



Oregon GEAR UP

2005-06 Annual Report

College. It's not a dream, it's a plan.®

From the Governor

At a time when we are struggling to find sufficient funds for the education budgets in Oregon, GEAR UP remains a ray of hope for many students in our poorest communities. GEAR UP has a proven record of creating partnerships that benefit these students by providing tutoring, mentoring, college visitations and academic enrichment activities that will prepare them to be competitive in our global economy. This program is an excellent model for the kinds of collaborative efforts that are critical to the success of our state. Establishing relationships between our public schools and colleges, as well as nonprofit and corporate entities, will create sustainable efforts that will ensure our students are prepared for success beyond their high school years.

Our long-term economic stability relies upon an educated citizenry that starts with students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college and the workplace. To compete in today's competitive global economy, and to ensure valuable and satisfying jobs for Oregonians, we must invest in a system of public education that effectively prepares students who can fill those jobs.

I am proud to have seen first-hand the difference that GEAR UP is making in the lives of the students it reaches. The stories I have heard about the importance of mentors and teachers who believe in these students are remarkable. My thanks to all those who have been a part of the program this year, and best wishes for continued success. I would also like to challenge all Oregonians to support the work of programs like GEAR UP. Nothing less than the success of our state is at stake.

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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From the Director

College: It's not a dream, it's a plan. This simple phrase continues to guide the work of teachers and administrators in GEAR UP schools around the state. The students at these schools benefit greatly from the dedication of these staff members and their belief that high-quality education for all students is a must and all students should be afforded the opportunity to pursue their dreams, by developing of a plan for success. This year alone, more than 16,000 students received direct services from GEAR UP programs, services like: participating in an ACT/SAT prep class that would have otherwise been unaffordable, visiting a college campus in a town never before visited, and one-to-one mentoring by a community member deeply committed to a students' success. This report is a brief summary of these and other examples of people and programs making an amazing difference in our state.

Involving parents, other family members, and the community is a very important part of our work. In April we hosted a two-day workshop focused specifically on this topic. Trained facilitators from the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory worked with school teams consisting of teachers, counselors, principals, and parents. Each team left the workshop with a detailed year-long community involvement plan. The partnerships resulting from these plans will ensure the sustainability of GEAR UP activities well beyond the life of the grant.

As we enter the fifth year of the program, our focus will turn even more to creating sustaining partnerships. We will work with schools to help them identify key individuals and businesses with whom they can partner to continue the good work started with grant funds. "It takes a village to raise a child." This African proverb made popular by Hilary Rodham Clinton captures our desire to place a shared responsibility for raising and educating our youth on the communities in which they live.

I offer many thanks to all those who have been involved in the project this year. I have been honored and humbled to be a part of such an amazing program. I hope that you will join us in our continued efforts to make college a reality for thousands of students across the state. The strength of our society rests on the education of our citizens.

Respectfully,



Stephanie Carnahan
Director, Oregon GEAR UP



What is GEAR UP?

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

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 effective and sustainable early intervention activities that focus on increased academic achievement, professional development for school staff, community and parental involvement, and early outreach and college awareness.

Student Academic Development

GEAR UP focuses on high expectations for academic performance of all students. GEAR UP provides academic support programs for students, and prepares them for college success. Project goals are to increase statewide assessment performance, improve SAT scores, increase AP course offerings, and decrease dropout rates.

Professional Development

GEAR UP recognizes that professional development for teachers and counselors is a key element in closing Oregon's achievement gap. We provide opportunities such as Advanced Placement® training, poverty awareness workshops, information on creating a college-going culture, continuing education at reduced rates, complementary registration for counselor workshops, and much more.

Community Involvement

GEAR UP supports the active involvement of families and community members in student achievement by creating meaningful opportunities for increased participation in college awareness and preparation activities. A statewide retreat on effective school-family-community partnerships facilitates increased family and community participation in schools.

