



# What you need to know about GEAR UP

## What is GEAR UP?

- GEAR UP – Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- The program provides services and support to students and families in order to help them prepare for and succeed in college.
- Activities offered may include before and/or after school tutoring, mentoring, test preparation, career exploration, college campus visits, community service and leadership opportunities, and parent education nights.

## Who can participate in GEAR UP?

- **ALL** students in the class of 2017 (current 10<sup>th</sup> graders)
- The GEAR UP staff and program will continue to work with students in the class of 2017 through high school and graduation.

## Why should I participate in GEAR UP?

- We believe:
  - You CAN go to college!
  - It's okay if you don't know where to begin.
  - It's okay to ask for help in preparing your child to be a college student.
  - The school and GEAR UP staff want to help your child create a plan to get into and graduate from college.
- It is never too early to get ready!
- Not every student may want to go to college, and not every parent sees their student going to college. However, on average, a person with a college degree or other post-secondary training earns up to \$1 million more in their lifetime than someone without these assets.
- GEAR UP also supports other post-secondary options such as technical training, skilled trades, military options, and on the job training.

Check your school's website for more information. You can also contact the GEAR UP Site Director at your school if you have any questions.

## Upcoming GEAR UP Events/opportunities:

- \*2/24- Field Trip- Pacific NW College of Art 9:30a-1:30p (lunch provided)
- \*3/11- Double Field Trip- UW Tacoma/ Evergreen State College 8a-6pm (students will need to be picked up upon arrival back at Skyview)
- \*3/12- UW Seattle trip with AVID (limited seats available-25 students)
- \*3/17- NW Youth Careers Expo 8am-1:30p
- \*3/24- GEAR UP Family night at Clark College

## GEAR UP Programs 2014-15



**Campus Field Trips:** This year we will be taking students on smaller, more program focused campus trips. Examples of potential site visits are as follows:

- Pacific NW College of Art
- Beau Monde Academy- Cosmetology
- Clackamas Community College  
(welding, auto tech)
- Oregon Culinary Institute
- WSU Vancouver (engineering, biology)
- Lower Columbia College (nursing)
- PSU (chicano/latino studies, women's  
studies, social work)

**HEROs (Higher Education Readiness Officers)-** Students in Vancouver GEAR UP schools can join the HEROs (Higher Education Resource Officers). HEROs help their school, their classmates and their community to dream big and get ready for college. They organize events to help others learn about their options for college, support their teachers and staff by helping with GEAR UP events, and rally their communities to help *everyone* have a chance to succeed in completing education and training beyond high school. We have 24 exceptional HERO student leaders who act as ambassadors for the GEAR UP program. They give information on GEAR UP activities, opportunities and services, engage with their school/community at large, and provide support and encouragement to their peers.

**After-School Homework Help-** Every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15-3:30. Students can access help with their homework from GEAR UP staff, as well as peer volunteer tutors. If your student has transportation difficulties, please contact us.

**GEAR UP Family Nights-** Join your GEAR UP staff and students for family nights! Get information about financial aid, scholarships, college admissions, other post-secondary training options, and other GEAR UP events and opportunities. (Dates TBD, check your school's GEAR UP page for dates)

Next Family night- 3/24@ Clark College

**Community Service-** We've teamed up with City of Vancouver Volunteens to provide community service opportunities for sophomores. One Thursday a month from 3pm-5pm. Limited transportation to the site will be provided. Next opportunity will be near the end of March!

And there's MUCH more!! Please be sure to check the GEAR UP page on the Skyview website for more info ( Please check back frequently!)

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