

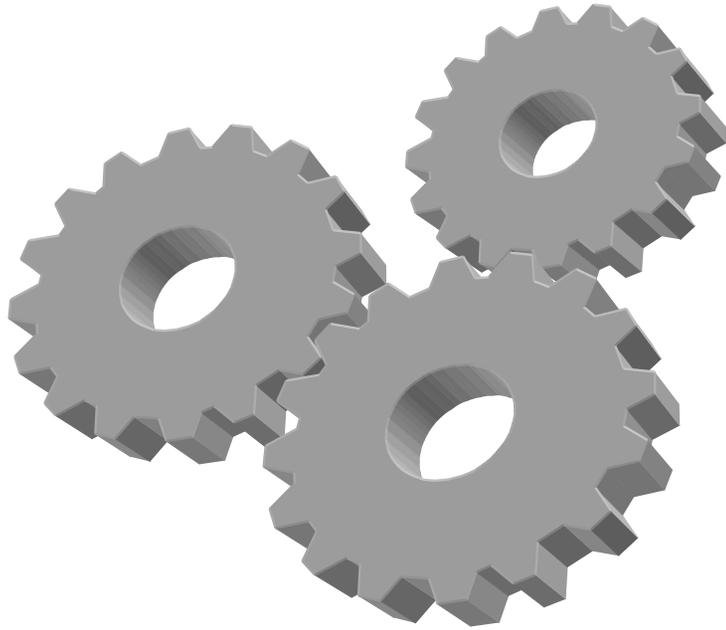
Encouraging Dreams Transforming Futures



OREGON
GEARUP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness
for Undergraduate Programs

Oregon GEAR UP Annual Report 2009-10



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Dear Fellow Oregonian:

For eight years now, Oregon GEAR UP has been at the forefront of the effort to expand young peoples’ access to postsecondary education. Working with middle and high schools around the state, the GEAR UP program has promoted higher academic expectations, stronger college and career preparation, and increased postsecondary enrollment among low-income students. I have always believed that Oregon’s bright future depends upon a well-educated populace, and I am enormously proud of GEAR UP’s success in expanding young peoples’ access to higher education in our state.

I am especially pleased that GEAR UP has turned its attention toward our rural communities. Rural Oregonians are significantly less likely to obtain postsecondary training than are their urban counterparts, and since 2008, Oregon GEAR UP has addressed this educational attainment gap by concentrating its efforts in twenty rural schools. In partnership with educators, families, community members, and colleges and universities, GEAR UP is establishing college-bound cultures in these schools that are sure to last well beyond the life of the GEAR UP grant.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments highlighted in this report. They not only point to the hard work, vision and dedication of the GEAR UP teams in schools across the state, but also to a future of equitable college access and postsecondary success for all Oregonians. Let us all congratulate the schools, students, and their families for participating in the GEAR UP program.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor



Greetings:

These are challenging times for Oregon's schools, students and families. Recent economic changes have translated into larger class sizes, shorter school years, and the loss of field trips and elective courses. Yet even in these difficult times, educators and volunteers in GEAR UP schools are maintaining their strong commitment to student achievement, and they're continuing to deliver high quality programs that provide students with tools to effectively explore and navigate their educational paths.

It has been a pleasure to work with these educators and volunteers. As you'll read in the pages that follow, they have made great strides toward achieving the ultimate goal of GEAR UP – providing each student with the opportunity to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education. Each GEAR UP community took an individualized approach to assessing its most pressing needs, identifying the most appropriate ways to meet these needs, and engaging in a range of activities and programs designed to prepare students for successful futures. I think you'll be impressed by the creativity and determination reflected in this report.

This year our schools were able to enhance the technology in their classrooms, engage students in college campus-based activities, invest in their educators through meaningful workshops and trainings, strengthen and align their curricula, and much more. Nearly 3,000 students were directly served by the program this year along with countless others who benefited from the changes in school culture that GEAR UP has brought about. On the statewide level, we proudly offered a variety of opportunities for professional development, student enrichment, and family engagement. Our partners continue to amaze us with their dedication to this program and the wealth of resources they bring to GEAR UP students, schools and communities.

Given recent economic forecasts and talk of an extended recession, it is certainly easy to fear for our schools and the students they serve. However, as the teams in our GEAR UP schools have demonstrated, perseverance and creativity go a long way toward mitigating the effects of budget crises. GEAR UP teams understand that the future of our students and our state depend on an unwavering commitment to student success, and that understanding is abundantly evident in all that they've accomplished this year.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Carnahan
Director, Oregon GEAR UP



What is GEAR UP?

College. It's not a dream. It's a plan. That's our motto at Oregon GEAR UP, and it guides our work with middle and high schools around the state. We support schools in their efforts to set high academic expectations, promote early awareness of college opportunities, and engage students in college and career planning. Our goal is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary programs, and we work with school districts, colleges and universities, and a variety of partner organizations across Oregon to realize that goal.

Administered by the Oregon University System, Oregon GEAR UP began in 2002 with a six-year grant from the United States Department of Education. We received a second federal grant in 2008, which will fund activities through 2014. All low-income serving school districts in Oregon qualify for membership in the GEAR UP family and are encouraged to join its statewide college readiness effort.

