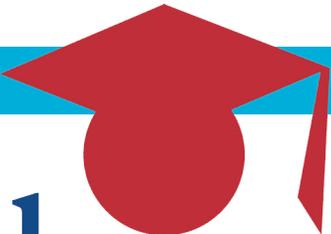


National GEAR UP Week Toolkit



GEAR  **UP**
WASHINGTON STATE



National GEAR UP Week

CELEBRATING OUR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Join thousands of students, parents, teachers, partners, and college access professionals from across the nation to celebrate GEAR UP and the successes of your hard work and dedication!

National GEAR UP Week is an opportunity for you to raise awareness in your community about the positive impact GEAR UP is having locally. It's a time to engage all your stakeholders - local, state, and federal elected officials, funders, partners, as well as local, state, and regional media - to share your program's accomplishments and to get them more involved with your services to students and families.

September 19-23, 2016



The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Start the school year off right.

Hold a GEAR UP Week at your school and get students thinking about their plan after high school! It's an opportunity to kick-off the year with fun and exciting activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community.

You can use these materials during National GEAR UP Week, or any time that works for your school. This packet has everything you need - instructions, posters, and announcements to get the word out about GEAR UP and the importance of graduating high school and going on to a post secondary institution.

Suggested Activities/Resources

Champions Award
GEAR UP Bingo
Door Wars
GEAR UP or College GEAR Day
Dream Wall

College Logo Bingo
College Knowledge Passport
Get to Know GEAR UP/Teacher Time Profile
Daily Announcements
#OneInAMillion

Activity Resources

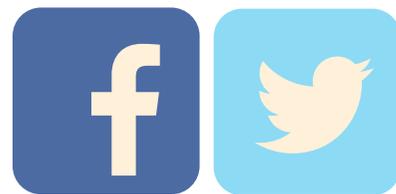
Blank GEAR UP Bingo Card
Cut Out Shirt_1
Cut Out Shirt_2
College Knowledge Passport
College Knowledge Passport Questions
Teacher Time Profile
College Logo Bingo Cards
College Logo Bingo Card Images
College Logo Bingo Trivia Sheet

For More Resources Visit:

<http://gearup.wa.gov/about/impact/national-gear-week-2016>

GEAR UP Week Report Form:

<http://gearup.wa.gov/webform/national-gear-week-2016-report-form>



Spread the word!

Invite elected officials and the media (the [Advocacy Toolkit](#) has more info).

Share photos and stories on
www.facebook.com/gearupwa
<https://twitter.com/GEARUPWA>

#GEARUPWorks #IHeartGEARUP

Activity: GEAR UP Champions Award

About Activity:

Help Washington State GEAR UP honor individuals for their commitment to ensuring that all students are academically, financially, and socially prepared to enter and successfully complete the postsecondary program of their choice. Nominate someone who goes above and beyond in their work with Washington State GEAR UP.

Student Award

This award recognizes a student who is committed to preparing for higher education and leadership. Applicants must demonstrate a track record of academic performance alongside extracurricular commitments. To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must be a current Washington State GEAR UP student.

Family Award

This award recognizes an individual parent/guardian/family member who has actively engaged other parents, students, the school, and community to encourage improved college access and success for students.

Advocate Award

This award recognizes an employee who helped students (and families) to be academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter and complete the postsecondary program or institution of their choice.

Resources:

- <http://www.gearup.wa.gov/about/what-we-do/gear-champion-awards-inspiration-impact>

Additional Information:

Individuals that are nominated or applying must be part of the Washington State GEAR UP program to be eligible for an award.

Winners of the award will be eligible for a trip to NCCEP's Annual Conference, July 2017 in San Francisco, CA. Students will have the option to attend the trip to San Francisco, CA or attend a summer camp of their choice.

Visit www.gearup.wa.gov for more details.

Deadline to nominate or apply will be February 2017.

Activity: GEAR UP Bingo

About Activity:

A good ice breaker activity to get students talking with each other and making different connections as they learn more about their peer's academic achievements and aspirations. Students write the name of a classmate that fits a description on the card. Type the descriptions into the fillable PDF yourself (be sure to mix the descriptions around on each card) or have your students write the descriptions on their card themselves.

Download:

- [Blank GEAR UP Bingo Card](#)

Consider using the descriptions below or come up with your own!

