, and pushing the limits of what students thought was possible. All of this was tied to the dreams and ambitions students have for their postsecondary education and what it takes to achieve them.



The Bighorn Mountains where Northwest College GEAR UP students worked on breaking down barriers.

Central Wyoming College

GEAR UP staff from Central Wyoming College met with students immediately after their last day of school for the year to celebrate the past year and to prepare them for summer. Students were engaged in a discussion of goals for the next year, and ideas were shared about how to make summer fun and productive. A bag was given to each student with food treats, mind teaser games, information on summer recreation programs, and other ideas on how to spend their summer active and involved with family, friends, and community.



Central Wyoming College GEAR UP students visiting colleges in Denver, Colorado during the summer bus tour.

Northern Wyoming Community College District

Northern Wyoming Community College District GEAR UP students learned about technical programs and associated careers through their summer academy, "Day of the Diesel".

Students learned vital skills that every driver should know about basic car maintenance and repair such as how

to safely change a tire and perform a pre-trip inspection. They also spent time at the diesel facility at Gillette College inspecting and identifying different fuels and fluids that are used in vehicles.

In addition, students learned about tech scholarships and dual/concurrent enrollment classes.



Northern Wyoming Community College District GEAR UP students learned about technical careers at the Gillette College diesel facility.

Casper College

College immersion was the theme of Casper College's summer academy. GEAR UP students attended mock college courses, learned about admissions and financial aid, and worked together to navigate the Casper College campus for a unique perspective on the life of a college student.



Casper College GEAR UP students learned about admissions and financial aid during their campus visits.

Western Wyoming Community College

Western Wyoming Community College GEAR UP students visited Ogden-Weber Technical College and Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. They toured the campuses and explored financial aid options, academic planning, and career counseling.

They also joined the summer bus tour that visited college campuses in Denver. 📍



Western Wyoming Community College GEAR UP students at the Coors Field during the summer bus tour.

College Readiness Bus Tour

This summer, GEAR UP WYOMING partnered with FOCUS Training to allow GEAR UP students a chance to truly experience college life. College visits included the University of Northern Colorado, the Community College of Denver, the University of Colorado, and the University of Denver.

At each location, students met with an admissions representative, a student panel, and a faculty member. The goal was to provide a unique experience showcasing programs, departments, and experiences on each campus.

Throughout the several days together, students learned about the importance of FAFSA completion and applying for scholarships. They also learned about careers, college searches and selection, and campus life. 📍



Central Wyoming College GEAR UP students during the bus tour.



Students from all over Wyoming gather at a stadium during the summer bus tour.

Don't forget to complete the FAFSA!

You can access the FAFSA for the 2019-20 school year beginning on October 1, 2018.

Visit fafsa.ed.gov

GEAR UP Takes You Places!

While many GEAR UP students choose to attend college in Wyoming, others have had the opportunity to attend out of state colleges. Some of the institutions that former GEAR UP students are attending include:

Iowa State University, Iowa
 Brigham Young University, Hawaii
 Purdue University, Indiana
 Miles Community College, Montana
 Black Hills State University, South Dakota
 Emory University, Georgia
 Academy of Performing & Creative Arts, New York
 Cedarville University, Ohio
 Johnson & Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island
 Carroll College, Montana
 Columbia University, New York
 Vassar College, New York
 U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado
 Montana State University, Montana
 Western Nebraska Community College, Nebraska
 Colorado State University, Colorado
 South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota
 University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A number of students have been able to study abroad as well. They've experienced academic life in such places as London, England; Salamanca, Spain; British Columbia; Ireland; Japan; and Mongolia.

GEAR UP truly takes you places. 📷



National University of Ireland's branch campus in Maynooth where GEAR UP student, Saige Albert, studied abroad.

Follow GEAR UP WYOMING on:

Daniels Fund Scholarships

Eight GEAR UP students from Wyoming received Daniels Fund scholarships for 2018.

The Daniels Fund awards scholarships to promising students from limited-income families who "demonstrate strength of character, a well-rounded personality and a record of accomplishment in giving back to the community." The scholarship covers full college costs not met through other types of financial aid. Scholarships were awarded to:

Romello Tyrell Wallace Central High School
 Hailey Grace Barkhurst Encampment High School
 Cedar Ann Eyre Lyman High School
 Alexander James Turner Lyman High School
 Maxwell Gary Turner Lyman High School
 Faith Korbin Pfeifer Mountain View High School
 Dorothy Alva Conway Shoshoni High School
 Luke David Gregorio South High School 📷

Northwest College Scholarship Recipients

Delanie Campbell (Worland) was a finalist in the 2018 Questbridge competition. She was accepted to Colorado College, Bowdoin College, and Emory University through the Questbridge Program. She is attending Bowdoin College in Maine where she received an annual scholarship for \$64,910.



