



The Path

From GEAR UP Wyoming | Summer 2024 | Vol. 4.1



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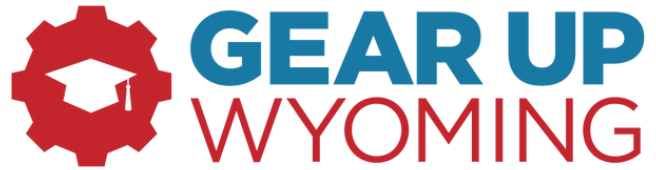
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Read our updates to stay informed on all things GEAR UP!

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What is our mission?

GEAR UP Wyoming strives to increase the number of low-income students who graduate high school and enter a post-secondary educational institution to improve their access to career and life opportunities. [Visit our page!](#)

Here are our summer updates:

Ring in the School Year

As the final days of summer wane, it's the perfect time to start thinking about the upcoming school year. Transitioning from the relaxed pace of summer to the structured demands of the academic year can be a challenge, but a bit of early preparation can make all the difference. Before diving into school preparations, take a moment to reflect on your summer. What were your highlights? Did you accomplish any personal goals or projects? Reflecting on these can provide motivation and set a positive tone for the new school year. It's also an opportunity to identify any unfinished summer goals you might want to complete before school starts.

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Speaking of goals, now is a great time to set academic and personal goals for the new school year. Whether it's improving grades, participating more in class, or balancing school with extracurricular activities, setting clear and achievable goals will give you direction and a sense of purpose as you start the year. The shift from summer's flexible schedule to the structured demands of school can be abrupt. To facilitate this shift, adjust your daily routine to align more closely with school hours. Gradually shift your bedtime and wake-up time to ensure you're well-rested and ready for early mornings.

As summer winds down, it's the perfect opportunity to tidy and organize your study area. Clear out any clutter and arrange your workspace to enhance focus and productivity. Ensure that your study space is distinct from your sleep and leisure areas to maintain a clear boundary between relaxation and work. Before purchasing new supplies, finish using up old ones to avoid unnecessary duplicates and overspending.

As we ring in the school year, taking these preparatory steps will help ensure a smooth and successful transition from the easygoing days of summer to the structured rhythm of academic life. Reflecting on summer achievements, adjusting routines, organizing your study space, and setting clear goals will not only help you ease into the new school year but also set a positive tone for the challenges and opportunities ahead. With these preparations in place, you'll be ready to tackle the new academic year with confidence and enthusiasm.

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Camp-end Review

Summer 2024 Camp GEAR UP has come and gone, and it was a smashing success. Don't believe me? Take a look at what some of our participants had to say.



Every year the team here at GEAR UP Wyoming works tirelessly to create a camp experience to rival your other summer plans. With countless activities, lectures, and events camp is always sure to be a blast. We hope to host another group of campers next summer, so keep in touch with your local GEAR UP advisor for updates.

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Fostering Student Success

As the end of the summer approaches, it is once again time to reflect on how best we can serve our students in this upcoming academic year. Getting organized and reviewing what worked well and what went wrong last year are only the first steps in preparation for the year.

Classrooms are where students from all different demographics converge, so it's important to be prepared to support students from all types of backgrounds. Some students might

need a little extra support and getting prepared early might just be the difference in guaranteeing scholarly success.

One of the first ways to ensure that you can adequately support your students' needs is by becoming familiar with all of the resources offered at your school and in your community. It's no secret that many of us struggle with self-advocacy and your students are no exception. Help them help themselves by creating a list of local free or low-cost resources such as tutoring, counseling, academic advising, food pantries, and safe houses. You never know what a student might be going through at home that creates barriers to their academic success. Posting a list of resources in a visible location in your classroom can greatly assist students in finding the help they might need in a discreet fashion.



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Additionally, when supporting underserved students, it's important to create an even playing field. Be sure to be clear when expressing your expectations of your students that you hold the same expectations for all of your students. Remember the Pygmalion effect- high expectations lead to high quality results. Finally, when praising students, choose your words carefully. It's better to praise a student for something that they can control, like their good attitude or active discussions than something that students might not have any control over such as their shoes or backpacks. Not every student has the resources to follow trends in fashion or the latest water bottle craze, so encourage an environment that focuses more on what the student can bring to the table than what parents provide for their kids.

Thoughtful preparation and awareness of student needs are essential for fostering a supportive and equitable learning environment. By leveraging available resources and maintaining high expectations for all students, educators can help bridge gaps and address challenges that may arise. Prioritizing what students can control and ensuring that praise and support are focused on their efforts and attitudes, rather than material possessions or physical appearance promotes a more inclusive and empowering atmosphere. As we approach the new academic year, let's commit to creating a classroom where every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background.

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