- Would like to go out of state for college.
- Speaks more than 1 language.
- Has been on the honor roll.
- Plans to graduate with honors.
- Takes AP classes.
- Takes honors classes.
- Wants to attend a small college or university.
- Wants to major in math or sciences.
- Was born in another country.
- Has visited a college campus in the last year.
- Knows what GEAR UP stands for.
- Has attended more than 1 high school.
- Plays on a sports team.
- Wants to attend a university in a big city.
- Plays a musical instrument.
- Wants to attend a community college.
- Wants to major in English or journalism.
- Has taken the ACT or SAT.
- Has taken ACT's EXPLORE.
- Has taken the PSAT.
- Has researched different scholarships.
- Knows what the FAFSA is.
- Can describe the difference between a student loan and grant.
- Has participated in a GEAR UP family workshop.
- Has passed Algebra.
- Knows what career they want to enter.
- Has reviewed the FAFSA4caster.
- Has talked to their family about college.
- Can name three schools they will apply to.
- Has a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Attended a GEAR UP summer camp.

G	E	A	R	UP
				

Activity: Door Wars



Photo courtesy of Rogers High School.

About Activity:

Students and teachers work together and decorate their homeroom/advisory classroom door in a college theme. The winning door(s) get a special classroom prize.

Additional Information:

1. Decide what the prize will be for classes that win the Door War activity.
2. Be sure to have enough supplies to outfit the needs of all teachers and students participating.
3. Set a start date and an end date.
4. Consider having different "Best Of" categories such as: Out of State 4 Year, In State 4 Year, and 2 Year College.
5. Consider inviting an elected official or local news reporter to help judge the doors and select the winners.



Take pictures!

Take pictures of your students hard work and share them with Washington State GEAR UP. Be sure and take pictures of students and staff creating the door decor and of the final product!

#GEARUPWorks #IHeartGEARUP

Activity: GEAR UP or College Gear Day

About Activity:

Encourage students and teachers to wear their GEAR UP t-shirts or other college clothing. Pass out shirts to new GEAR UP students. Have students decorate a small paper shirt with the college they want to attend and then tape it to the front of their locker.



Photo courtesy of Rosalia School District.



Photo courtesy of Rosalia School District.

Download:

- [Cut Out Shirt Option 1](#)
- [Cut Out Shirt Option 2](#)

Activity: College Logo Bingo

About Activity:

Write the name of each college shown on the bingo cards onto a ping pong ball. Provide each student participating with a College Logo Bingo Card. Use the College Logo Bingo Trivia Sheet and read the corresponding information on the sheet for the college shown on the ping pong balls. Give participants the opportunity to guess the answer, but be sure all students know the correct answer before moving on. Once a participant obtains a “bingo” he or she should call out “GEAR UP” and allow for their card to be checked.

Download:

- [College Logo Bingo Cards](#)
- [College Logo Bingo Trivia Sheet](#)

Additional Information:

- Decide if you want to laminate the cards to be used later. And make sure all students have something to mark the cards with!
- Once all student's have a card be clear on the type of bingo game that will be played (T's, U's, Squares, or Blackout).



Photo courtesy of West Valley High School.

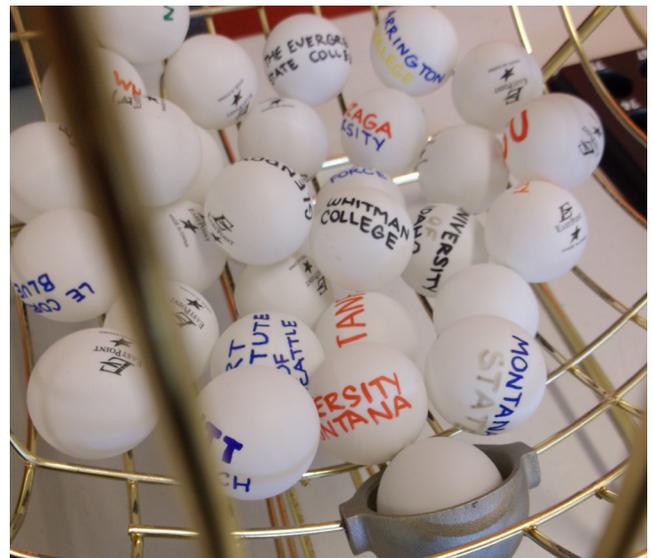


Photo courtesy of West Valley High School.

