

GEAR UP WYOMING

MAY 2017

Matters

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

From GEAR UP Student to Peer Mentor to Graduate

GEAR UP WYOMING spoke with 3 students who recently graduated from the University of Wyoming (UW) to learn about their experiences in the GEAR UP program.



Nico Holt attended Lander Valley High School and Central Wyoming College. He majored in anthropology at UW.

How did GEAR UP help prepare you for college?

GEAR UP prepared me for college in a lot of ways. The summer week on campus was most beneficial. It enabled me to experience student life and familiarize myself with campus.

The biggest impact that GEAR UP had on me was that I never thought of myself as a college student or even attempting to get a degree, and they convinced me that it was a real possibility for me.

What's the most important thing you learned in order to be successful as a student at college?

The most important thing that I learned was to be tough and stick through with my decisions, because I wouldn't have made it through college otherwise.

What was your favorite part of GEAR UP's college freshmen services?

I went to Central Wyoming College (CWC) and then transferred to UW. CWC didn't have freshmen services when I was there, but after being a mentor in the program, I really wish they had, because it would have been great to have someone to help with that first year.

Why did you decide to become a GEAR UP peer mentor?

I simply wanted to help someone. I remember during my first year, I managed to do everything wrong and had to work hard to overcome it in the following years.

What are your future plans?

I plan on becoming an archeologist. This summer, I will be working at the Guernsey National Guard Base doing cultural inventory.

Is there something that you feel would help other GEAR UP students?

New students should know that it's okay if you get off to a rough start; it's all about how you recover. The key for me was learning to talk to professors. It helped me so much academically, and it also led to summer jobs and field school opportunities.



Baylee Stafford attended Riverton High School and joined the GEAR UP program during middle school. She majored in social work at UW.

How did GEAR UP help prepare you for college?

In high school, I went to meetings during lunch that helped prepare us for college. We were taught how to fill out FAFSA, apply for college, and study for tests. Joy Pettit in Riverton really made an impact on my life going into college. She made sure I went to all of the meetings and completed all of my requirements in order to get the scholarship that has paid for my education in full for the last four years.

What's the most important thing you learned in order to be successful as a student at college?

As weird as it sounds, I learned to go with the flow. During my freshman year, I was stressed all the time about work, school, and homework. I spent more time worrying

about everything that had to be done instead of just doing it. Once I learned to go with the flow and do one assignment at a time, things became much easier.

What was your favorite part of GEAR UP's college freshmen services?

My favorite part was just knowing that I always had someone to help me when I got stuck. Whether I forgot my bubble sheet before a test, needed tutoring, or just someone to get coffee with, I always had someone to call.

Why did you decide to become a GEAR UP peer mentor?

I decided to become a mentor because of the relationship I built with my mentor. She helped me so much. I wanted to be that person for someone else.

What are your future plans?

I'm moving to Brighton, Colorado, where I'm going to complete my personal training certificate in hopes of pairing that knowledge with my social work degree to help people become healthy in all aspects of their life.

Is there something that you feel would help other GEAR UP students?

I just want to tell future GEAR UP students to GO TO THE MEETINGS! They may seem like a waste of time, but they really do help with resources and school.



Andrew Dameron attended Douglas High School. He majored in electrical engineering at UW.

How did GEAR UP help prepare you for college?

The activities and summer camps in high school really helped me get a grasp of the environment that I could expect in college. Everybody in GEAR UP is friendly. You can enter as a stranger, but you are going to be viewed as a friend. And that kind of support helps you transition from one setting to another. So coming into college, not only did I have GEAR UP as a family, but I had my own family. Between the support I got from GEAR UP as well as my family, it was very easy for me to adapt to this setting.

What's the most important thing you learned in order to be successful as a student at college?

When I first came here, it was really hard for me to adapt, because I didn't know how to study. GEAR UP is

all about helping you figure out how to study and how to spend your time. They have a lot of events every month that allow you to develop those skills, so I took little tidbits from each event, and I feel like over time, it helped me form my study skills and helped me fit in as a student.


What was your favorite part of GEAR UP's college freshmen services?

It's always been like GEAR UP is a second family. So doing all those activities, being in that stress free environment, even though you have a million things to do, was probably my favorite part.

Why did you decide to become a GEAR UP peer mentor?

My sister was a mentor, and she seemed to enjoy it. My mentor was really awesome and seemed to enjoy it, too. Seeing two people who enjoyed helping others pushed me to become a mentor as well.


Is there something that you feel would help other GEAR UP students?

I would encourage them to participate in the program. GEAR UP has a far bigger impact in your life then you'll notice at any given moment. 

GEAR UP Students Receive Daniels Fund Scholarships

Eight GEAR UP WYOMING participants have received Daniels Fund scholarships. The Daniels Fund, a private foundation in Denver, provides competitive college scholarships for graduating high school seniors in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming 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 and is renewable for up to four years.

GEAR UP WYOMING students who are 2017 Daniels Scholars are:

Shaylene Chantel Connolly, Douglas High School
Charlotte Jaymie Hecht, Cheyenne East High School
Raina Marie Cederburg, Glenrock High School
Samantha Ann Davis, Lyman High School
Lynora Kalani Anderson, Pinedale High School
Colter Shea Wyse, Southeast High School
Austin Avery Young, Star Valley High School
Emiliano Vega, Worland High School 

5K Colorful Scholarship Color Run

GEAR UP club students from Eastern Wyoming College held a 5K Color Run on April 29 to raise GEAR UP scholarship funds. The “color runners” dressed in white and were doused with different colors at each kilometer of the run. The event was well attended with 112 participants and raised over \$2,000. 🇺🇸



The 5K Color Run at Eastern Wyoming College.



Professional Development: Students with Possibilities

On April 6-7, GEAR UP WYOMING partnered for the first time with Gillette College for the 2017 *Learning Disabilities Summit: Students with Possibilities*. Eighty individuals attended the workshop, including Gillette College students, K-12 educators, instructional facilitators, administrators, counselors, and school psychologists.

The workshop focused on ways to accommodate students with disabilities into the classroom and enhance their academic skills. It was so successful that GEAR UP WYOMING was asked to participate again next year.

As one attendee said, “It made me really think about my students and how I can ‘gently’ adjust my classroom to be more inclusive for all.” 🇺🇸

Upcoming Events

Quantum Learning Regional Training
Afton, Wyoming – June 5-9, 2017

Fall Continuous Improvement Conference
Laramie, Wyoming – September 24-26, 2017

The 2018 Learning Disabilities Summit
April 12-13, 2018 – details coming this fall.

Visit our professional development calendar at:
www.uwyo.edu/gearup/professionaldevelopment

ACT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 5-18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	Sept 23 - Oct 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018

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*
August 26, 2017	July 28, 2017	August 8, 2017
October 7, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 27, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 5, 2017	October 25, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 2, 2017	November 21, 2017

The late registration deadline is one week 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.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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Remember deadlines for scholarships and awards!
Remember to check your email!

SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2017



National **GEAR UP** Week

Follow GEAR UP WYOMING on:



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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

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.

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