



GEAR UP WYOMING

JANUARY 2016

Matters

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

GEAR UP Fall Activities

Throughout the 2015 fall semester, GEAR UP students across the state participated in a variety of activities. Each of Wyoming's community colleges held events which fostered skills to help prepare students for college. Below are some of the highlights from each community college.

Northern Wyoming Community College District GEAR UP Students Partner with Habitat for Humanity

GEAR UP students from Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) gave back to the community by partnering with Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns for a "build day." Students and staff spent their day helping with construction as well as painting and landscaping.

According to Mallery Marshall, NWCCD GEAR UP coordinator, students and staff walked away with a solid understanding of the Habitat for Humanity building process as well as the construction technology program offered at NWCCD.



NWCCD GEAR UP students partnered with Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns for a "build day."

The event also emphasized the importance of volunteering. As one student said, "Community help is important. We have to work together for a good society."

Laramie County Community College Visits the Wyoming Territorial Prison

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) GEAR UP students explored career opportunities that are available with a history degree by visiting the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site in Laramie. The students met with Renee Slider, curator, for a presentation and question and answer session. They learned about her position and the education required to become a curator.

Afterwards, the students toured the prison for a chance to experience the historical aspects discussed during the presentation.

continued on page 2



LCCC GEAR UP students listen to a presentation about careers at the Wyoming Territorial Prison.

continued from page 1

Western Wyoming Community College GEAR UP Freshmen Learn Skills at Retreat

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) GEAR UP freshmen visited Park City, Utah, to kick off their first year at WWCC. After checking into the WWCC residence halls and reviewing their financial aid status, they traveled to Utah to experience team building during a high ropes course at Utah Olympic Park. Afterward, they separated into groups and grocery shopped to learn how to eat well on a budget.

The students also participated in group exercises and held discussions on personal responsibility, self-motivation, and college success. When they returned to WWCC, they spent time setting up their college residence rooms and preparing for their first day of classes.



WWCC GEAR UP freshmen learned to prepare meals on a budget and participated in teambuilding activities.



Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP Mentoring Program was a Halloween Treat

Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) GEAR UP freshmen connected with their mentors during Halloween. They carved pumpkins for a college-wide contest for all clubs on campus. In keeping with the GEAR UP theme, they carved a gear and buffalo into their pumpkin. Mentors also surprised their mentees with homemade caramel apples.

In addition to the Halloween activities, the EWC GEAR UP Club also sponsored a hot dog eating contest for all students on campus.

Mentors and mentees from EWC GEAR UP connected during Halloween festivities.



Casper College GEAR UP Students Celebrate National GEAR UP Week

GEAR UP students from Casper College (CC) celebrated National GEAR UP Week with a family night and a partner lunch which highlighted some of the CC GEAR UP partnerships.

During the family night, students and their families met for dinner and a presentation about the GEAR UP program. Nick De Jongh, a GEAR UP college freshman at CC, spoke about his experiences with GEAR UP and how the program has helped him.

CC GEAR UP celebrated National GEAR UP Week with a family night and presentations.



Central Wyoming College GEAR UP Hosted Family Nights and Fundraising

Central Wyoming College (CWC) GEAR UP provides opportunities for GEAR UP staff to visit with students and their families during their family nights. This fall, they hosted a family financial aid night. They met for dinner and financial aid presentations. Afterward, they attended a CWC volleyball game.

The CWC GEAR UP Club was busy this past fall with fundraising for their summer college visit trip. They

CWC GEAR UP held a family night and a bake sale to fund summer college visits.



raised money through bake sales and completed 50/50 raffles during CWC Volleyball games. The 50% profit from their last sale was donated to the Volleyball Pink Night to support a local woman battling cancer.

Northwest College GEAR UP Families Learn about Financial Literacy

Northwest College (NWC) GEAR UP hosted a family event on campus in December. GEAR UP middle and high school students and their parents were able to learn about college and what to expect.

The day began with introductions and ice breaker activities. GEAR UP college freshmen and sophomores spoke about their college experience and how GEAR UP helped them in high school and college.

Topics covered during the event included financial literacy and college readiness. After the presentations and activities, families were invited to attend a Northwest College basketball tournament. 🇺🇸



NWC GEAR UP families learned what to expect during college at a family night.

FAFSA and the FSA ID

On May 10, 2015, the FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN that was used to access the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In order to visit certain U.S. Department of Education websites, including FAFSA, students will have to create a FSA ID which is a username and a password used for logging into the various websites.

The change was made to increase security. Having a username and password is more secure than the old system which was used in conjunction with personal information such as a student's social security number, name, and date of birth. The FSA ID is used to confirm a student's identity as well as to electronically sign federal student aid documents, so parents of dependent students will need to create a FSA ID, too.

It is recommended that you create your FSA ID prior to filling out the FAFSA. If you already have a PIN, you can save time by linking your information to the FSA ID by entering the PIN while creating your new FSA ID.

The FSA ID can be created at:

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

Volunteer Opportunities

Not only is it important to help our communities by volunteering, but many scholarships require a student to earn a certain amount of volunteer hours.

There are many opportunities in local communities to volunteer, and often, high schools and middle schools have a list of organizations who are interested in recruiting volunteers. Another resource for volunteer opportunities can be found online at:



www.servewyoming.org



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

GEAR UP Wyoming
SEO, University of Wyoming
Dept. 3808
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LARAMIE, WY
PERMIT #75



GEAR UP WYOMING
SEO, University of Wyoming
Dept. 3808
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

(307) 766-6189
email: gearupwy@uwyo.edu
www.uwyo.edu/gearup/



GEAR UP WYOMING is administered by the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) in the Division of Student 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

ACT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
February 6, 2016	January 8, 2016	January 9-15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5-18, 2016
June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 7-20 2016

The ACT® is an important college entrance exam. Scores can affect college entrance and scholarships.

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.

Follow GEAR UP WYOMING on:

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.