Outreach and College Partnerships

GEAR UP aims to establish an expectation of college attendance for every student, with the goal of increasing the number of students attending college upon graduation. Through early college outreach activities and partnerships, students visit various college campuses, are exposed to specific areas of study, and better understand college expectations. GEAR UP schools have the opportunity to work with numerous college preparation programs in Oregon at little or no cost. These agencies provide mentoring, tutoring, and other academic assistance.



Statewide Activities

SUCCESS II

Supporting Unique Community Coalitions Engaged in Student Success is an annual event that brings together teams from each of our partner schools that consist of teachers, administrators, community and family members and students. Each team develops strategies to build effective school-family-community partnerships that increase community and family involvement and lead to student success. The Northwest Regional Education Laboratory provides meeting facilitation along with skilled and knowledgeable consultants who work with the teams on topics such as: cultural competency, working with individuals from poverty, working with business partners, reaching out to “at-risk” youth, and maintaining an effective team.

Youth Summit

Each year the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships sponsors a Youth Leadership Summit in conjunction with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. The goal of this summit is to allow students to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions pertaining to education through a report to attendees of the annual GEAR UP Conference. The selection process is highly competitive with only 30 students from around the country being chosen every year. This year, Melissa Giles, a junior from McKay High School in Salem, was selected for this opportunity. This is the third consecutive year that a student from Oregon was among this outstanding group of students.

ECMC Events

In an effort to enhance community involvement and increase student and family understanding of how to pay for college, we teamed up with the ECMC Foundation to offer financial aid workshops in three different communities. One unique aspect of these programs was the involvement of the local U.S. Representative. Representative David Wu hosted the workshop for students and their families at McMinnville High School and Representative Darlene Hooley was the host for workshops in Salem and Independence. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with ECMC and offering more of these workshops in the fall.

Scholarships

A key component of GEAR UP is the provision of renewable scholarships that may be used at any accredited postsecondary institution in the United States. The scholarships are a critical element in the program’s efforts to increase student opportunities to attend college. Awards will be based upon financial need, academic performance, participation in GEAR UP activities, behavior, and attendance. Scholarships will be the same amount as the Pell Grant. We have partnered with the Oregon Community Foundation to maximize the federal funds set aside for these scholarships by investing them until GEAR UP students graduate and become eligible for the awards. Plans are underway to establish permanently endowed scholarships in each GEAR UP location with the interest earnings. This perpetual fund will sustain the college-going culture that is being developed in these communities.

Statewide Demographics

GEAR UP High School Demographics

Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility:	53%
Minority Student Percentage:	35%
Percent English as a Second Language	15.8%
Annual Dropout Rate:	5.9%

Oregon High School Demographics

Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility:	33%
Minority Student Percentage:	23%
Percent English as a Second Language	6.4%
Annual Dropout Rate:	4.6%

GEAR UP Middle School Demographics

Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility:	67%
Minority Student Percentage:	43%
Annual Dropout Rate:	0.9%

Oregon Middle School Demographics

Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility:	44%
Minority Student Percentage:	25%
Annual Dropout Rate:	0.6%

Reflects the most recent data available from ODE.
Free/Reduced lunch from 2004-05.
Minority % from 2003-04.
ESL % from 2003-04.
Dropout rate from 2003-04.

Oregon GEAR UP School Clusters



Central	Central High Talmadge Middle
Chiloquin	Chiloquin Jr/Sr High
Eagle Point	Eagle Point High Eagle Point Middle Shady Cove Middle White Mountain Middle
Hermiston	Hermiston High Armand Larive Middle
Illinois Valley	Illinois Valley High Lorna Byrne Middle
Madison	Madison High Gregory Heights Middle
Madras	Madras High Jefferson County Middle
Marshall	Marshall Campus Small Schools BizTech High School Pauling Academy of Integrated Science Renaissance Arts Academy Binnsmead Middle Lane Middle
Marshfield	Marshfield High Sunset Middle
McKay	McKay High Stephens Middle Waldo Middle
McMinnville	McMinnville High Patton Middle
North Salem	North Salem High Houck Middle Parrish Middle
Oakridge	Oakridge High Westridge Middle
Roosevelt	Roosevelt Campus Small Schools Arts, Communication & Technology School Pursuit of Wellness & Recreation School Spanish-English International School George Middle Portsmouth Middle
Springfield	Springfield High Hamlin Middle Springfield Middle
Woodburn	Woodburn High French Prairie Middle Valor Middle

