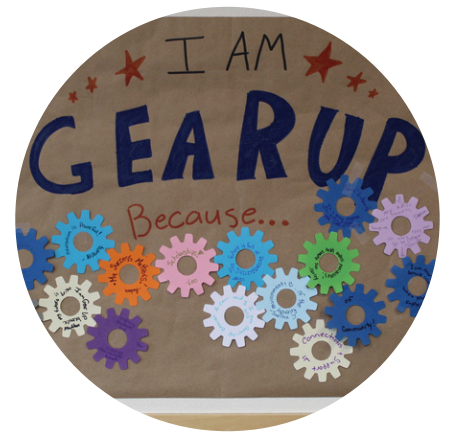




The Path

From GEAR UP Wyoming | Fall 2024 | Vol. 4.2



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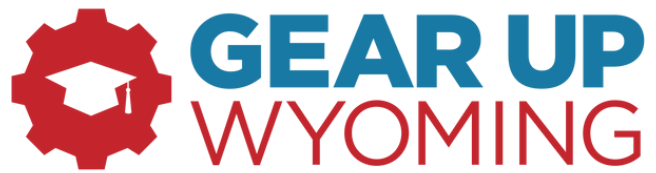
At GEAR UP Wyoming we stay busy no matter the time of year. This Fall we're busier than ever. Read our updates to learn of all the great news we here at GEAR UP Wyoming have to offer.

Pages 2-4: The What, When, Why, and How of Senior Year

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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 fall updates:

The What, When, Why, and How of Senior Year

Attention seniors! This is an exhilarating time filled with many opportunities and responsibilities like scholarship applications, college applications, ACT retakes, and the FAFSA on the horizon. While the prospects and possibilities your future holds are thrilling, it can also seem very daunting and can quickly become overwhelming if you are not staying on top of your responsibilities. To help you navigate this crucial period, GEAR UP Wyoming has crafted a timeline of events intended to break down the what, when, why and how's of your senior year. Let's make this journey smoother and more manageable together!

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What: ACT Retakes

When: ASAP

Why: If you're not satisfied with your ACT score, or know you can do better, consider retaking the ACT. You'll want to put your best foot forward when it comes time to submit scores to prospective colleges.

How: Ask your GEAR UP advisor about ACT fee waivers and register for your test online at [ACT.org](https://www.act.org) today!

What: Scholarship Applications

When: October-ongoing

Why: You'll have to pay for college somehow, and scholarships are a great way to do it. These are free funds that you don't have to repay, so apply to as many scholarships as possible, even if you think the chances of acceptance are slim. Every application is worth the effort once funds start rolling in!

How: Speak with your GEAR UP and high school counselors about local scholarship packets and national scholarships you may qualify for. Remember to keep a close eye on deadlines so that you don't miss any important or large sum opportunities. As you progress, check college websites for school specific scholarships. Remember, applying for scholarships isn't a one and done task - apply frequently and continue searching for opportunities even after you start college.



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What: College Applications

When: November- Application Deadlines

Why: Your years of effort have led you here! Going to college is a long-term investment in yourself. Many college applications close on January 1st or earlier, so it's important to get a head start.

How: A good place to start is commonapp.org. Common app hosts applications for over 1,000 colleges to create a one stop shop for college applications. Just look for your desired college on their in-page search engine to get started.

What: FAFSA

When: December

Why: Most colleges require the completion of the FAFSA before enrollment, as the FAFSA determines how much federal assistance you are eligible to receive. This information can also affect some scholarship award amounts.

How: With your parent or guardian, create a parent and a student FAFSA account before December and complete your FAFSA after December 1st at studentaid.gov. FAFSA assistance is a service offered by GEAR UP, so ask your advisor for help if you run into any questions.

What: Graduation!

When: May

Why: Make sure to celebrate all of your hard work with your friends and family. Graduation is a tremendous accomplishment, and you should be proud that your years of hard work have finally paid off!

How: Invite your friends and family to attend your commencement ceremony to celebrate your success!

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Celebrating the GEAR UP Wyoming Grant Refund

The 2017-2024 GEAR UP Wyoming grant cycle officially closed on September 25th, 2024. As we begin working towards our new goals, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements that have empowered low-income and first-generation students across the great state of Wyoming.

With 92% of at-risk 7th-12th grade students attending a GEAR UP Wyoming partner school, the program has proven instrumental in fostering educational access. Notably, one in every six at-risk students in Wyoming is an active GEAR UP participant, highlighting our program's profound reach and significant impact. Throughout the seven-year grant period, GEAR UP participants earned an impressive \$10.4 million in scholarships, setting the stage for brighter futures and greater opportunities.

Additionally, GEAR UP Wyoming has provided professional development for approximately 1,700 Wyoming educators, strengthening the educational landscape and equipping teachers with the tools necessary to better support low-income and first-generation students. With these accomplishments in mind, we are thrilled to announce the successful renewal of the GEAR UP Wyoming grant, a testament to the program's success amid fierce competition; only 53% of renewal applications were approved. This achievement comes with a 12% increase in funding, allowing us to enhance our support and services even further. As we look towards the future, we are excited to build on our solid foundation and continue to empower Wyoming's youth for years to come.

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National GEAR UP Week Highlights



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded program with the goal of preparing low-income and first-generation students for success in their undergraduate education endeavors.

September 23rd through 27th was national GEAR UP week, where GEAR UP programs across the nation joined together to celebrate 25 years since GEAR UP legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1999. We united in celebrating all that makes GEAR UP so successful and unique. In case you missed it, here are some highlights from our neck of the woods:

GEAR UP sites across Wyoming celebrated in their own ways, some electing to use National GEAR UP week as an opportunity to set new goals for staff and students alike. While others celebrated with root beer floats and a city-wide proclamation declaring Sept. 23rd through the 27th to be national GEAR UP week (pictured to the right).



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In a display of GEAR UP celebration, GEAR UP students from the Northwest College site shared their goals for the year. We are proud of our students' high aspirations.



While most sites were looking towards the near future, the team at Casper College celebrated in a memorable way, creating and packing a GEAR UP time capsule

to be opened at the end of our current grant cycle in 2031. We almost can't contain our excitement thinking about all of the educational, fun, and rewarding experiences to come over the next seven years.



Of course, National GEAR UP week is an opportunity for us to celebrate the success of our program, and the success of the national GEAR UP program at large, but it is also an opportunity to appreciate those who make the program possible. GEAR UP wouldn't be possible without the incredible families that participate and encourage their students to pursue higher education. GEAR UP Wyoming wishes to thank all of our program participants for continuing to make GEAR UP Wyoming the success that it is. Thank you!

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Professional Development: Looking Towards the Future

Did you know that GEAR UP Wyoming provides essential professional development for educators supporting GEAR UP students? At GEAR UP we believe that equipping teachers with the right skills is crucial for student success. We've previously offered sessions such as "Strategies to Support Under-Resourced Students," ACT data workshops, and LifeBound Academic Coaching, along with Aha!'s "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" to provide educators with valuable insights into the challenges faced by their students.

As we look to the future, we're eager to expand our professional development offerings. However, we want to ensure that these opportunities truly meet the needs of educators. That's why we're inviting educators to share their insights and preferences.

By scanning the QR code, you can participate in a survey that will help GEAR UP Wyoming's professional development coordinator better understand your needs. Your input is vital as we strive to create meaningful training that empowers you to continue making a positive impact on your students.



GEAR UP Wyoming
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