

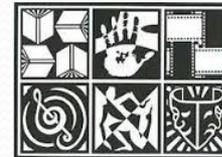
# Activity Ideas from the Field: Community Partnerships

<b>CONTACT:</b> Nina Stemm – Vancouver Public Schools – nina.stemm@vansd.org		<b>ACTIVITY NAME:</b> Community Partnerships
<b>AUDIENCE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> All Students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All GU Students <input type="checkbox"/> DREAMers <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Learners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Families <input type="checkbox"/> First Generation Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Schools <input type="checkbox"/> Students with Disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Underrepresented Minorities <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Experiencing Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Youth In Foster Care <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<b>THEME:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Advisories <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance <input type="checkbox"/> Career Exploration <input type="checkbox"/> CCSS <input type="checkbox"/> Collective Impact <input type="checkbox"/> College Bound Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> College match/selection <input type="checkbox"/> College-Going Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Community College <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Retrieval <input type="checkbox"/> Dropout Prevention/ Reengagement <input type="checkbox"/> Early Warning Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Essays <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Games <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speakers <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Wellness <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership for college readiness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships <input type="checkbox"/> Social & Emotional Learning <input type="checkbox"/> STEM <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting undocumented students <input type="checkbox"/> Test preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions <input type="checkbox"/> Using data and evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Working in rural schools <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<b>GOAL:</b> Increase mutually beneficial community partnerships with local businesses, organizations and schools, thus creating positive partnerships between GEAR UP and other local resources. Increase student participation in community service projects, thus creating a positive impact on our community and student extracurricular activities.
<b>GRADE LEVEL:</b> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		<b>ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:</b> Ongoing community outreach and engagement for all GEAR UP events, field trips and programs. Researching and promoting local community service opportunities for youth and making arrangements for students to participate.
<b>SERVICE TYPE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> College Applications <input type="checkbox"/> College Goal Washington <input type="checkbox"/> College Visits <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Mentoring <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling & Advising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational Field Trips <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Events <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid & Financial Literacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Shadowing <input type="checkbox"/> Rigorous Academic Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Student & Family Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Tests & Test Preparation Workshop <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tutoring & Homework Assistance		<b>PREP TIME:</b> Ongoing, daily outreach
		<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b> Email, phone, letterhead, printing capabilities, ability to visit local businesses
		<b>COST:</b> No cost except for staff time and dedication
		<b>PROCEDURE:</b> GEAR UP Staff communicates with local businesses, organizations and schools on a daily basis via email, phone or in person contact. GEAR UP staff promotes local businesses who provide us with in-kind donations at our events. This requires a lot of community outreach, public relations and public speaking skills. We are rejected often and have to brush it off and move on to the next opportunity.
		<b>Community Service –</b> GEAR UP staff has to keep up to date with local community service and volunteer events, communicate with local agencies that offer opportunities for youth to volunteer. We often need to provide transportation to the event. We promote within our schools. Often, a GEAR UP staff has to sacrifice a Saturday or an evening to chaperone the event with students.

# Community Outreach

## Community Partners and Community Service

### GEAR UP Vancouver



# Community Partners

The key to our success!

- Continual community outreach and communication
- Emails, phone calls and in-person visits – selling GEAR UP!
- Donation request letters
- Thank you cards from students or letter
- Promotion at events
- Follow-up

## **THE RESULTS:**

**More family and student involvement!**

**Community Agencies excited about helping!**



## GEAR UP VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT #37



April 22, 2015

Greetings;

Vancouver Public Schools has been lucky enough to receive a federal grant through the Department of Education to help our low-income and first generation students reach their dreams of college or post secondary education. GEAR UP or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs is now in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 year grant cycle at Fort Vancouver, Hudson's Bay and Skyview High Schools. We support the class of 2017 at each of those schools through in-school academic support and extracurricular enrichment activities.

GEAR UP's vision is that all students are academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter and complete the postsecondary program or institution of their choice. We strive to increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increase high school graduation and postsecondary participation rates and increase students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and finances. You are welcome to view the GEAR UP website at [www.gearup.wa.gov](http://www.gearup.wa.gov) for information about our grant and our programs. This year, we have provided ongoing tutoring and advising for students, taken students on college campus visits and career site shadowing, sponsored Career and College Fairs at each school, piloted a leadership program offering skills training and community service projects and provided training and education about post secondary options to parents and families, just to name a few of our efforts.

The GEAR UP program is 100% grant funded with strict guidelines on how we spend our funds. We are also required to match 33% of every grant dollar we spend, so our community partners are key to helping us meet this match expectation. Please see the attached letter of request for Fred Meyer. We are hoping Fred Meyer is able to help us with our final Family Event of the year.

We are always happy to promote our sponsors at our events and within the halls of our schools. If a company provides us with a resource, we always give them credit for doing so. We want this to be a mutually beneficial partnership. Our intention is for such partnerships to improve your business and the GEAR UP Program.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Nina Stemm  
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2901 Falk Rd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661



April 2015

To: Burgerville

Dear Burgerville Team:

Thank you very much for your contribution of Burgerville Gift Cards to the Vancouver Public Schools GEAR UP Program! The gift cards will be given to our HERO Leadership Students at our Recognition Dinner on June 4, 2015. These students have gone above and beyond the expectations of your average student with school and community outreach and involvement. Thank you Burgerville for providing us with a fun reward for these outstanding students. Community partners like you help us support our students and families. We couldn't do it without you!

Please let me know if there is any documentation you require verifying your contribution to the GEAR UP Grant. Your donation help us meet our annual grant match requirement, thus ensuring the continuation of the program in our schools. You are a vital part to our program success and we want to make sure your organization benefits as well. For your records, our Vancouver Public Schools Foundation Non-profit tax ID# is 91-0971800.

Again, thank you for your support!

Best Regards,

Nina Stemm  
GEAR UP District Coordinator – Vancouver Public Schools  
360-313-4417  
[Nina.stemm@vansd.org](mailto:Nina.stemm@vansd.org)

Vancouver Public Schools  
2901 Falk Rd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661



**THANKS YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PROGRAM!**

**OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS HELP  
OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED!**

# Community Service

## Getting our Students Involved!

- Coordinating with local volunteer agencies
- Promotion at schools
- Arranging transportation
- GEAR UP staff involved

### **THE RESULTS:**

**Students gain valuable experience and job/life skills**

**Build up their résumés for job/college applications**

**Develop character through community involvement and making a positive impact**



**EARTH DAY!**  
**April 2105**



**WILDLIFE REFUGE!**  
**February 2105**

