Oregon GEAR UP
Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

2004-05 Annual Report
“I KNOW NOW THERE ARE WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE.”

- GEAR UP Student

From the Governor

Programs like GEAR UP prepare our high school students for success in post-secondary education. Oregon's GEAR UP program is critical to accomplishing long-term economic stability for our state because economic opportunity begins with educational opportunity. GEAR UP not only helps our students prepare to enter college, it helps ensure they have the skills to complete a postsecondary degree.

If we want Oregonians to be the best educated, skilled and qualified citizenry in the nation, we must continue to partner at the local, state and federal levels. GEAR UP is a proven partnership that helps us move toward the results we all want - a citizenry equipped with the skills and knowledge to compete in a 21st century economy of technology, innovation and globalization.

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor
From the Director

Oregon GEAR UP is a wonderful example of what is possible in Oregon. GEAR UP is about helping schools and communities develop the skills and tools that they need to offer high quality educational experiences to every student. Its goal is both direct and profound: send more low-income students to college.

This education partnership serves 39 middle and high schools in 11 counties. As 12,000 Oregon students are served this year (and 16,000 in 2005-06), we see signs of improvement and promise. A total of 135 teachers and administrators have participated in two-day curriculum workshops that are leading to more students taking Advanced Placement® and other rigorous courses. We have offered teachers training on the impacts of poverty on learning and ways to engage members of the community in sustained school improvement. In some schools teachers have taken on the real challenge of total curriculum review and redesign around the goal that all students should excel and be prepared for college entry.

In its third year, GEAR UP is clearly a success. Dropout rates have improved, daily attendance is up, and more students are taking Advanced Placement exams that will better prepare them for postsecondary education.

As we continue to make progress and improve education opportunities, we must prepare to overcome other basic challenges such as food, clothing, and adequate school supplies for students. The statewide issue of college affordability must also be addressed, through growth in the Oregon GEAR UP scholarship fund.

This has been an extraordinarily rewarding year for those of us who work with the program. Our partners have contributed greatly to our success, teachers and administrators have risen to the challenge of increasing opportunities for all students, and students have taken advantage of these opportunities and more.

David McDonald
Director, Oregon GEAR UP
Oregon GEAR UP School Clusters

Central
Chiloquin
Eagle Point
Hermiston
Illinois Valley
Madison
Madras
Marshall
Marshfield
McKay
McMinnville
North Salem
Oakridge
Roosevelt
Springfield
Woodburn

Central High
Talmadge Middle
Chiloquin Jr/Sr High
Eagle Point High
Eagle Point Middle
Shady Cove Middle
White Mountain Middle
Hermiston High
Armand Larive Middle
Illinois Valley High
Lorna Byrne Middle
Madison High
Whitaker Middle
Madras High
Jefferson County Middle
Marshall High
Binnsmead Middle
Lane Middle
Marshfield High
Sunset Middle
McKay High
Stephens Middle
Waldo Middle
McMinnville High
Patton Middle
North Salem High
Houck Middle
Parrish Middle
Oakridge High
Westridge Middle
Roosevelt High
George Middle
Portsmouth Middle
Springfield High
Hamlin Middle
Springfield Middle
Woodburn High
French Prairie Middle
Valor Middle

GEAR UP High School Demographics
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility: 51%
Minority Student Percentage: 35%
Percent English as a Second Language: 16%
Annual Dropout Rate: 5.7%

Oregon High School Demographics
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility: 31%
Minority Student Percentage: 23%
Percent English as a Second Language: 6%
Annual Dropout Rate: 4.4%

GEAR UP Middle School Demographics
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility: 66%
Minority Student Percentage: 43%
Annual Dropout Rate: 1.2%

Oregon Middle School Demographics
Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility: 41%
Minority Student Percentage: 25%
Annual Dropout Rate: 0.6%

Reflects most recent data available from ODE.
Dropout rate from 2002-03. All other data 2003-04.
What is GEAR UP?
Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Giving Low-Income Students Every Opportunity to Prepare for and Succeed in College

Started in 2002, Oregon GEAR UP, co-funded by the U.S. Department of Education and local and national partners, is designed to support greater enrollment and success of low-income students in postsecondary education. Beginning in middle school and continuing through high school, GEAR UP supports sustainable early intervention activities that focus on increased academic achievement, early outreach and college awareness, community and parental involvement, and professional development for school staff. GEAR UP works with a total of 39 schools divided into 16 clusters consisting of a high school, one or more feeder middle schools, and a university. In 2004-05 over 12,000 middle and high school students were involved; 4,000 students will be added each year through 2006-07.