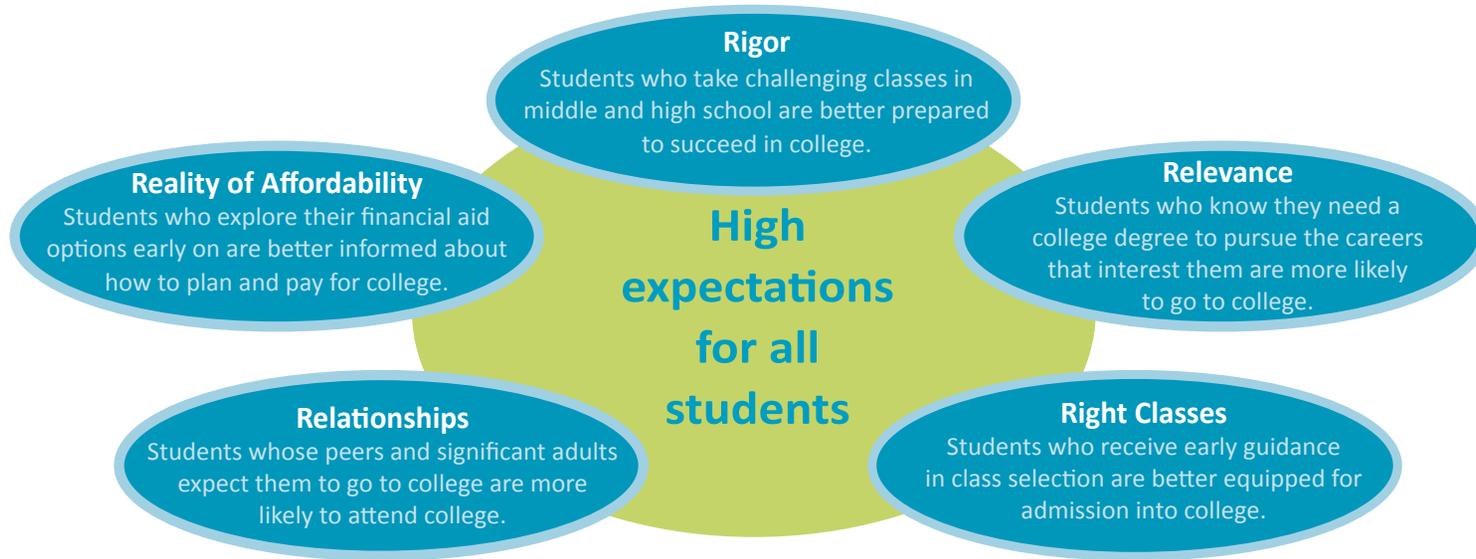
Activities are concentrated in twelve Oregon school districts receiving GEAR UP funding during the 2008-2014 grant cycle. Grants of \$30,000 to \$40,000 are awarded annually to each district. Alongside the grants, GEAR UP provides the districts with technical assistance and coordinates a variety of statewide activities that support the development of successful school-based college readiness initiatives. Middle and high school staff in these districts design and carry out most of the program's activities. Our partner organizations provide curriculum support, mentorship programs and professional development opportunities to the schools, as well as college campus-based events that expose students to college life.

GEAR UP emphasizes five key components of effective postsecondary preparation: rigor, relevance, right classes, relationships, and reality of affordability. This research-based "Five R" model underpins all school-based and statewide GEAR UP activities as well as the college campus based events in which GEAR UP students participate.

"GEAR UP has given us the ability to open students minds to a better tomorrow. Every day, I get to work in an environment where students' eyes glimmer with signs of hope as they realize that college is no longer a dream, but a reality that is achievable. That is pretty cool."

*-Kristin Adams
GEAR UP Coordinator
Sweet Home Junior High and High Schools*

The Five “Rs”



GEAR UP’s Two-Tier Model

In the fall of 2009, Oregon GEAR UP expanded its outreach efforts in order to include more schools in this unique college readiness initiative. As a result, GEAR UP now serves schools across the state according to a two-tier model. Tier Two schools receive a wide range of supports and resources through GEAR UP, including our electronic newsletter, access to free and low-cost college readiness publications, reduced-fee professional development opportunities and membership in a statewide network of college access practitioners. Tier One schools, whose activities are highlighted in this report, receive all of these services as well as direct technical assistance from GEAR UP staff, mentorship opportunities for principals, and funds to establish long-term college readiness programs in their communities.

Schools qualify for membership in the two-tier GEAR UP family based on their demographic profiles: If the school containing the seventh grade class serves a high-poverty population (where fifty percent or more of the student body qualifies for free or reduced-price meals), then that school and the high school into which it feeds both qualify for GEAR UP. Tier One schools were selected based on additional criteria, including staff commitment to the program, partner involvement, readiness to engage in school-wide college readiness efforts, and a solid plan for sustaining those efforts beyond the life of the grant. Tier One schools are also distinguished by their rural locations. Because rural Oregonians have been among the least likely in the state to access postsecondary education, the GEAR UP program targeted rural school districts for the 2008-2014 grant cycle.

Aurora

North Marion Middle and North Marion High

Brookings

Azalea Middle and Brookings-Harbor High

Cottage Grove

Lincoln Middle, Kennedy High and Cottage Grove High

Glendale

Glendale Jr/Sr High

Grants Pass

Fleming Middle and North Valley High

Irrigon

Irrigon Jr/Sr High

La Pine

La Pine Middle and La Pine High

Lincoln City

Taft 7-12

Merrill

Lost River Jr/Sr High

Myrtle Creek

Coffenberry Middle and South Umpqua High

Stanfield

Stanfield Secondary

Sweet Home

Sweet Home Jr High and Sweet Home High

Tier One GEAR UP Schools

In 2008, public schools in twelve rural communities around the state became Tier One GEAR UP schools. In each of these communities, the GEAR UP program is focused in a school or cluster of schools serving low-income students in grades seven through twelve. GEAR UP activities targeted the class of 2014 during the first year of the grant; each subsequent year, a new cohort of seventh graders joins the GEAR UP family.



In 2009-10, the GEAR UP program served 2,667 students, engaged nearly 800 family members in college readiness events, and offered over 100 hours of professional development to educators in Tier One schools.

Tier One School Demographics

GEAR UP Middle Schools	Oregon Middle Schools	GEAR UP High Schools	Oregon High Schools
67% Free/Reduced Lunch	51% Free/Reduced Lunch	61% Free/Reduced Lunch	43% Free/Reduced Lunch
23% Minority Enrollment	32% Minority Enrollment	21% Minority Enrollment	28% Minority Enrollment
5% LEP* Students	10% LEP Students	4% LEP Students	7% LEP Students
15% Students on IEPs**	15% Students on IEPs	14% Students on IEPs	12% Students on IEPs

The current set of Tier One GEAR UP schools includes seven middle schools, eight high schools, and five schools that combine middle and secondary grades. Together, these schools yield a demographic profile that is fairly representative of rural Oregon: As reflected in the chart above, the population served by these schools is lower-income and somewhat less ethnically diverse than the state’s population as a whole.