Delanie Campbell



Kristen Hull

Kirsten Hull (Cody) was chosen as a 2018 Questbridge Scholar. She is currently attending Hamilton College in New York as a freshman. Kirsten received an annual scholarship of \$69,000. She was the valedictorian for Cody High School.

Eduardo Burgos (Emblem) is attending Swarthmore College. He was awarded nearly \$68,000 in scholarships from the institution. He was the valedictorian at Greybull High School.



Eduardo Burgos

Jordan Moore (Powell) is a 2018 UW Trustees Pride recipient at the University of Wyoming. 📷

Professional Development

GEAR UP WYOMING offers a diverse range of professional development opportunities for educators and administrators throughout the state of Wyoming.

In-school trainings are offered at low or no cost to GEAR UP WYOMING schools. General professional development topics include student engagement, student transitions, ACT preparation for teachers, ACT data interpretation, and working with under-resourced learners. In addition, GEAR UP WYOMING welcomes the opportunity to discuss sponsoring other types of professional development, provided the training meets the GEAR UP WYOMING goals and objectives and funding is available.

Throughout the last year regional workshops hosted by GEAR UP WYOMING have included topics such as ACT preparation and assessment, a wide range of topics on best practices on the successful engagement and mentoring of under-resourced learners, and, finally, coaching and leadership strategies. These workshops are majorly provided to a wide range of 7th through 12th educational professions, like administrators, classroom teachers, and district Instructional Facilitators and Extended Day staff.

In addition to offering in-school and regional workshops, GEAR UP WYOMING partnered with AdvancED on their Fall 2017 semiannual Continuous Improvement Conferences. Through work with AdvancED, GEAR UP WYOMING has been able to offer guest speakers and

conference resources to hundreds of Wyoming's educators and administrators. Additionally, for the second year in a row GEAR UP Partnered with the Gillette College Foundation on the 2018 Learning Disabilities Summit titled, Strategies to Increase Learning for All, last April 2018. This conference featured presentations on Dyslexia, Mindfulness, Self-Concept and Emotional Intelligence, Assistive Technology & Using Google to Amplify the Student Voice, and GEAR UP's external evaluator Lauren Bates (Education Northwest) presented on Social Belonging & Self-Regulation. Lastly, GEAR UP Professional Development is supported through their on-going partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). Both organizations collaborate to leverage the Department's statewide initiatives for increasing student achievement among low performing, at-risk students with GUWY's focus on low-income middle school and high school students. These statewide initiatives reflect the need for systemic change across the public education system by providing strategic interventions to students and professional development for teachers.

From fall 2017 to fall 2018, 786 educators statewide participated in GEAR UP sponsored Professional Development trainings or workshops! The annual average of educational participants who attended GEAR UP WYOMING sponsored Professional Development events during the 2011 to 2018 grant was 997!

To inquire about GEAR UP related professional development options, please contact Chrissie Henschler at chensch@uwyo.edu or gearupwy@gmail.com 

ACT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 3-19, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 1, 2019	January 12-18, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 9-25, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 4-20, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019	June 15-24, 2019

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

SAT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration*
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 24, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 25, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 22, 2019

The late registration deadline is eight days earlier if you are registering by mail. For locations, visit: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/find-test-centers

The SAT® also meets the Hathaway Scholarship awarding requirements.

GEAR UP WYOMING students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT® or SAT® test fee waiver. (GEAR UP WYOMING cannot pay for or waive late fees.) Also, GEAR UP WYOMING students have free access to college preparation programs. Contact your GEAR UP coordinator to learn more.



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Remember to check your email!*



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GEAR UP WYOMING is administered by the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) in the Division of Academic Affairs at the University of Wyoming.

GEAR UP Wyoming Partners:

Casper College, Central Wyoming College, Eastern Wyoming College, Laramie County Community College, Northern Wyoming Community College District, Northwest College, Western Wyoming Community College, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Education

GEAR UP ofrece información en español y ayuda para padres que hablan español.

GEAR UP offers information in Spanish and assistance for parents who speak Spanish.

GEAR UP WYOMING Matters is a publication for GEAR UP students and their families offering news and tips to help prepare students for college.

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. GEAR UP WYOMING 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.