GEAR UP activities are divided into two categories: local and state. At the local level, personnel in the middle and high schools collaborate to decide how to use GEAR UP resources to create systemic change that best meets the needs of their local population. Statewide services complement these activities and support the efforts of the schools. Examples of statewide activities include poverty awareness, community involvement, and vertical integration of middle school and high school curriculum.

Oregon GEAR UP is managed by the Oregon University System (OUS) on behalf of the state and its students. Oregon GEAR UP is part of an overall statewide and OUS priority of increasing college access through a PK-16 education approach.

The GEAR UP program is a federally funded grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Education:

FEDERAL CONTACTS
James Davis, Team Leader
Marie Buker, Program Officer

GEAR UP
Office of Postsecondary Ed
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC  20006
http://www.ed.gov/gearup
The GEAR UP website and resources are available in both English and Spanish.

Useful resources and publications are available for downloading. Educators, community partners, and students each have their own section with resources devoted to their needs.

The calendar section includes information on scholarship opportunities and deadlines, school funding opportunities, upcoming events, and more.

The “FYI” section illustrates specific figures on the value of a college education, and tips on how to get there.

“Students are building bridges to their futures using the information, resources, and programs that we have been lucky enough to have access to through GEAR UP.”

Lisa Shreeve, Teacher
McKay High School
GEAR UP has been the positive spark that has allowed us to move kids to believing in themselves, their future, and the potential of college.

Andrew Kelly
Principal
Roosevelt High School

GEAR UP Focus Areas

Student Academic Achievement

Oregon GEAR UP focuses on high expectations for academic performance of all students, which requires effective and timely feedback and academic support. Students participate in college visitations and develop individual academic/career plans to expand awareness of opportunities.

Outreach and College Partnerships

Numerous college preparation programs exist in Oregon, providing services such as mentoring, tutoring, visits to local colleges and universities, advising, and exposure to specific areas of study. GEAR UP cluster schools have the opportunity to work with these programs at reduced or no cost.

Professional Development

GEAR UP recognizes that improving training and professional development for teachers and school counselors is a key element in closing Oregon’s achievement gap. Advanced Placement Training and the Poverty Awareness Workshop are two elements already in place.

Community Involvement

GEAR UP supports parents in becoming actively involved in their children’s educations. Community members serve as mentors, tutors, and other kinds of volunteers. Businesses contribute by providing internships and building awareness of the benefits of reaching high academic standards.
Lane Community College will provide GEAR UP students the opportunity to attend their summer Rights of Passage (ROP) program, a collection of four distinct culturally specific immersion programs.

Lane Community College will provide a college awareness enrichment program for Latino middle and high school students and their families from the Springfield GEAR UP schools. The program is comprised of three parts:

1. An evening workshop for students and parents. Topics include: the importance of college, a panel of college students, the admissions process, and financial aid.
2. A middle school campus visitation day to Lane Community College and the University of Oregon.
3. A high school campus visitation day to Lane Community College and the University of Oregon.

Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT)
OIT will work with the 8th graders and their families at Chiloquin Jr/Sr High School to increase the engagement behaviors of students, parents, and peers towards college preparation activities. "Building Community Through Stories, Finding the Hero and Heroine Within" will take place from January through August and will involve students keeping a storybook, with photo portraits, mentoring opportunities with college faculty, alumni and students, and an invitation to participate in OIT Pre-College summer programs.

Oregon State University (OSU)
The ACCESS OSU program will provide GEAR UP middle and high school students with the opportunity to visit the Corvallis campus and attend seminars on topics such as: study skills/preparing for college, picking a major, why college, dual enrollment, applying to OSU, and paying for college. The OSU Extended Campus will offer the College Awareness/Career Preparation (CACP) program to GEAR UP sophomores and/or juniors. CACP consists of a 9-week online dual credit course focused on college and career awareness. The Extended Campus also offers a 10-day summer residential program called Pre-College Academic Success (PAS) in which students earn two college credits while experiencing university life and planning for academic success.

Portland State University (PSU)
"Viking Retreat" is a program for sophomore students from Woodburn, Roosevelt, Madison and Marshall high schools. The program will include an extensive overnight program on the Portland State University campus that will expose first-generation, low-income students, as well as students from other underrepresented populations, to the college opportunities available to them. Students will receive information on college preparation, financial aid, and scholarships.
**Southern Oregon University (SOU)**
The SOU Office of Admissions has designed a 5-year visitation program with the Illinois Valley and Eagle Point clusters. Starting in 8th grade, these students will participate in a different college awareness activity each year so that they will be better prepared and well-versed in the cost of college, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, programs, and admissions requirements of various types of postsecondary options. In addition, SOU Youth Programs will provide GEAR UP students the opportunity to attend one of three summer residential programs at a reduced rate. The programs include ACAD-EMY, "Konaway Nika Tillicum" (a Native American Youth Academy), and Academia Latina.