Reflects most recent data available from the Oregon Department of Education; all data is from the 2009-10 school year

*Limited English Proficient

**Individualized Education Plans for students receiving special education services

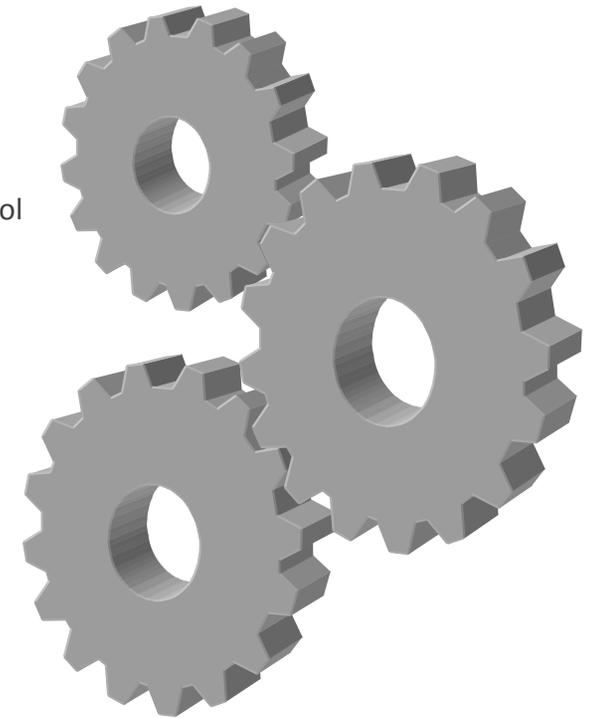
Tier Two GEAR UP Schools



“The GEAR UP program has helped our school to establish a college-going tradition that will continue for years to come.”

*-Clark Morberg
Teacher
Springfield High School*

Adrian Elementary/Middle School
Adrian High School
Academy of International Studies
Alice Ott Middle School
Armand Larive Middle School
Arts and Technology Academy at Jefferson
Baker High School
Bandon High School
Beach PK-8
Bend Senior High School
Centennial Learning Center
Central High School
Child’s Way Charter School
Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School
Churchill High School
Clarendon-Portsmouth Middle School
Condon Grade School
Corvallis High School
Crane Elementary
Crane Union HS
Creswell Middle School
Crook County High School
Dallas High School
David Douglas High School
Douglas Avenue Alternative School
Douglas High School
Eagle Point High School
Eagle Point Middle School



Elkton Charter School
French Prairie Middle School
George Middle School
Gervais Middle School
Gold Beach High School
Gregory Heights Middle School
Hamlin Middle School
Harrison Park Middle School
HB Lee Middle School
Hermiston High School
Hillsboro High School
Houck Middle School
Illinois Valley High School
Jefferson High School
Jefferson County Middle School
Lakeview High School
Lane Middle School
Lebanon High School
LEP High School
Lorna Byrne Middle School
Lowell Junior/Senior High School
Media Arts and Communications Academy
Madison High School
Madras High School
Marshall Renaissance Arts Academy
Marshall BizTech High School
Marshall Pauling Academy of Integrated
Science

Marshfield High School
Mazama High School
McKay High School
McMinnville High School
Merlo Station Community School
Milwaukie High School
Mohawk High School
Monroe Grade School
Monument School
Myrtle Point Jr/Sr High School
Nixyaawii Community School
North Douglas Middle School
North Salem High School
Oakland High School
Oakridge High School
Oakridge Junior High School
Parrish Middle School
Patton Middle School
Pine Eagle School District
Reynolds High School
Riddle High School
Riley Creek School
Riverside Jr/Sr High School
Rogue River High School
Roosevelt Arts, Communication and
Technology School
Roosevelt POWER School
Roosevelt Spanish-English Int'l School

Roseburg High School
Roseway Heights School
Santiam High School
Seaside High School
Shady Cove School
Spray Schools
Springfield High School
Springfield Middle School
Stayton High School
Stephens Middle School
Sunset Middle School
Sutherlin High School
Sutherlin Middle School
Talmadge Middle School
The Dalles Middle School
Triangle Lake Charter Project
Triangle Lake School
Valor Middle School
Waldo Middle School
Waldport High School
White Mountain Middle School
Willamette High School
Willamina High School
Woodburn Academy of Art, Science
and Technology
Woodburn Arts and Communications Academy
Woodburn Wellness, Business
and Sports School

Tier One School Activities

Aurora

North Marion Middle School
North Marion High School

This year, North Marion’s GEAR UP program grew tremendously. Building on the success of an afterschool tutoring program established in the grant’s first year, the North Marion team expanded the program to offer tutoring one additional day each week. The program now serves an average of thirty students per day, three days per week, and it has brought about great results in terms of improved grades. In addition, the teacher-tutors that staff the afterschool program have developed positive and supportive relationships with the students who attend, helping to strengthen students’ ties to adults at the school.

Alongside the tutoring program, the North Marion GEAR UP team emphasized college and career exploration this year. The seventh grade class took part in “I’m Going to College” (IGTC) – an early college awareness program provided by the Northwest Education Loan Association. After completing the IGTC curriculum, the students visited both Linfield College and Portland Community College, gaining critical exposure to campus life.

North Marion MS

68% Free/Reduced Lunch
45% Minority Students
15% LEP Students

North Marion HS

56% Free/Reduced Lunch
35% Minority Students
10% LEP Students

part in “I’m Going to College” (IGTC) – an early college awareness program provided by the Northwest Education Loan Association. After



“We have seen an important shift in the perspectives of students who have participated in GEAR UP events.”

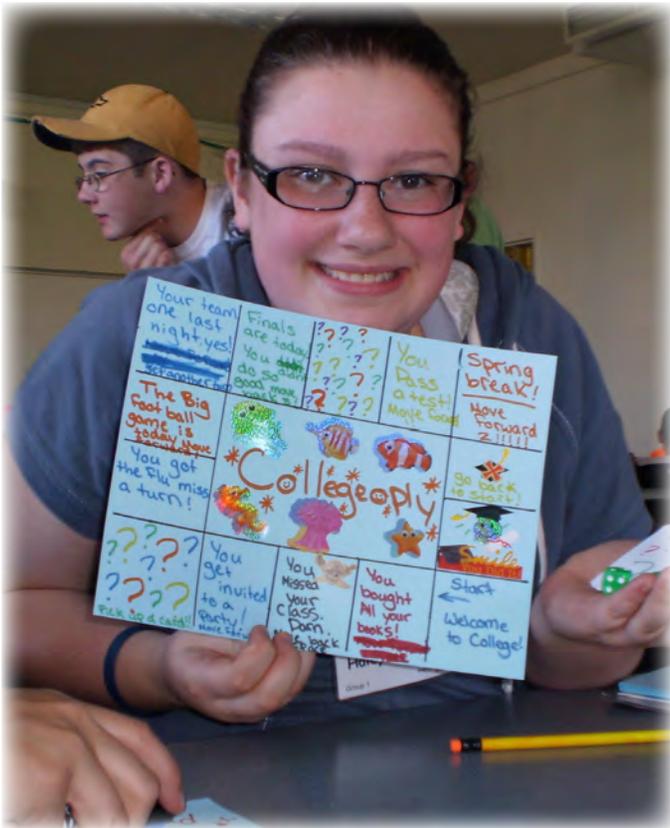
*-Jane Carlton
Teacher
North Marion Middle School*

Additional college visits and campus-based activities included an eighth grade field trip to Oregon State University, where students toured the campus and visited the WAVE research lab, and a combined seventh and eighth grade visit to the University of Oregon. On the career exploration front, the North Marion GEAR UP team instituted a Career Assembly Series in the winter, bringing six different community members into the middle school to share information about their careers and education with the seventh and eighth grade students. The career series offered students concrete examples of the relevance of postsecondary education to future career choices. Eighth graders also explored careers in their Advisory classes using the Oregon Career Information System (CIS). Students chose a career based on several exploration activities and personal profiles, and they completed poster projects detailing why they had chosen their careers and how their careers match up with their personal profiles.