School data source: Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
Enrollment data is from October 1, 2005. Percentage of free/reduced lunch, minority and ESL students are from 2004-2005.

Central Cluster

A group of 8 Talmadge Middle School and Central High School teachers formed a Differentiated Instruction (DI) Team with the goal of incorporating DI strategies into their classrooms. The team met monthly to research and review differentiated instruction strategies and resources as well as plan lessons. The monthly meetings provided important collegial feedback and support as new teaching strategies were implemented. Participating teachers found that students were more engaged in learning when differentiated instruction was used and that more assignments were turned in. Consequently, 4 high school teachers attended the National Conference on Differentiated Instruction over the summer and plan to start a DI team at the high school in the fall of 2006.

Central High School
Independence, OR
503-838-0480

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 858
Free/Reduced Lunch: 49.1%
Minority Students: 33.7%
ESL Students: 10.0%

Talmadge Middle School
Independence, OR
503-606-2252

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 404
Free/Reduced Lunch: 60.1%
Minority Students: 45.5%
ESL Students: 14.5%

Chiloquin Cluster

Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School held a 7th Grade Boot Camp for students to better understand the skills that will help them succeed in school, meet teachers and staff, and talk about GEAR UP. The goal of the camp was to boost student confidence, class performance, and participation in college and career planning. Community, staff and students participated in a school beautification day, which increased involvement and pride in Chiloquin Jr/Sr. HS. Other activities included college tours, photo scavenger hunt, poster contest, all juniors taking PSAT, and 8th graders participating in “My Story, Finding the Hero Within”.

Chiloquin Jr/Sr High School
Chiloquin, OR
541-783-2321

Grade 7-12 Enrollment: 282
Free/Reduced Lunch: 64.4%
Minority Students: 45.8%
ESL Students: 0%

Eagle Point Cluster

Eagle Point High School and Eagle Point, Shady Cove, and White Mountain Middle Schools focused their GEAR UP efforts on professional and academic development. An assessment workshop was held for math teachers to work on strategies for improving assessment scores, math and science teachers attended a differentiated instruction workshop, and counselors and advisors received training to improve the scholarship program. Middle school students participated in the College Ed curriculum to increase college awareness and were offered after-school science seminars taught by Southern Oregon University (SOU) faculty. Scholarships were provided for students to attend SOU’s Academy and Kids College.

Eagle Point High School
Eagle Point, OR
541-830-1300

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1218
Free/Reduced Lunch: 39.2%
Minority Students: 23.4%
ESL Students: 6.5%

Eagle Point Middle School
Eagle Point, OR
541-830-1250

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 328
Free/Reduced Lunch: 44.2%
Minority Students: 12.1%
ESL Students: 3.7%

White Mountain Middle School
White City, OR
541-830-6315

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 244
Free/Reduced Lunch: 77.2%
Minority Students: 42.4%
ESL Students: 32.6%

Shady Cove Middle School
Shady Cove, OR
541-878-1400

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 86
Free/Reduced Lunch: 52.2%
Minority Students: 21.3%
ESL Students: 0.0%

“At the middle school level, I think GEAR UP has served in an outstanding way to plant seeds, stir curiosity, and broaden awareness.”