Activity: College Knowledge Passport

About Activity

Get your students, staff, and parents involved in this activity that can easily take place the whole week! Provide your students with their College Knowledge Passport and see how quickly they can fill it up! Think of this activity as treasure hunt meets trivia.

You will need to get your school staff on board - think of the teachers in this activity as the countries students need to visit. Provide your staff with the list of College Knowledge Passport Questions/Statements (consider assigning certain staff specific questions to avoid staff asking students the same trivia questions).

Students take their passport and visit different school staff where they will be asked a College Knowledge Question. If the student gets the question right the school staff person signs the student's passport in the space provided.

To get families involved the game has 3 websites that students and families need to visit together. When the student and family have completed this the family member signs the student's College Knowledge Passport.

Download:

- [College Knowledge Passport](#)
- [College Knowledge Passport Questions/Statements](#)

Additional Information:

Have students turn in their College Knowledge Passport at the end of the week to be eligible for a drawing to win a prize.

Activity: Get to Know GEAR UP/Teacher Time Profile

About Activity - Get to Know GEAR UP:

This activity is designed for school staff to learn more about GEAR UP and how their support and involvement can positively impact students. Invite staff and educate them on what GEAR UP is all about. Explain the different services that GEAR UP will provide to students and families and programs and activities that will be hosted by GEAR UP.

About Activity - Teacher Time Profile:

Have teachers fill out a profile that they can hang outside their classroom for students to read.

Download:

- [Teacher Time Profile](#)

Additional Information:

Consider sending out the Teacher Time Profile to teachers through e-mail but also having some printed for staff to look at and possibly fill out at the Get to Know GEAR UP staff event.



Photo courtesy of Naselle High School.

Activity: Announcements

Revise the following announcements about GEAR UP Week and getting ready for college to fit your school's GEAR UP needs.

MONDAY: It's National GEAR UP Week this week! There will be activities every day. Starting today, you have until Friday to decorate the door of your homeroom with the colors and logo of the college of your choice. The winners will get a special prize. Also, tomorrow is GEAR UP T-Shirt Tuesday! Wear your GEAR UP T-shirt or other college gear. Share what your plan is for college and career on www.facebook.com/gearupwa.

TUESDAY: Happy National GEAR UP Week! Did you know that there are over 4,000 colleges and universities across the country? So, whether you want to study to be a video game designer, nurse, makeup artist, lawyer, or engineer there is a school for you. Share what your after high school dream is on the GEAR UP Dream Wall.

WEDNESDAY: Day 3 of National GEAR UP Week! Did you know that by the year 2020 68 percent of all jobs in the economy will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school? On top of that a person with a degree is expected to earn 2.7 million dollars over their lifetime.

THURSDAY: National GEAR UP Week has been awesome! If your door is not yet decorated you still have time. Door War Winners will be selected tomorrow. Speaking of selecting - have you looked into what scholarships are available to you? Check out the WashBoard.org and start a profile to search for scholarships you will want to apply for.

FRIDAY: Thanks to everyone who has made National GEAR UP Week a huge success. We will be announcing the winners of the College Door Wars contest later today. Stay tuned! Also, did you know that in Washington state, each state financial aid program is called an Opportunity Pathway, and that Washington is one of the top funders of need-based financial aid in the country? Find out more about financial aid on the state's college planning website, www.readysetgrad.org.

Activity: Announcements Cont.

Try out some new educational related trivia/facts in your announcements!

- Ask your school staff to submit fun facts about themselves and have students submit their answers for a chance to win a prize.
- **In one year, 1,250,000 students transferred to another school; 1,125,000 dropped out**
Finding the perfect fit college is crucial to staying in college and remaining where you begin. Do your research before you apply and ask if the college is a perfect fit financially, academically, and socially. Time spent on research before applying will translate into a happier, more content, college experience.
- **Only 0.4 percent of undergraduates attend one of the Ivy League schools.**
There are over 6,000 accredited institutions of higher learning in this country. Too much attention is paid to the Ivies. A student can get a quality education in college if they apply themselves, often at a much lower sticker price. And employers often tell students that the college they attend doesn't matter as much as the degree they receive, the internships they worked at, and the connections they made while in college.
- According to a study from NerdScholar, around \$2.9 billion of federal grant money was left unclaimed after high school seniors eligible for Pell Grants — which don't have to be paid back — neglected to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in the last academic year.
- Seventy-five percent of today's students are juggling some combination of families, jobs, and school while commuting to class; according to the U.S. Department of Education, only a quarter go full-time, attend residential colleges, and have most of their bills paid by their parents.