Fifty-two of North Marion's seventh and eighth grade students were selected to participate in the Oregon Achievers program this year. The program, offered by the University of Oregon admissions office, consisted of three events for students: one comprehensive campus visit, one family program at the middle school, and one awards luncheon at the University of Oregon. The family program provided students and parents with key information on financing a college education, while the awards ceremony recognized students' achievement and preparation for success in college.



RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“GEAR UP has provided many opportunities for our students to stretch their minds and expand their possibilities.”

*-Diane Kinney
Teacher
Brookings-Harbor High School*

Brookings

Azalea Middle School Brookings-Harbor High School

The Brookings GEAR UP team made significant headway this year in strengthening the college-bound culture at Azalea Middle and Brookings-Harbor High Schools. At the beginning of the year, sixth graders were welcomed to Azalea Middle School by eighth grade WEB leaders who guided the new students through a variety of activities designed to foster both success in middle school and readiness for the rigors of high school and college. Later in the year, 120 students and parents attended Azalea’s College Night, participating in workshops on financing college, connecting career interests to postsecondary education plans, and developing college-bound study skills. Toward the year’s end, eighth grade students and their families participated in a ninth grade orientation evening that emphasized the importance of taking college preparatory classes.

Geographic isolation is one of the key challenges facing students in the Brookings cluster. As members of Oregon’s southernmost coastal community, Brookings students have few opportunities to participate in activities on college campuses or explore careers in industries not represented in the local community. For these reasons, the Brookings cluster channeled a portion of its GEAR UP resources into college visits and career-related field trips. Seventh graders took an extensive tour of Rogue Community College (RCC),

engaging in hands-on activities in science and automotive technology labs and talking with instructors and RCC students about degree programs and related careers. Seventh graders also traveled south to visit the University of California at Berkeley, where they explored the campus and discussed college life with current Berkeley students. Students interested in culinary careers spent a day at Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School, taking part in a hands-on cooking class and enjoying the fruits of their labor in the form of an elaborate seven-course meal.

Azalea MS

59% Free/Reduced Lunch
19% Minority Students
<1.5% LEP Students

Brookings-Harbor HS

50% Free/Reduced Lunch
20% Minority Students
<1.1% LEP Students



Last but certainly not least, the Brookings GEAR UP team made great strides toward increasing college readiness through academic rigor. Teaching staff participated in a range of professional development opportunities designed to enhance curriculum and instruction, such as the AP Calculus Institute. In addition, the Brookings-Harbor High School staff began the process of designing six new dual-credit course offerings which, when coupled with the school's existing dual-credit offerings, will provide a total of twenty-three courses in which students can earn college credit prior to graduating from high school – and without paying college tuition.

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“At Lincoln Middle School, we have had a great year. We were able to do things that have had, and will have, a tremendous impact on all of our students academically both now and in their future educational careers.”

*-Brian McCasline
Principal
Lincoln Middle School*

Cottage Grove

Lincoln Middle School
Kennedy High School
Cottage Grove High School

In 2009-2010, the Cottage Grove GEAR UP team implemented a comprehensive plan to bring about sustainable change in its schools and community. The team used GEAR UP funds to engage teaching and administrative staff in professional development activities related to reading and writing, arranging to have over ninety-five percent of the school district’s middle and high school teachers trained to use the Oregon Department of Education’s new Alternative Reading Assessment – a powerful assessment and instructional tool that provides students with multiple opportunities to develop and demonstrate reading proficiency. The team also used GEAR UP funds to convene a cross-grade Writing Committee consisting of twenty-five teachers as well as school and district administrators. The Committee reviewed best practices related to writing instruction, created a standards-based K-12 Articulated Writing Guide, and developed a new Writing Plan containing a range of applications that teachers will be able to use in their classrooms immediately.

At Lincoln Middle School, the GEAR UP program included two key projects designed to support students socially and academically as they transition from middle to high school and into postsecondary programs. First, the language arts, social studies, math and science teachers convened by con-

tent area to analyze and map curriculum, ensuring its alignment across grades and with state standards. The second project – Transition Day – was dedicated to helping students plan and prepare for their educational futures. Fifth graders from across the district came to Lincoln Middle School, participating in a day of typical sixth-grade activities, while sixth graders rotated through sessions ranging from “Seventh Grade Preparation” to “Creating a Plan and Profile” using Oregon Career Information System’s CIS Jr. program. The seventh graders traveled to the University

of Oregon and explored college life, while eighth graders attended high school classes and participated in sessions on making college-preparatory choices during their high school years. Cottage Grove High School also focused on successful

transitions this year, using GEAR UP funds to develop its Link Crew. Link Crew is a peer mentorship program that connects upperclassmen with younger, incoming students to support a smooth transition to high school. Two staff members participated in a four-day Link training and then facilitated a range of student-led activities during Cottage Grove’s 2010 Link Day.

The staff at Kennedy High School concentrated its GEAR UP efforts in the area of increasing academic rigor. In partnership with Lane Community College, Kennedy staff received training and certification to teach College Now courses in which students can earn college credit. *Sustainability 101: Water Studies* represents an especially exciting example of the new dual-credit courses now available at Kennedy. In the course, students learned about water quality and clean water scarcity, conducted clean water assessments in their community and reported the results to local agencies. Kennedy teacher Stefan Aumack partnered with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Lane Community College, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, and the Walama Restoration Project to create the course, which students laud as one of the most engaging courses they’ve ever taken. As Aumack notes, “students are excited by the course and can see parallels between their involvement in the life of their school and community, and the future possibilities that exist for them in college.”