Jefferson County Middle School Counselor

Hermiston Cluster

Nine different college visitations were offered to students at Armand Larive Middle School and Hermiston High School, allowing them the opportunity to visit a college campus and receive guidance from admissions and financial aid representatives. 480 students visited college campuses in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California. Generation College, a Hermiston High School club for first generation students, grew from 5 students in 2004 to close to 40 students in 2006. Members receive assistance in planning their high school course schedules, registering, planning, and preparing for the SAT and ACT, selecting colleges, and filling out college admissions and scholarship applications. Club members visited California colleges during the summer of 2005. Monthly student and parent meetings take place during the school year.

Hermiston High School
Hermiston, OR
541-667-6100

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1307
Free/Reduced Lunch: 40.2%
Minority Students: 37.1%
ESL Students: 22.3%

Armand Larive Middle School
Hermiston, OR
541-667-6200

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 331
Free/Reduced Lunch: 56.0%
Minority Students: 47.1%
ESL Students: 27.1%

Illinois Valley Cluster

College Dreams served 62 students at Lorna Byrne Middle School and Illinois Valley High School. College Dreams is a local program that provides certified intervention counselors to work with students who have multiple risk factors that could prevent them from pursuing post-secondary education. Counselors meet weekly with students to assist them in staying on track with their grades, attendance and behavior. Counselors also connect with parents on a regular basis. The program begins in the 7th grade and assists students through graduation. College visits and scholarships are a part of the program. Of the 19 College Dreams graduates in 2006, 18 are enrolled and ready to start college in the fall. The Illinois Valley cluster also organized 13 tours of college campuses, ranging from Rogue Community College to Portland State University. All total, 323 sets of feet toured Oregon college campuses.

Illinois Valley High School
Cave Junction, OR
541-592-2116

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 468
Free/Reduced Lunch: 68.4%
Minority Students: 12.3%
ESL Students: 0%

Lorna Byrne Middle School
Cave Junction, OR
541-592-2163

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 232
Free/Reduced Lunch: 77.5%
Minority Students: 12.9%
ESL Students: 0.3%

Madison Cluster

Madison High School and Gregory Heights Middle School developed a series of grade specific parent meetings to assist parents during the course of their child's education, increase their awareness of college and inform them of ways they can participate in the college selection process. Two financial aid nights were also offered. Additionally, in an effort to increase course rigor, Madison provided professional development to increase the cadre of teachers capable of teaching Advanced Placement courses as well as provided training to counselors to expand their knowledge of AP and general college planning.

Madison High School
Portland, OR
503-916-5220

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 981
Free/Reduced Lunch: 65.2%
Minority Students: 51.3%
ESL Students: 15.9%

Gregory Heights Middle School
Portland, OR
503-916-5600

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 466
Free/Reduced Lunch: 57.6%
Minority Students: 48.7%
ESL Students: 13.6%

Madras Cluster

GEAR UP funds were used to provide an annual subscription to online Oregon Career Information System (CIS) for all Jefferson County Middle School students. Students had opportunities to explore college and career options through CIS, and consequently are more fully equipped to make academic course selections that will help them achieve their college and career goals. Madras High School provided professional development funds for two staff members to attend Link Training. The staff members implemented several changes that made the transition from Jefferson County Middle School to Madras High School easier for the incoming 9th grade students. Selected upperclassmen at Madras High School were trained to become student Link Crew leaders. During the school year the Link Crew leaders helped freshmen navigate their fall orientation, and provided peer tutoring and support.

Madras High School
Madras, OR
541-475-7265

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 916
Free/Reduced Lunch: 72.1%
Minority Students: 59.4%
ESL Students: 27.9%

Jefferson County Middle School
Madras, OR
541-475-7253

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 461
Free/Reduced Lunch: 84.1%
Minority Students: 65.8%
ESL Students: 45.7%

BizTech High School
Portland, OR
503-916-5241

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 297
Free/Reduced Lunch: 69.1%
Minority Students: 42.4%
ESL Students: 12.5%

Pauling Academy
Portland, OR
503-916-5242

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 282
Free/Reduced Lunch: 70.0%
Minority Students: 41.5%
ESL Students: 12.9%

