

GEAR UP WYOMING

SEPTEMBER 2016

Matters

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Youth Leadership Summit

Three Wyoming GEAR UP students participated this summer in the Youth Leadership Summit (YLS). Only 150 students participating in GEAR UP are selected from across the country.

Erica Rivas, Maria Perez, and Victoria Nate spent three and a half days training in Washington, D.C. The YLS is designed to increase awareness for GEAR UP initiatives by providing GEAR UP students resources and tools to become leaders in their schools and communities.


As a GEAR UP student from the Northern Wyoming Community College District program, Erica attended the YLS program to improve her leadership skills and become better prepared for college. According to Erica, "Every student that attended had their own story, but each story included GEAR UP." She also said, "I learned to value myself and acknowledge my weaknesses to try to better them."



Erica Rivas participated in an activity where she wrote down a fear on a board and found the strength to break through the board and her fear.

"Every student that attended had their own story, but each story included GEAR UP."

Maria and Victoria are GEAR UP students from the Western Wyoming Community College program. Maria said, "My trip to Washington, D.C. was a once in a lifetime experience! I learned that you can't judge other people, and everyone has a story to tell."

YLS is offered by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, GEAR UP's national training and technical assistance provider. 


Changes to the FAFSA®

Starting with the 2017-2018 FAFSA®, there will be two important changes.

The first change will be that the FAFSA® can be submitted much earlier. Rather than having to wait until January 1, 2017, the 2017-2018 FAFSA® can be filed on October 1, 2016. This earlier submission date will be a permanent change, allowing the FAFSA® to be submitted as early as October 1 every year.

The second change will be a requirement to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-2018 FAFSA®, your 2015 income and tax information should be reported rather than your 2016 information.

One of the advantages of the FAFSA® changes is that taxes will already be completed by the time the FAFSA® is filled out. With taxes already completed, you also may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import tax information into the FAFSA®.

It is important for students to complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA®). Not only does completing the FAFSA® enable a student to find out what kind of federal financial aid is available, but many scholarships also require that the FAFSA® be completed. 

Key dates for the transition to using the early FAFSA® submission timeframe and earlier tax information:

When a Student is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income and Tax Information is Required
Jul 1, 2016 – Jun 30, 2017	Jan 1, 2016 – Jun 30, 2017	2015
Jul 1, 2017 – Jun 30, 2018	Oct 1, 2016 – Jun 30, 2018	2015
Jul 1, 2018 – Jun 30, 2019	Oct 1, 2017 – Jun 30, 2019	2016

GEAR UP Summer Academies

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.

Casper College and Laramie County Community College Partner for a Full College Experience

Casper College (CC) and Laramie County Community College (LCCC) partnered together to give their GEAR UP students a full college experience. Students stayed in the LCCC dorms and explored the campus, meeting with professional and administrative staff to better understand college life.

Students learned about careers, including the type of education required, during classroom sessions on campus and job site visits in the community.

A motivational guest speaker concluded the academy, offering students and parents inspiration to make their dreams a reality.

CC and LCCC students toured KGWN News Channel 5 in Cheyenne.



Central Wyoming College, University of Wyoming, Northwest College, and Western Wyoming Community College Provide College Readiness Program

Central Wyoming College (CWC), University of Wyoming (UW), Northwest College (NWC), and Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) partnered to provide GEAR UP students with a comprehensive college readiness program facilitated by FOCUS Training, Inc. There was also an "off to college" program for recent graduates.

The FOCUS-led students took away a portfolio with their personal goals, career possibilities, a list of colleges they are interested in attending, and a list of potential scholarships. They gained knowledge on funding sources and on strategies for writing college entrance and scholarship essays.

The high school graduates learned to use financial aid, time management, and study habit resources. They also explored college work opportunities and student activities.



GEAR UP students researched career possibilities and potential scholarships at CWC.

Northern Wyoming Community College District

Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) began their summer academy with a tour of Sheridan College to show students higher education opportunities in their community. Students also toured Montana State University in Billings (MSUB). At both Sheridan College and MSUB, students received information on financial aid, registration, and campus life.

In addition to the campus tours, students stayed at Camp Roberts in the Bighorn Mountains for two days, where they explored a wide range of careers and participated in team-building activities.

NWCCD spent two days at Camp Roberts in the Bighorn Mountains.



EWC students designed and built flying machines.



Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP Students Learn about Careers in Flight

Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) conducted “Wings Up, Gears Down”, a science academy, for their GEAR UP students. They also visited Western Nebraska Community College and explored careers at the zoo in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Part of the “Wings Up, Gears Down” sessions included studying birds to understand how they fly, and designing and building flying machines. GEAR UP students also visited the Cheyenne airport to interview pilots, learn about the flight control tower, and view flight patterns.

In addition to the science sessions, students attended a workshop on personal responsibility, handling finances, understanding financial aid, and general college living. 🇺🇸

Did you know?

- ➔ The SAT® also meets Hathaway Scholarship awarding requirements.
- ➔ GEAR UP can provide you with an SAT® fee waiver.

SAT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration*
November 5, 2016	October 7, 2016	October 25, 2016
December 3, 2016	November 3, 2016	November 22, 2016
January 21, 2017	December 21, 2017	January 10, 2017
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017	February 28, 2017
May 6 2017	April 7, 2017	April 25 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 24, 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

GUALAs Meet with U.S. Congress Members

GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy (GUALA) representatives met with Senator Mike Enzi, Senator John Barasso, and Representative Cynthia Lummis in Washington, D.C. William Brooks Van Buren, Claudia Vanessa Hernandez Marquez, and KaylaRae Lawrence are former GEAR UP WYOMING students who were selected to represent GEAR UP for the 2016 year. Only 24 students were chosen from a nationwide pool of applicants. They will help educate others about the importance of GEAR UP, as well as work toward creating positive change in education policy for GEAR UP students. GUALA is offered by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, GEAR UP’s national training and technical assistance provider, with funding from the Kresge Foundation. 🇺🇸

Left to right:
William Brooks Van Buren, Claudia Vanessa Hernandez Marquez, Senator Mike Enzi, KaylaRae Lawrence



Left to right:
Claudia Vanessa Hernandez Marquez, Representative Cynthia Lummis, William Brooks Van Buren, KaylaRae Lawrence

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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

ACT® College Entrance Exam Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016	September 17-30, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016	November 5-18, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017	January 14-20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 10 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19 2017
September 9, 2017	to be announced	to be announced

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.

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.