Lincoln MS	Kennedy HS	Cottage Grove HS
67% Free/Reduced Lunch	85% Free/Reduced Lunch	55% Free/Reduced Lunch
10% Minority Students	17% Minority Students	12% Minority Students
3% LEP Students	0% LEP Students	1% LEP Students

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“GEAR UP is a wonderful program that inspires kids to go to college”

*-7th Grade Student
Glendale Junior/Senior High School*

Glendale

Glendale Junior/Senior High School

Relevance, relationships and reality of affordability figured prominently in the GEAR UP program at Glendale Junior/Senior High School this year. In an effort to promote career exploration and preparation, the Glendale team engaged students in a comprehensive job shadow project. Students used the Oregon Career Information System (CIS) to research careers of interest, participated in a Junior High Careers Class, and completed a job shadow of their choosing. The Glendale team also worked to build relationships be-

Glendale Jr/Sr HS

84% Free/Reduced Lunch

7% Minority Students

0% LEP Students

tween students and adult volunteers that would support college-going behaviors. The school's ASPIRE program tripled in size from last year both in terms of student participation and volunteer mentor recruitment. Students developed meaningful relationships with their one-on-one mentors as they explored postsec-

ondary and career possibilities together. Parents and college students played key roles in the area of relationships, as well, participating in GEAR UP Parent Meetings throughout the year to discuss strategies toward college preparation and postsecondary success for Glendale students. Representatives from College Dreams and Dream Savers presented to students and families at Glendale's annual Financial Aid meeting in December, where record numbers of parents attended to learn about ways to finance and save for college.

The Glendale GEAR UP team also emphasized college visits in 2009-2010. Field trips to Oregon State University, Southern Oregon University and Umpqua Community College gave students much needed exposure to college life, while seventh graders participated in a special outing to Oregon State University for the OSU Engineering Expo.



The impact of the Glendale GEAR UP program is well summarized by Glendale's school counselor and home economics teacher, Susan Snelling, who remarks that "one of the most exciting things for me to hear is the detailed information these students now have of the various colleges around the state. Two years ago, most of our junior high kids knew almost nothing about the programs, locations, sizes, majors of any colleges or universities - maybe only knowing the sports mascots! Last week I was in one of the mentoring groups, and the kids were having a discussion about which university had the best forensics labs, the best culinary programs, and which community colleges had dorms. It was like music to my ears."

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“From FAFSA nights to career fairs, our students and their families have now had the opportunity to examine the reality of affordability for postsecondary education.”

*-John George
Director of Secondary Education
Three Rivers School District*

Grants Pass

Fleming Middle School
North Valley High School

Thanks to the work of the North Valley GEAR UP team, students are now receiving more precisely aligned and standards-based instruction than ever before. Using GEAR UP dollars, the team coordinated an extensive curriculum alignment project that ensures more seamless transitions from grade to grade. This year, the focus has been on mathematics and language arts: Teams from the middle and high school came together to plan and articulate a solid 6-12 program that will support student achievement and success, and the work continued into the summer with the alignment of the science curriculum.

The North Valley team focused on successful student transitions in other key ways, as well. All seventh graders were provided with opportunities to examine and plan courses of study for their high school and college years, resulting

in a four-year educational plan and a Career Information System career plan for each student. Combined with this year’s career fairs,

Fleming MS

57% Free/Reduced Lunch
14% Minority Students
<1.5% LEP Students

North Valley HS

51% Free/Reduced Lunch
14% Minority Students
0% LEP Students

financial aid information nights and college visits, these activities promise to support all students in developing and achieving their postsecondary aspirations.

Enhancing instructional technology was another central goal of the North Valley GEAR UP team this year. Active boards, student response clickers, document cameras and projectors were purchased for classrooms at both the middle and high schools, allowing teachers to more actively engage students in lessons. In addition, a new student computing center was established at North Valley High School, complete with 31 student workstations. With the new center in place, teachers and students have greater access to computers on a day-to-day basis, and the school's older computing center can now be devoted solely to statewide OAKS testing.



RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“Our GEAR UP activities have generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement, especially in the middle school, about the relevance of postsecondary education.”

*-Sarah Miller
Teacher
Irrigon Junior/Senior High School*

Irrigon

Irrigon Junior/Senior High School

This year at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School, the GEAR UP team implemented a range of activities that generated new enthusiasm among students about their postsecondary possibilities. All students were provided with opportunities to tour at least two colleges, universities or trade schools in the fall. A Middle School Career Day brought in professionals to discuss their work in the fields of photography, hospital administration, veterinary science, law enforcement, emergency management, and more – emphasizing the educational pathways available to students interested in such careers. Financial Aid Nights brought college representatives to the school to present information about scholarships, loans and college affordability.

In addition to igniting students’ enthusiasm about college and career, the Irrigon team channeled its GEAR UP resources toward strengthening curriculum, instruction and assessment to better support a college-bound student body. The school began using the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test this year, allowing educators to more effectively identify students who are struggling in mathematics and to design appropriate interventions such as differentiated instruction. The Irrigon team also restructured its mathematics program to ensure that every student had access to the right classes to ensure they were ready for college. As a result of these key changes, student test scores in mathematics are now on the rise. GEAR UP dollars were put to

use to enhance Irrigon's Advanced Placement (AP) program, as well, providing a staff member with the training necessary to teach an additional AP course, and adopting additional AP support materials for use at the school. By increasing students' access to rigorous courses and robust academic supports, the team has gone far this year toward its goal of ensuring college readiness among all Irrigon students.



Irrigon Jr/Sr HS
74% Free/Reduced Lunch
46% Minority Students
8% LEP Students

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“I no longer want to be a janitor at McDonald’s when I grow up... now I want to go to college and OWN McDonald’s when I grow up!”

*-7th Grade Student
La Pine Middle School*

La Pine

La Pine Middle School
La Pine High School

The La Pine GEAR UP team zeroed in on technology this year, providing staff and students alike with exposure to digital-age equipment and enhancing the technological literacy of the entire school community. The team hosted a Central Oregon Technology Conference, bringing in leaders from the educational technology field to share innovative strategies for classroom instruction. The six-hour Conference consisted of large group sessions as well as breakout groups where teachers gained hands-on experience with new educational technologies and received the training they needed to incorporate these technologies into their teaching.

La Pine students benefited not only from their teachers’ new skills, but also from the new instructional equipment that the GEAR UP team brought into the school this year: Wireless tablets, digital cameras and Livescribe pens became key parts of the classroom culture this year, and students utilized these and other technologies to take notes, study for tests, create movies, deliver presentations and contribute material to La Pine’s GEAR UP website. In addition, La Pine students used the Oregon Career Information System (CIS) to create personal career plans and learn about the educational pathways that will support their career goals.