Renaissance Arts Academy
Portland, OR
503-916-5244

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 277
Free/Reduced Lunch: 63.2%
Minority Students: 35.8%
ESL Students: 12.7%

Binnsmead Middle School
Portland, OR
503-916-5700

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 452
Free/Reduced Lunch: 73.9%
Minority Students: 52.1%
ESL Students: 25.5%

Lane Middle School
Portland, OR
503-916-6355

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 366
Free/Reduced Lunch: 74.8%
Minority Students: 44.4%
ESL Students: 21.2%

Marshfield Cluster

Sunset Middle School sent 8 people including team leaders, the principal, the assistant principal and the curriculum director to the National Middle School Convention. The group's focus was to learn more about career education advisory classes, new tech ed information, and different strategies for teacher/parent conferences. Marshfield High school added 3 new AP courses for the 2005-2006 school year and purchased books and supplies for those courses.

McKay Cluster

McKay High School
Salem, OR
503-399-3080

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1836
Free/Reduced Lunch: 52.9%
Minority Students: 48.4%
ESL Students: 20.8%

Stephens Middle School
Salem, OR
503-399-3442

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 677
Free/Reduced Lunch: 55.4%
Minority Students: 44.7%
ESL Students: 20.6%

Waldo Middle School
Salem, OR
503-399-3215

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 449
Free/Reduced Lunch: 71.5%
Minority Students: 60.2%
ESL Students: 33.5%



Marshall Cluster

Marshall High School was the first large urban high school in Oregon to convert into autonomous college prep schools. The three schools are: BizTech High School, focuses on business and technology; Pauling Academy of Integrated Science, utilizes the tenets of science as a guiding force; and Renaissance Arts Academy, utilizes the arts and arts-infused academics.

The small schools at the Marshall Campus and Binnsmead and Lane Middle Schools implemented a series of family nights. Topics at the middle school level included: how parents can assist their child with study habits and homework, what are the tests students are required to take and what do they mean, an introduction to Marshall HS and what it has to offer, and an explanation of summer opportunities for students. Topics at the high school level included: life after high school, financial aid, FAFSA help, scholarship night, and junior night (how to prepare for post-secondary education).

Marshfield High School
Coos Bay, OR
541-267-1405

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1203
Free/Reduced Lunch: 40.1%
Minority Students: 25.4%
ESL Students: 1.1%

Sunset Middle School
Coos Bay, OR
541-888-1242

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 575
Free/Reduced Lunch: 54.0%
Minority Students: 27.3%
ESL Students: 0.9%

One of the most important achievements for the McKay cluster was including their GEAR UP goals into other planning and reform initiatives in the school. Doing so creates meaningful partnerships and strategies for sustainability.

Stephens Middle School launched a "Gearin' Up for College" week early in the year, which proved to be a huge success. The week was followed up with visits to three different college campuses for different groups of eighth graders. Waldo Middle School continued their hugely successful "Roller Coaster Physics" program, which engages students in activities to enrich their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of math and physics. The program culminates in a trip to "Great America" amusement park where students are required to apply the physics principles they've learned to the roller coasters at the park (before they ride them!).

McKay will also be continuing its very successful Freshman Survival Camp in August 2006; this will be the fourth year! This camp has become the culminating point for some new 8th to 9th grade transition activities GEAR UP has facilitated over the past couple of years.

McMinnville Cluster

All 7th and 8th graders at Patton Middle School went on a college visit and toured the campus, ate lunch and had class-related experiences. The McMinnville High School ASPIRE program has connected 9 mentors with 25 students, providing resources to help the students access education and training beyond high school as well as understand the scholarship application process and other options for paying for postsecondary education.