Activity: Like it, Tweet it, Snap it, Share it!

About Activity:

Pass out the WAGU Social Media cards to students encouraging them to connect with WAGU through the social media.



Additional Information:

Social media is a great way to stay connected with students. If you haven't already done so consider creating your own social media pages to remind students about upcoming GEAR UP events, deadlines, and activities you don't want them to miss. In addition be sure and share the information WAGU posts on a weekly basis!

As an additional incentive enter students who have "liked" or connected with your program into a drawing to win a prize.

WAGU Social Media Schedule:

Monday - #MoneyMonday - a new scholarship is posted every Monday.

Tuesday - #GEARUPWAWeekly - the latest weekly bulletin is available.

Wednesday - #MyGEARUPStory - student, staff, or family quote about how GEAR UP is making a difference.

Help us fill in the rest of the days by sharing what GEAR UP is doing in your school! Feeling a bit busy? Ask your students for help on capturing and sharing the impact of GEAR UP!

Activity: #OneInAMillion Campaign

About Activity:

This activity is great because it can involve students, families, and school staff. Answer a prompt below on a social media site and use the hash tag #OneInAMillion in the post. Feel like taking the activity a step further? Take a picture or selfie to use in your post.

Share it with WAGU:



Prompts:

- How has GEAR UP inspired you?
- What are your plans after you graduate high school?
- Who inspires you to be the best person you can be?
- What challenge did you overcome while in school?
- What about your future makes you excited?
- Why is getting an education important to you?
- What career do you want?
- Why is GEAR UP an important program to you and your family?
- How has GEAR UP changed your outlook on education?

Don't want to use any of the above prompts? That's okay! Come up with your own and share it with us!

Download the One in a Million flyer



National GEAR UP Week

#OneInAMillion #GEARUPWorks #IheartGEARUP

Activity: NGUW Across the State

About Activity:

Here are some activities done by WAGU schools across the state.

- Had students watch a TED Talk.
- Brought in a guest speaker to talk with students, staff, and parents.
- Daily trivia questions over morning announcements - students submitted their answer and were eligible for a drawing to win a prize.
- Had teachers talk about their educational and career journey during advisory to students.
- Held a GEAR UP Orientation night with students, family, and staff. Invited college representatives to speak at the orientation.
- Set up a GEAR UP table in the commons during lunch and recruited students to sign up for the different upcoming campus field trips.
- Created a GEAR UP video presentation that was shown to entire school explaining what GEAR UP is and announcing the different GEAR UP activities that will take place throughout the week.
- Community Advisory Meeting - community, professionals, staff, and parents invited to student-led small group discussions where students talked about their challenges and successes in class and how GEAR UP has helped shaped their future.
- College Panel: In this activity I asked the 6 teachers that participated in the survey to be a part of the panel. This allowed the students to be able to ask teachers questions about their time in college.
- Student Orientation Assembly - had a kick-off assembly to discuss plans for the year, get all of our GEAR UP students together, and build enthusiasm for the program.
- Created posters to decorate the commons/halls promoting different things related to higher education: PSAT testing, ACT/SAT/ASVABs, washboard.org, saltmoney.org, community service opportunities etc.
- Encouraged students to interview faculty about their educational and career paths. Students who complete staff interview surveys, or follow GEAR UP on twitter, facebook or remind.com are entered into a raffle to win college gear (hats, hoodies, t-shirts etc).
- Hosted a College Fair - Over 40 representatives from various colleges, universities, technical and trade schools and the military converged on our campus for an evening activity serving over 350 students and parents. Students and parents were able to visit individually with representatives, as well as participate in informative break-out sessions concerning the admissions process, financial aid, etc.
- College Superhero Masks and Capes - This event was conducted as a lunchtime activity in our Commons. Students were invited to create "College and University Superhero" masks and capes, which they then wore on Thursday's Superhero Day.
- Facebook Mad Minute(s) - This activity was again conducted as a lunchtime activity in our Commons. Students were given a brief overview of GEAR UP, then invited to "like" us on Facebook, as we watched the number of likes rise. Our goal (which we met) was to receive over 50 likes during our specified time frame.
- Held mini College Fairs throughout the week. Invited 4-5 colleges to setup and talk with students during lunch.