La Pine MS

74% Free/Reduced Lunch
9% Minority Students
<1.3% LEP Students

La Pine HS

68% Free/Reduced Lunch
6% Minority Students
<1.2% LEP Students



Alongside its technology focus, the La Pine team instituted several new activities designed to heighten students' awareness of college culture. The entire seventh grade class visited Central Oregon Community College this year, and additional trips to the University of Oregon and Oregon Institute of Technology helped to cement students' plans for postsecondary education. A new College and Career Club was developed, giving students a weekly forum for exploring and articulating their plans for the future. Finally, the La Pine job shadow program and year-end Career Fair brought students into contact with a wide range of professionals who shared their postsecondary experiences with students and helped them to envision college as a stepping stone toward exciting careers.

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



*“Thank you for bringing GEAR UP
to us, because it ROCKS!”*

*-8th Grade Student
Taft 7-12*

Lincoln City

Taft 7-12 High School

At Taft 7-12 High School, student and parent leadership are key components of the GEAR UP program. Each day during sixth period, the Middle School Leadership class meets to discuss the school’s college readiness effort and to plan GEAR UP activities. The students determine what kinds of events to offer, and then they attend to the related details and work to promote GEAR UP’s message and engage the rest of the student body. In addition, a parent group meets monthly to evaluate past GEAR UP activities and develop strategies for spreading the word about GEAR UP into the wider community.

This year, the Taft GEAR UP team has focused on demystifying the college experience. As with the student populations in other GEAR UP schools, Taft’s student body includes a large number of young people who will be the first in their families to attend college. This, coupled with the school’s relative geographic isolation, means that most Taft students lack direct experience with college culture. Using GEAR UP dollars, the Taft team set out to address these issues. Field trips to Western Oregon University and Oregon State University gave students firsthand exposure to life on campus, while school-based activities zeroed in on increasing college awareness. A College Panel brought a diverse array of speakers – including a college student, a college student’s parent, a student on an athletic scholarship, a college admissions counselor, a military recruiter and a high school student in the process of

applying to colleges and for scholarships – to answer questions, share their experience and encourage students and parents alike to pursue their college dreams.

The Taft team has also channeled GEAR UP funds toward enhancing the school's educational technology, purchasing new hardware to support the expansion of proficiency-based learning and career-related instruction. Laptop computers, document cameras, data projectors and interactive classroom technology – as well as staff trainings to ensure teachers' comfort with the new technology – have greatly expanded students' access to a more flexible curriculum that is more closely tailored to students career interests.



Taft 7-12 HS
63% Free/Reduced Lunch
25% Minority Students
7% LEP Students

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“GEAR UP has been a real blessing to the students and staff at Lost River.”

*-Traci Reed
Teacher*

Lost River Junior/Senior High School

Merrill

Lost River Junior/Senior High School

The GEAR UP team at Lost River Junior/Senior High School grew by leaps and bounds this year thanks to increased parent involvement. With the new momentum that resulted, the team implemented several highly successful activities related to rigor, relevance, college affordability and successful transitions from middle to high school.

In the area of academic rigor, the team focused on literacy and improving state test scores in reading. New books – in both Spanish and English – were purchased to enhance Lost River’s school-wide reading program, and as a result, many more English language learners were able to participate at grade level in the reading program. In order to illuminate the relevance of postsecondary education and college preparedness, the GEAR UP team took seventh

and eighth graders on a series of career-oriented field trips where students learned about professions in their fields of interest, as well as about admissions requirements and postsecondary programs that would lead them toward those professions.

Lost River Jr/Sr HS
80% Free/Reduced Lunch
53% Minority Students
21% LEP Students

The team also instituted its Path to Scholarships program this year, purchasing materials, training staff and holding a day-long scholarship seminar on campus. Coupled with three parent conference nights that emphasized GEAR UP activities, the seminar helped to increase student and family awareness of college affordability. The team also worked to ease student transitions across grade levels by offering conference sessions on elective courses and what to expect in high school, and by holding a Sixth Grade Transition Day that included a parent/student orientation to the high school.



RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“GEAR UP has helped so much with our continued staff development, and by investing in our teachers we are also investing in our students’ futures.”

*-Cheri Peterman
GEAR UP Coordinator
South Umpqua Cluster*

Myrtle Creek

Coffenberry Middle School South Umpqua High School

This year, Coffenberry Middle School launched a new motto – Failure is Not an Option – which guided the work of the South Umpqua GEAR UP team. GEAR UP dollars were used to institute an Academic Recovery Center (ARC) for students with missing assignments, providing them with the support they need to get back on track academically. Students’ college and career aspirations were ignited by a range of activities, including weekly Brown Bag Breakfasts with guest speakers presenting on everything from financial aid to college degree programs to career paths. And Coffenberry’s math, science and writing teachers participated in professional development opportunities to ensure greater academic rigor at the middle school level and increase student success as they transition to high school and college.

South Umpqua also used GEAR UP funds to bring about some significant technological upgrades: A set of Nova Net licenses were purchased this year, making online courses, proficiency-based credit recovery and ACT and SAT test preparation available and accessible to all students. Additionally, new SMART Student Response Systems were put to use in classrooms, enabling teachers to develop ongoing formative assessments that they can easily administer and analyze. New hardware was also purchased so that staff could offer a new Digital Photography elective course that encompasses web de-

sign and digital publications. According to South Umpqua’s GEAR UP coordinator, the course has not only enhanced students’ technological literacy, but has also sparked new career interests among a number of participating students.

The South Umpqua GEAR UP team made great strides in engaging families and community members this year. The team organized two successful Parent Nights, bringing in partners from Umpqua Community College, ASPIRE and the College Dreams program to present on college affordability, choosing college preparatory classes, and keys to success in middle and high school.



Coffenberry MS	South Umpqua HS
70% Free/Reduced Lunch	53% Free/Reduced Lunch
17% Minority Students	17% Minority Students
<1.7% LEP Students	0% LEP Students

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“Students used to talk about dropping out and getting their GEDs. Now they talk about which college they want to go to.”

*-8th Grade Student
Stanfield Secondary School*

Stanfield

Stanfield Secondary School

Academic rigor has been the main focus of the Stanfield GEAR UP program this year. The school district undertook an extensive staff development project aimed at improving student performance in reading and writing. Middle and high school staff examined student test score data, researched best practices related to literacy instruction, and set in motion a comprehensive plan to support greater student achievement. The staff also created a support strand for students who maintained very low grade point averages or were failing core classes. The strand model allows teachers to monitor struggling students more closely, to provide appropriate interventions, and to give students the additional time and support they need to get on track academically. All of the students that enrolled in this strand improved their grade point average by the year’s end, and many earned the first As and Bs of their educational career.