McMinnville High School
McMinnville, OR
503-565-4200

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1839
Free/Reduced Lunch: 31.3%
Minority Students: 23.0%
ESL Students: 7.6%

Patton Middle School
McMinnville, OR
503-565-4500

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 479
Free/Reduced Lunch: 51.2%
Minority Students: 29.0%
ESL Students: 10.9%

North Salem Cluster

This year all 350 juniors at North Salem High School took the PSAT. This opened the door for follow-up by career center personnel. For the third consecutive year, North Salem High School has sent 12 seniors to the Oregon Health Career Center's summer internship program. Without the help of GEAR UP these students would not otherwise be able to attend. Of the 12 students who attended last year all are pursuing some form of post-secondary education, most at a 2 or 4 year school.

North Salem High School
Salem, OR
503-399-3241

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 2039
Free/Reduced Lunch: 53.0%
Minority Students: 39.8%
ESL Students: 14.0%

Houck Middle School
Salem, OR
503-399-3446

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 734
Free/Reduced Lunch: 63.1%
Minority Students: 39.4%
ESL Students: 16.4%

Parrish Middle School
Salem, OR
503-399-3210

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 457
Free/Reduced Lunch: 72.4%
Minority Students: 46.4%
ESL Students: 19.7%

Oakridge Cluster

Oakridge High School held a career day with 24 local business people presenting their personal journeys from high school to their current positions, including a description of the education and training needed to get there. Oakridge also updated the material in their career center and organized it so it could be a useful tool for students, parents and staff. Visitors can pick up information on SAT's, colleges, financial aid, and scholarships, and there are books available for students and parent to borrow, a computer with CIS access, and free magazines on a variety of career and college topics. The PSAT was offered free to all juniors. Results were used by advisors as a tool for planning student schedules that improve academic success and as a tool for college advising.

Oakridge High School
Oakridge, OR
541-782-2231

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 252
Free/Reduced Lunch: 45.4%
Minority Students: 8.8%
ESL Students: 0.5%

Westridge Middle School
Westfir, OR
541-782-2731

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 112
Free/Reduced Lunch: 58.9%
Minority Students: 5.3%
ESL Students: 0.1%

“It was nice to meet locals from the community and hear their success stories. There are jobs here that I didn't even know existed.”

Oakridge HS student, on career fair

ACT
Portland, OR
503-916-5260

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 282
Free/Reduced Lunch: 67.0%
Minority Students: 46.2%
ESL Students: 14.4%

POWER
Portland, OR
503-916-5260

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 284
Free/Reduced Lunch: 70.5%
Minority Students: 58.2%
ESL Students: 7.8%

SEIS
Portland, OR
503-916-5260

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 212
Free/Reduced Lunch: 80.0%
Minority Students: 75.8%
ESL Students: 37.2%

George Middle School
Portland, OR
503-916-6262

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 288
Free/Reduced Lunch: 80.1%
Minority Students: 64.9%
ESL Students: 19.8%

Portsmouth Middle School
Portland, OR
503-916-5666

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 287
Free/Reduced Lunch: 69.4%
Minority Students: 58.9%
ESL Students: 15.6%

Roosevelt Cluster

During the 2003-2004 academic year, Roosevelt transformed to three small schools of fewer than 300 students each, providing students with focused curriculum and learning environments. These schools are Arts, Communication and Technology (ACT), Pursuit of Wellness & Recreation (POWER) and Spanish-English International School (SEIS).

Governor Ted Kulongoski and Senator Ron Wyden requested a roundtable discussion with a handful of Roosevelt High School GEAR UP students to talk about the impact GEAR UP has had on their lives. The subsequent press coverage resulted in positive support for GEAR UP and Roosevelt's school effort in North Portland. Each student's comments were heard, their efforts applauded, and an appreciation for their pursuit of post-secondary education was acknowledged.

Springfield Cluster

Springfield High School math teachers organized what will become an annual "Math Bowl." The event, organized by math staff and run by high school math students, encouraged and supported math skills for Hamlin and Springfield Middle School students and united middle and high school math teachers. Students were awarded ribbons and medals, and a traveling trophy awarded to the school with the highest points. Springfield High School seniors were awarded \$3.5 million in scholarship funds.

