The Path from GEAR UP Wyoming

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GEAR UP across Wyoming

GEAR UP Wyoming delivers academic success and college access services to middle and high schoolers through local community college programs across Wyoming. There's likely a program in your backyard. Click here to learn more.

The Path to Possible

We're shaking up our brand! Join GEAR UP Wyoming on the "path to possible" and check out our new video campaign!





The path to possible.



Back on Track

Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter, *The Path*. Each season, we will be sending a newsletter to participants, families, and partners across the state where we will share events and successes, student spotlights, and more!

Click here to subscribe!

Here are our summer updates:



Students learning about studying to become an EMT (Powell, WY)



Students learning welding from a Gillette College welding student (Gillette, WY)

Camp GEAR UP 2021: The Remix

GEAR UP Wyoming hosts a statewide summer college access and success camp at the University of Wyoming. This year, with the help of our partners, we adapted to the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic by replacing our UW camp with local camps hosted at community colleges throughout Wyoming. Each camp is smaller, but Camp GEAR UP is hosting more participants than ever!

Camps have been held, or are planned, at Northwest Wyoming College, Northern Wyoming Community College District, Laramie County Community College, and Western Wyoming Community College. These camps host junior high and high school program participants bound for college. Activities include touring colleges, exploring different majors and career paths, and building connections with GEAR UP advisors and fellow program participants.

GEAR UP will also host a Leadership Summit for 14 upcoming college freshman this August in Lander, Wyoming.

Click here to learn more about our summer programming.

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Student Spotlight: Whitney Martin

Eastern Wyoming College GEAR UP graduate Whitney Martin completed her AA (Associate of Arts) in Art this spring. Whitney displayed her artwork in a graduate collection that includes 2D and 3D pieces. Her work is influenced by several artists including Artemisia Gentileschi, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Tracey Emin, and Vanessa German.

When creating and enjoying visual art, Whitney likes to think deeply about the symbols and hidden messages. She hopes to combine her art with her coursework in psychology to prepare for a career in art therapy.

Whitney received the GEAR UP Federal Opportunity Scholarship and took advantage of advising and other support from the GEAR UP office at EWC. We're so glad we could help and we're proud of her and other GEAR UP participants who graduated from high school and from college this spring. Keep in touch, Whitney!

Do you know a GEAR UP participant who rocks? Please nominate them to be featured in our next student spotlight! Send tips to gearupwy@uwyo.edu.

GEARing UP for the ACT Test



GEAR UP participants practicing for the ACT during a virtual workshop hosted by Teton Educational Services



GEAR UP Wyoming is committed to preparing our participants for the gateway exam to Wyoming's most well-known state scholarship: the Hathaway. This year, we offered virtual workshops in the spring through Teton Educational Services. The workshops gave students a chance to dive deep into the format of the ACT and learn strategies to interpret questions and answer them more quickly.

GEAR UP Wyoming also provides free access to the online test prep software, <u>Magoosh</u>. This platform provides students with opportunities to learn more about the different sections of the ACT. They can learn about grammar and punctuation rules, reading strategies, data analysis and interpretation, and high school math concepts, all while trying their hand at ACT practice tests.

For more information about getting access to Magoosh, reach out to your local GEAR UP coordinator or contact gearupwy@uwyo.edu.

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2021 Scholarship Successes

No one wants to finish school with debt, so GEAR UP Wyoming works with our participants to make sure college is as close to free as possible. This year alone, we've provided nearly \$400,000 in scholarships to support students in attending colleges both in Wyoming and out of state.

GEAR UP provides two kinds of <u>scholarships</u>: Federal Opportunity Awards and Institutional Awards.

GEAR UP Federal Opportunity Award: The GEAR UP Federal Opportunity Scholarship is for participants who have participated in our program during the most recent GEAR UP grant. Eligible students can receive up to \$800 per year which can be used at the college of their choice.

University of Wyoming (UW) Institutional Awards: The University of Wyoming sets aside \$150,000 each year to fund GEAR UP Wyoming participants who are ready to enter UW and pursue a four-year degree. The UW GEAR UP scholarship has requirements that participants must meet while in high school including regular participation in their local GEAR UP program. Ask your GEAR UP advisor if you're on track to qualify.

Community College Institutional Awards: These scholarships are awarded to GEAR UP Wyoming participants who are now attending a Wyoming community colleges. Most community colleges in Wyoming set aside funds to award specifically to GEAR UP Wyoming participants. Ask your GEAR UP advisor if you're on track to qualify.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, GEAR UP participants received over \$2,000,000 in federal financial aid and scholarships. This aid comes from free federal sources (we will guide families through the process of applying), from the Wyoming Hathaway scholarship (we will help participants to maximize their high GPA and ace the ACT Test to qualify), as well as from many prestigious awards such as the Daniels Scholarship and the UW Trustees Scholars Award.

GEAR UP Wyoming

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