Literacy is not the only area in which GEAR UP has had an impact. Stanfield’s GEAR UP plan has brought about improved statewide test scores across content areas: Tenth graders exceeded state average OAKS scores in reading, math and science; and eighth grade scores improved as well. As a result of GEAR UP programming, the school culture at Stanfield has undergone important changes. A college readiness ethic has permeated teachers’ approaches to instruction, and several new, rigorous courses will

become available to Stanfield students as a result – including Advanced Placement Government and Biology, as well as a dual-credit Pre-Calculus class offered in cooperation with Eastern Oregon University. In addition, Stanfield students were offered the opportunity to enroll this year in a new College Ready elective course that covers all aspects of effective college preparation. Students were also encouraged to join the Generation College Club, which engaged them in an exploration of college preparatory behavior, college admissions, and the financial aid and scholarships processes.

College Ready and Generation College students also participated in a variety of college campus visits in three different states; upon returning from these visits, they shared their learning and their new postsecondary aspirations with the school board.



Stanfield Secondary
72% Free/Reduced Lunch
48% Minority Students
9% LEP Students

RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability



“This program WILL change lives!”

*-Parent of an 8th Grade Student
Sweet Home Junior High School*

Sweet Home

Sweet Home Junior High School Sweet Home High School

The Sweet Home GEAR UP team put together a comprehensive college readiness program this year, targeting the areas of academics, career exploration and college affordability.

Junior high and high school teachers from the Language Arts, Math and Science departments each met twice this year to map the curriculum and ensure its vertical alignment, and study halls at both schools were expanded to accommodate more students in need of academic support.

At the junior high, students in the seventh grade GEAR UP club focused on career exploration, using Oregon Career Information System (CIS) to identify interests, learn about careers that align with those interests, and research the required educational backgrounds, average salaries and daily duties associated with each career. Additionally, eighth graders participated in a trimester-long GEAR UP class where an entire unit of study was devoted to career planning. Students with career interests in engineering fields took part in an Engineering Camp at Oregon State University over the summer, engaging in hands-on activities and gaining broad exposure to college life and career possibilities. Students were guided through curriculum covering the importance,

process and costs of going to college as well as the connections between their career goals and the classes they need to take in high school and college to achieve those goals.

In the area of college affordability, both the seventh grade GEAR UP club and the eighth grade GEAR UP class had units of study on Financial Aid, exploring the costs of college attendance as well as developing savings plans and college budgets. In order to initiate the transition of the GEAR UP program to the high school next year, the team also worked with older students to complete curriculum on financial aid, grants, scholarships and work study programs; sent out newsletters to senior parents every other month highlighting FAFSA deadlines and scholarship news; and assisted seniors with FAFSA forms and scholarship applications through the Career Center.

Sweet Home JHS 64% Free/Reduced Lunch 10% Minority Students <1.7% LEP Students	Sweet Home HS 59% Free/Reduced Lunch 10% Minority Students <0.8% LEP Students
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RigorRelevanceRightClassesRelationshipsRealityofAffordability

Campus-Based Activities

Eastern Oregon University has worked with GEAR UP since 2006, designing programs to increase college awareness and preparedness primarily among high school students. Over the past two years they have expanded their offerings to engage middle school students in campus experiences that help these students see themselves as “college material.” EOU’s College of Education designed a series of events during which students experienced college activities and learned the importance of gaining writing and math skills. Students spent two days and one night on the EOU campus and participated in specially designed classes and activities. In addition to these school-year activities, EOU provided GEAR UP students the opportunity to attend their Summer Institute at no charge. The goals of the Institute were to increase students’ academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increase high school graduation, and increase family expectations and knowledge regarding college attainment. EOU also partnered with Stanfield Secondary School to offer soon-to-be sophomores a “Boot Camp” aimed at building college awareness and encouraging college-going behaviors.

For fifteen years **Lane Community College** has offered students of color the opportunity to realize their dreams of a college education through the Rites of Passage program. This summer activity emphasizes positive self-esteem, cultural awareness, academic preparedness and family engagement. For four weeks students are immersed in cultural and academic experiences that increase their college-going aspirations. LCC partnered with GEAR UP to offer this dynamic program free of charge to students from GEAR UP schools.

Oregon State University created an exciting opportunity for students at Sweet Home Junior High School this summer called the Engineering Camp. The camp had four primary components: engaging students with sustainability-themed engineering activities that connect to accessible careers; providing students with a positive on-campus experience that motivates them to establish a sound college-preparatory high school course plan; reinforcing GEAR UP programming with engaging college planning and career choice activities led by undergraduate student mentors; strengthening the sense of community within the GEAR UP student cohort and expanding the partnership between OSU and Sweet Home.



Rogue Community College designed two college tours to boost interest in postsecondary education among low-income middle school students, their family members and school personnel. The College Rocks tours exposed students to fun and interesting college courses emphasizing science and math, helped demystify the college experience and the financial aid process, and highlighted the importance of academic preparation in middle and high school.

Southern Oregon University partnered with GEAR UP in a number of ways this year. The staff from the admissions office designed a publication specifically for middle school students, informing them about topics such as which high school classes will best prepare them for college, when to take the SAT, the financial aid process and the college admissions process. GEAR UP students also attended SOU's summer academic enrichment programs at no cost. And finally, the Pre-College Youth Programs staff created a six-day residential experience for students called "Oregon Outdoor Adventure: A Camp for the Wild & Curious," involving stays at the main campus in Ashland, the Deer Creek Field station, and Crater Lake National Park. During the Camp, students learned about local natural resources and explored related fields of study.

Umpqua Community College designed a new non-residential summer program for low-income, middle school GEAR UP students this year. Program activities included 50-minute "classes" with the following themes: College Exploration, Academic Classes, College Academies, Leadership Training, Career Exploration (including small group counseling), and Tutoring/Mentor Groups. The final day of the program included a graduation activity.

The Oregon Achievers program at the **University of Oregon** is a way to recognize student achievement for struggling students as well as those who excel academically. The program is designed to support school and district academic benchmarks and to promote academic excellence as important goals of college bound students. Students from GEAR UP middle schools participated in the program this year, gaining exposure to college, the benefits of pursuing higher education and the many different educational opportunities at the UO. Current UO students provided peer mentoring to the GEAR UP students, and the younger students' academic growth in core academic subject areas was recognized and celebrated.

