



## From GEAR UP Wyoming | Spring 2024 | Vol. 3.4



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# The Path from GEAR UP Wyoming

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The spring semester has come to an end and GEAR UP Wyoming sure has kept busy. 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 spring updates:

### Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2024!

As the curtains close on your high school journey, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the remarkable graduating class of 2024! This milestone marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. You have navigated through challenges, embraced opportunities, and forged lasting memories that will shape your future endeavors. Now, as you stand on the threshold of a new chapter in your lives, embarking on the exciting journey towards higher education, we offer some valuable tips to make the most of your summer before heading off to college:



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## Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2024! (cont'd)

**Reflect on your goals:** Take some time to reflect on your aspirations, interests, and goals for the future. What do you hope to achieve in college and beyond? Setting clear objectives will guide your decisions and actions during this transitional period.

**Stay Organized:** Create a checklist of tasks to complete before starting college, such as finalizing financial aid, completing housing applications, and registering for classes. Staying organized will help alleviate stress and ensure a smooth transition.

**Explore College Resources:** Familiarize yourself with the resources and support services available at your chosen college or university. Whether it's academic advising, career counseling, or extracurricular opportunities, these resources are designed to help you succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

**Practice Self-Care:** Amidst the hustle and bustle of college preparation, don't forget to prioritize self-care. Make time for relaxation, exercise, and activities that bring you joy. Taking care of your physical and mental well-being is essential for thriving in college.

As you embark on this exciting new chapter, remember that the journey ahead will be filled with challenges, triumphs, and endless opportunities for growth. Embrace the adventure with an open mind, a curious spirit, and the confidence to pursue your dreams. Congratulations once again to the graduating class of 2024 – the world awaits your brilliance!

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## Summer is Coming: Your Guide to the GUWY Summer Academy!

As the weather starts to clear up, we are all anticipating one summer event: the GEAR UP Wyoming Summer Academy! This year's Summer Academy will be taking place at the University of Wyoming from June 24-27. We have several exciting guests that will join us: FOCUS will provide the curriculum to prepare our students for college life, Dr. Roberto Rivera will discuss how our decisions can shape our future, and Rachael Mann will discuss how changes in technology can impact our future. Because this can be a complex process, you can find some helpful tips and reminders below!



- **Get familiar with the Summer Academy Application:** This is a lengthy document! Reserve some time with staff to go over the different sections of the application. It can be helpful to know what will be expected of your students!
- **Ensure that each application is completed:** As students begin to complete and submit their applications, look over them. Any mistakes caught now will make the process much easier rather than a mistake caught in June!

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## Your Guide to GUUW Summer Academy (cont'd)

- **Log the applications appropriately:** Remember, applications need to be uploaded onto SCRIBE. Please include the relevant data on the Google Sheet provided by the UW Student Programmer.
- **Schedule a meeting with parents:** It can be extremely helpful to set up several dates to meet with parents and discuss expectations during travel. Set the tone for what is and is not acceptable.
- **Stay Organized:** Create a plan with your fellow staff members on how to stay organized when collecting documents and traveling with students. This can prevent confusion in the future!
- **Get Familiar with Laradise:** During the summer, Laramie's temperatures range from 50°F-85°F. It is important to be prepared for the warm days, cooler nights, and sometimes rainy weather. Some general items include clothing that can keep you cool during the day, warm clothing and hoodies for the cooler nights, sunscreen, an umbrella or two, and bug spray!
- **Review responsibilities:** Now is the time to begin going over staff responsibilities for the trip. Who is expected to travel with students? Who is expected to upload applications to SCRIBE? Who is expected to provide coffee and cookies for the staff spending a week in the dorms? It is important to be prepared!
- **Reach out for questions:** Confused? Have a question? Need a bad dad joke? Reach out to Garrett Vasquez, the Student Programmer at UW!

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The end of the academic year is rapidly approaching, but there is still time for some last minute professional development opportunities. Don't have time for travel? Don't worry! There are many online professional development modules offered by the Wyoming Department of Education, many of which offer free enrollment. Take a look and see if any of the following online asynchronous PD modules interest you.

## **Embrace Literacy All Year Long**

Designed to cater to Wyoming educators' diverse needs, these recorded sessions offer flexibility throughout the school year. Dive into tailored strands for elementary and secondary educators, covering topics from K-3 reading and early childhood literacy to adolescent literacy and multilingual learners.

## **Digital Teaching & Learning: Canvas Structure**

As Wyoming mandates a common LMS for all K-12 students, the Wyoming Department of Education has selected Canvas as the supported platform. This course is meticulously crafted to equip educators with the fundamental functionalities of Canvas, emphasizing the delivery of online and virtual content. Gain invaluable insights into navigating this ubiquitous tool and harness its potential to enhance teaching and learning experiences in the digital age.

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## Digital Teaching & Learning: Pedagogy

As an educator, you've crafted your unique educational philosophy through years of experience and learning. But now, in the digital realm, how do you bring that philosophy to life? This course is tailor-made to empower you in designing captivating online courses and activities that reflect your pedagogical vision. Learn to seamlessly transition your teaching style to the virtual environment and engage students like never before.

## Digital Citizenship

Designed for Wyoming educators, this self-paced online course offers a comprehensive approach to digital citizenship education. Based on a PK-12 framework, it equips teachers with the tools to guide students in navigating the digital world responsibly. Enroll now to empower students to become informed, safe, and responsible digital citizens.

All courses listed above qualify for one PTSB Recertification Credit and/or one University of Wyoming credit for a one time accreditation fee of \$60. Enroll in these Professional Development opportunities and more through the [WDE professional development course catalog!](#)

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