Springfield High School
Springfield, OR
541-744-4700

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1562
Free/Reduced Lunch: 46.3%
Minority Students: 21.6%
ESL Students: 6.5%

Hamlin Middle School
Springfield, OR
541-744-6356

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 296
Free/Reduced Lunch: 70.9%
Minority Students: 32.8%
ESL Students: 15.2%

Springfield Middle School
Springfield, OR
541-744-6362

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 192
Free/Reduced Lunch: 78.6%
Minority Students: 25.1%
ESL Students: 6.6%

Woodburn High School
Woodburn, OR
503-981-2600

Grade 9-12 Enrollment: 1316
Free/Reduced Lunch: 74.5%
Minority Students: 66.5%
ESL Students: 52.4%

French Prairie Middle School
Woodburn, OR
503-981-2650

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 377
Free/Reduced Lunch: 78.1%
Minority Students: 72.8%
ESL Students: 49.2%

Valor Middle School
Woodburn, OR
503-981-2750

Grade 7-8 Enrollment: 346
Free/Reduced Lunch: 89.5%
Minority Students: 70.6%
ESL Students: 60.2%

Woodburn Cluster

Woodburn High School hosted Sallie Mae Fund's "On the Road: The Paying for College Bus Tour." The tour is designed to help educate Latino families about planning and paying for college. Woodburn also partnered with Silverton Hospital to provide student site visits, health professionals educating students in personal health and safety as well as careers in health at the school, and parental classes. French Prairie and Valor Middle Schools started Lego Robotics to increase awareness and education in mathematics and science and to promote leadership skills and personal responsibility/accountability for group performance.

Partnerships with Colleges and Universities

Eastern Oregon University

EOU created a three week summer academic institute for 30 high school students on the La Grande campus. Students completed courses of their choice taught by university faculty. Students earned as many as 12 college credits for courses such as: Spanish 107, History 101, Computer Science 121, Theater 264, and Art 130. In addition to coursework, students and their significant adults learned about the need to prepare adequately for college and the real costs of a college education.

Lane Community College

Lane Community College provided a college awareness enrichment program for Latino middle and high school students and their families from Springfield and the surrounding area. The program was comprised of three parts:

1. An evening workshop for students and parents conducted in Spanish and English. Services included on-site child care, transportation to and from the event, and a light dinner. Topics included: the benefits of attending college, the admissions process, financial aid, and a discussion with a panel of college students.
2. A middle school campus visitation day to both LCC and the University of Oregon.
3. A high school campus visitation day to both LCC and the University of Oregon.

Oregon Institute of Technology

OIT continued working with the 9th graders and their significant adults at Chiloquin Jr/Sr. High School to increase the engagement behaviors of students, their parents, and their peers towards college preparation activities. Last year OIT worked with these students through the “My Story, Finding the Hero Within” program. This year OIT continued working with these students during weekly in-school sessions on topics such as career exploration, comparing colleges, financial aid, college applications, and building a resume. Students were given the opportunity to apply for OIT’s summer program “GRAD: Graduation Really Achieves Dreams.”

“I think the availability of resources surrounding types of colleges, how to get into college, filling out forms, etc. have all been a huge help.”

Sharon Brown, Madras ASPIRE/
GEAR UP room

Oregon Institute of Technology

Graduation Really Achieve Dreams (GRAD) was a four week academic program utilizing an innovation strategy called “Crater Lake in the Classroom.” The curriculum explores the geologic and cultural history of this unique natural environment. The course culminated with an experiential learning component at Crater Lake National Park. Park personnel guided students through hands-on experiences designed to enhance their classroom learning. These experiential opportunities made the classroom work more relevant and served to further pique student interest in pursuing careers in science and technology.