**University of Oregon (UO)**
The University of Oregon Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity will offer students the opportunity to participate in the Oregon Young Scholars Program (OYSP). OYSP will develop over several years starting with students in the 8th grade and lead to academic improvements among historically underrepresented students. The project will include academic enrichment and assistance, access to ACT/SAT preparation, career exploration and workshops in math, science and English. Students will also be given the opportunity to participate in intensive academic summer residential programs.

**Western Oregon University (WOU)**
WOU will offer students an academic seminar on the topic "The Human Genome: Interdisciplinary Perspectives." This experience will provide exposure to several points of view about the sequencing of the human genome in the areas of science, ethics, and psychology. The end result will be a capstone paper in which the students will integrate various views about developments related to the human genome and the potential impact on life in the 21st century.
Central
Talmadge Middle School wrote and implemented a study skills curriculum to increase student success and sent eighty 8th graders to Western Oregon University to shadow students for a day. Central High School hosted an open house for students and families to help parents understand how they can better support their children’s academic success.

Chiloquin
Chiloquin Junior Senior High School has leveraged GEAR UP funds for school restructuring. Goals include: improve school climate and reduce behavioral distractions to learning, increase reading levels of all students, and empower teachers and staff to achieve these goals in every classroom and the school at large.

Eagle Point
Eagle Point middle school and high school faculty have been working to align their English and Math curriculums to prepare more students for rigorous high school courses. Services in the Eagle Center, the high school’s college and career center, have been enhanced. Eagle Point has also used the College Ed® curriculum at the middle schools to increase college awareness.

Hermiston
Hermiston High School holds mini classes twice a week that focus on college academic preparation and SAT preparation. Advising is also offered during this time to better connect with students. Armand Larive Middle School is using several strategies to increase the number of students meeting state benchmarks, including: Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) training for teachers, small group help for 8th graders not meeting benchmarks, and an assessment center for English Language Learners and special education students to practice and take state assessments.
Illinois Valley
Through Illinois Valley High School’s College Connection with Southern Oregon University, high school students have the opportunity to meet college faculty, and participate in classes in science, music, college prep, and more. Lorna Byrne Middle School hosts a career day for all its students, inviting professionals from the community and surrounding area to present to students about their careers and the education and skills they needed to succeed.

Madison
Madison High School is implementing AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) which is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance and ensure that all students are capable of completing a college path. It is also restructuring its high school to create smaller, more focused student learning communities.

Madras
Madras High School and Jefferson County Middle School have taken a grassroots approach to increasing college-going rates by informing teachers, students, parents and tribal leaders about the importance of college and what it takes to get there and succeed.

Marshall
As part of the Ambassador Program at Marshall High School in Portland, students meet after school to develop and ultimately present a “Career Game” workshop for students at Binnsmead and Lane Middle Schools that focuses on careers and education requirements. Marshall High School is also restructuring to create smaller high school units to increase student learning.
AP Vertical Team Training

A total of 135 English, math, science, and social science teachers from GEAR UP middle and high schools attended GEAR UP sponsored AP Vertical Team Training. These workshops helped groups of educators from different grade levels in a given discipline develop and implement a vertically aligned curriculum aimed at helping students acquire the academic skills needed for success in college-level work and AP courses.

Sample GEAR UP Cluster Activities

Marshfield

Sunset Middle School purchased Smart Boards®, digital interactive full-size whiteboards, for use in its advisory period. Smart Boards engage students in learning while increasing their technology skills. Marshfield High School implemented bi-monthly after-school tutoring in math, language arts, science, and social studies.

McKay

McKay High School in Salem offers a Freshman Survivor Camp, a transition camp for incoming 9th graders that gives students a solid foundation for high school, with the ultimate goal of encouraging them to think of high school as a steppingstone to college. Stephens and Waldo Middle School students had the opportunity to visit a university for a campus tour, student panel and general informational session. The middle schools and high school faculty also collaborate to align their curriculums to better serve students.

McMinnville

The English Language Learners (ELL) teachers at McMinnville High School were trained in AP Spanish. All 7th and 8th grade students at Patton Middle School visit a college, wearing student-desgined t-shirts specific to that college. School staff that graduated from that college customize the visit by participating and sharing their own experiences.