Southern Oregon University

The SOU Office of Admissions designed a 5-year visitation program with the Illinois Valley and Eagle Point clusters. Each year, students participate in a different campus activity, providing them with an evolving college awareness experience. The 8th grade program was designed to improve and accelerate student academic achievement and college awareness prior to high school. The 9th and 10th grade programs reinforce the notions of academic achievement and college awareness ensuring that students attending the 11th and 12th grade programs are better prepared and well versed in the associated costs, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, programs and admissions requirements of various types of post-secondary options.

Southern Oregon University

SOU has a rich history of offering summer enrichment opportunities that not only provide students with academic support, but also recognize and celebrate their cultural heritage. These programs include “ACADEMY” for talented and gifted students, Native American youth academy entitled “Konaway Nika Tillicum”, and “Academia Latina.” GEAR UP provided scholarships for students to attend one of these three residential programs at the reduced rate of \$25; however, no student was turned away.

University of Oregon

The University of Oregon Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity continued to offer students the opportunity to participate in the Oregon Young Scholars Program (OYSP) free of charge. OYSP was developed last year with students in the 8th grade. This cohort of students returned to the program this summer as 9th graders. The project includes academic enrichment and assistance, access to ACT/SAT preparation, career exploration, and workshops in math, science and English. Students are also given the opportunity to participate in summer residential, academic intensive programs.



How Can I Help?

The success of GEAR UP depends on the support from community members and local businesses.

What you can do:

- Contribute to the GEAR UP Scholarship fund
- Become an ASPIRE mentor
- Volunteer at your local middle or high school
- Contribute to school fund raisers
- Sponsor a teacher or student to attend a national or regional conference
- Provide job shadowing opportunities for local youth
- Donate computer and office supplies to local schools

GEAR UP in the News

OPB News

Kulongoski And Wyden Tout Threatened Program

By Colin Fogarty

PORTLAND, OR (2006-02-21) President Bush's federal budget announced earlier this month includes cuts to 141 federal programs.

One of those spending reductions would come from a U.S. Department of Education initiative called Gear Up, which helps students prepare for college at 16 high schools and 23 middle schools in Oregon.

Critics of the program say there's little data to prove it actually helps kids. But Oregon's top two Democrats disagree and they visited Portland's Roosevelt high school Tuesday to make the point.

Senator Ron Wyden said as a member of the Senate budget committee, he hears a lot about budget cuts.

Ron Wyden: "So people come along and the question is can we afford to have the Gear Up program. And it's the view of the governor and I is that we can't afford not to have Gear Up."

Wyden appeared with Democratic Governor Ted Kulongoski, who is running for re-election.

The governor likened the program to the G.I. Bill, which sent him to college.

Ted Kulongoski: "Look at it as a bigger Gear Up program. You know what it was? It was opportunity. They gave me a chance. And I want you to know as long as I'm the governor, that will still be my priority is everything I do is to give you a chance."

Wyden and Kulongoski heard from several high school students who said they might not otherwise be headed for college without Gear Up.

One said the program even helped her boost her SAT score.

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GEAR UP Partners

ACT Educational Planning and Assessment System
Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE)
Center for Applied Second Language Studies
The College Board
Community Colleges & Workforce Development (CCWD)
EDFUND
Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC)
Employers for Education Excellence (E3)
Mathematics, Engineering, & Science Achievement (MESA)
National College Access Network (NCAN)
NeLA Center for Student Success
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
Oregon Education Association (OEA)
Oregon Small Schools Initiative
Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC)
Oregon Quality Assurance in Teaching
Oregon University System
Proficiency-Based Admission Standards System (PASS)
Read Oregon (Formerly known as CREADE)
Science & Mathematics Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE)

“Without GEAR UP, I know there would be a greatly reduced availability of information and opportunity to see or visit with informed individuals.”

Gary Carlton, Madras HS Principal





Oregon GEAR UP

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“GEAR UP gave me chances to do leadership and help me figure out what I wanted to do. No matter how many times I changed my mind GEAR UP supported me and kept me going. Some of my best experiences were with GEAR UP and now I’m enrolled in college! I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Matt Wilhelm, Roosevelt HS Student