North Salem

North Salem High School, Houck Middle School and Parrish Middle School conduct a Latino Conference for all Latino parents and students. The conference emphasizes the importance of education and other opportunities beyond high school.

“GEAR UP gives our students and their families exposure to opportunities that they would not normally have.”

Matthew Biondi, Assistant Principal
North Salem High School

The dropout rate in GEAR UP high schools decreased 15% from 2001-02 to 2002-03.
Scholarships
A key component of the GEAR UP program is the provision of scholarships to students. These are a critical piece in the program's efforts to increase student opportunities to attend college. The Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Student Assistance Commission are key partners in this service. Additional scholarship fundraising is critical in order to support more students going to college.

Oakridge
Oakridge High School and Westridge Middle School have a GEAR UP information table at every open house, conference, concert, or activity. The GEAR UP coordinator is available to answer questions and hand out materials on GEAR UP and going to college.

Roosevelt
Roosevelt High School in Portland had all 11th graders take the PSAT and used GEAR UP funds to pay for students not eligible for a fee waiver so that all students would be familiar with the expectations of the SAT exam. Roosevelt has also created stronger connections with George and Portsmouth Middle Schools to focus on student transitions to high school. Roosevelt has transitioned into four smaller learning communities to better serve its students.

Springfield
Springfield High School, Hamlin Middle School and Springfield Middle School math teachers aligned curriculum based on Advanced Placement Calculus questions and produced a publication containing prerequisite and exit skills as well as appropriate assignments and answer keys for courses through Calculus. Springfield High School also is working with Lane Community College to provide college and financial aid information to students and families.

Woodburn
Woodburn High School, French Prairie Middle School and Valor Middle School provided training in the College Ed curriculum to all 7th, 8th, and 9th grade teachers. College Ed ® teaches students the importance of college and how to prepare, apply and pay for it. Woodburn is an International Baccalaureate high school which emphasizes a rigorous curriculum for all students.

The dropout rate in GEAR UP middle schools decreased 21% from 2001-02 to 2002-03.
**Facts on Oregon Education**

### The Education Pipeline in Oregon: Chance for College per 100 Ninth Graders, 2002

- **Out of 100 Ninth Graders...**
  - 69 Graduate from High School
  - 33 Immediately Enter College
  - 23 Are Still Enrolled Sophomore Year
  - 15 Graduate Within 150% Time

### Median Annual Earnings in Oregon by Education Level, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Median Annual Earnings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master's Degree</td>
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<td>Associate Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than HS Diploma</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Top 5 Majors of First-Time Freshmen at OUS Institutions, Fall 2004

1. **Business Mgmt, Marketing** (12.3% for GEAR UP students, 15.4% for All Students)
2. **Multidisciplinary Studies** (12.1% for GEAR UP students, 12.4% for All Students)
3. **Liberal Arts, Sciences, & Humanities** (10.6% for GEAR UP students, 10.3% for All Students)
4. **Engineering** (9.8% for GEAR UP students, 9.6% for All Students)
5. **Multidisciplinary Studies** (9.2% for GEAR UP students, 7.6% for All Students)
6. **Undeclared**

**Baseline data**

The percent of OUS freshmen from GEAR UP high schools with undeclared majors has decreased 22% from 2001-02 to 2003-04.
Oregon University System
News Release
May 26, 2005

Roosevelt High School student Matthew Wilhelm was selected among thirty GEAR UP student scholars nationally to participate in the NCCEP/GEAR UP Youth Leadership Summit 2005. Wilhelm and the other selected scholars will advocate for student concerns in education reform debate before a wide range of national constituents in San Francisco this summer.

Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
Except where otherwise indicated, ESL Student percentage at Oregon middle schools is for academic year 2002-03 as reported by ODE.
ESL student percentage at Oregon high schools is for academic year 2003-04 as reported by ODE.

Whitaker Middle School
5135 NE Columbia Blvd
Portland, OR 97211
Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 216
Free/Reduced Lunch: 81%
Minority Students: 75%
ESL Students: 28%

Whitaker Middle School
5135 NE Columbia Blvd
Portland, OR 97211
Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 216
Free/Reduced Lunch: 81%
Minority Students: 75%
ESL Students: 28%

Woodburn High School
1785 N Front Street
Woodburn, OR 97071
Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1,287
Free/Reduced Lunch: 74%
Minority Students: 64%
ESL Students: 65%
This publication made possible by funds from the Federal GEAR UP grant.