Six GEAR UP middle schools took part in **I'm Going to College** – a unique program provided free of charge by the **Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA)**. The program was designed to educate students and their parents about the benefits of higher education, to increase low-income and minority students' awareness of the steps involved in getting to college, and to frame postsecondary education as an attainable goal for underrepresented students. The program included a five-part curriculum covering everything from college lingo to college preparation, college admissions, and careers. After students completed the curriculum, they participated in a culminating visit to a college campus, which helped to cement the classroom lessons and increase students' familiarity with campus culture. This year, NELA coordinated Azalea Middle School's visit to Rogue Community College, Coffenberry Middle School's visit to Southern Oregon University, Sweet Home Junior High School's visit to the University of Oregon, North Marion Middle School's visit to Linfield College, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School's visit to Eastern Oregon University, and Stanfield Secondary School's visit to Eastern Oregon University.

Statewide Activities

Each year, GEAR UP sponsors a range of statewide activities and events that complement the college readiness efforts taking place in the GEAR UP schools. In 2009-10, we and our partners offered a number of professional development opportunities and sponsored two programs that directly engaged students. GEAR UP also piloted a unique mentorship program for school principals and began a statewide outreach campaign that brought over 100 new schools into the GEAR UP family.

Administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, ASPIRE (Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone) is Oregon's official mentoring program to help students access education and training beyond high school. Students receive information about college options, admission, and financial aid from trained and supportive ASPIRE volunteer mentors who work one-on-one with them throughout the year. In 2009-10, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission piloted two new ASPIRE programs: e-ASPIRE and Getting Ready to ASPIRE. e-ASPIRE connects students with mentors electronically, providing an important new forum for relationships that support students' college-bound behaviors. Getting Ready to ASPIRE is a group mentoring program that brings ASPIRE into middle schools, helping younger students develop the skills and tools they need to successfully navigate a college-bound high school path and to provide families with the information they need to begin planning for the costs of college.

Seven GEAR UP school clusters participated in Poverty Competency Training this year. Teachers attended two workshops presented by Communication Across Barriers – the Poverty Institute and the Coaching Institute – to become “poverty coaches” in their schools. The Poverty Institute is a hands-on, two-day workshop for those who want to better understand poverty and to gain tools for making a difference. The Coaching Institute prepares participants to serve as poverty coaches in their organization. A poverty coach is trained to conduct in-house poverty workshops for staff as well as serve as local experts for breaking poverty barriers and improving outcomes. In addition, Poverty



Consultant Lynda Coates visited the schools to conduct poverty training tailored to each school's needs. These staff trainings provided a shared language and vision for breaking poverty barriers and covered best practices for creating a welcoming climate, developing relationships, increasing family involvement, motivating students, increasing attendance and eradicating poverty's negative impacts on learning.

Sixteen staff members from Oregon GEAR UP schools attended the GEAR UP Northwest Regional Conference in Spokane, Washington in October 2009. The Conference provided opportunities for participants from multiple states to share ideas, learn about innovative approaches toward college readiness and build a professional network among college access practitioners throughout the Northwest.

In November 2009, CLIMB Theatre preformed *Power to the Eighth*, a compelling musical and follow-up class for eighth graders, in seven GEAR UP schools. By creating believable characters in circumstances similar to those of the low-income students in the audience, *Power to the Eighth* encouraged students to overcome the thinking that prevents them from doing well in school and from believing that college is desirable and attainable. The play helped eighth grade students see that while others force them to go to school, they are completely in charge of whether they use school to their advantage or not. Nearly 700 Oregon GEAR UP students saw the performances this year.

In January 2010, GEAR UP brought Patricia Clark to Eugene to present a workshop entitled "Advancing a College-Going Culture." Clark, of the University of California Berkeley's Career Academy Support Network, provided staff from GEAR UP schools with a broad array of practical strategies for enhancing access to and preparedness for postsecondary education. Participants learned about best practices related to family involvement, school-based career centers, comprehensive counseling, and more; they then broke into teams to develop 100-day plans to implement in their schools.

In April 2010, GEAR UP held its annual SUCCESS Retreat in Bend. The purpose of SUCCESS – which stands for Supporting Unique Community Coalitions Engaged in Student Success – is to bring together teams from all of the Tier One GEAR UP schools to collaborate on creating a culture of high expectations and high achievement in schools. This year, the Retreat focused on supporting students as they transition from middle to high school and from high school to college. A variety of speakers and breakout sessions covered effective transition strategies, and participants worked together to incorporate these strategies into their GEAR UP plans for the coming academic year.

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) held its annual conference in Washington, D.C. in July 2010. Staff members from four Tier One schools attended the conference, gaining exposure to the wide range of GEAR UP college readiness initiatives in place across the country. While in D.C., school staff also met with their representatives in Congress to discuss the successes of their GEAR UP programs. A team from Glendale Junior/Senior High School shared its best practices through a breakout session presentation, and a team from Hermiston High School – a Tier Two GEAR UP school – presented at the conference as well. All participants came away with innovative ideas to implement in their own schools in 2010-11.

Statewide Activities *(continued)*

GEAR UP hosted the Second Annual Student Leadership Event at Western Oregon University in August 2010, where over 150 middle school students from Tier One schools convened for a three-day, on-campus experience facilitated by Gear Up for Excellence. The Event provided students with leadership training, career exploration opportunities, and a variety of strategies for identifying and maximizing their learning styles. Students left the event with a new sense of empowerment and motivation to succeed in the coming academic year.

While students participated in the GEAR UP student leadership event, GEAR UP educators were treated to a workshop provided by Jeffrey Sprague of the University of Oregon's Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior. The workshop, titled "Enhancing Whole-School Behavior Support for Students at Risk due to Poverty," covered the procedures of a comprehensive approach to support at-risk students, implemented in concert with a school wide discipline system. Participants examined the stresses associated with poverty and the ways in which these impact student behavior, and they learned methods for building school capacity and collaborating with families and community agencies to support student success.

This year, GEAR UP established two new funds for Tier One Schools to use in realizing their professional development goals and enhancing the technology available to students and staff in their schools. Thanks to a high amount of carry forward funds from the first year of the grant, we were able to offer up to \$25,000 per school for technology enhancements as well as first-come, first-served awards for professional development. GEAR UP teams utilized the technology funds in a variety of ways, all of which increased schools' capacity to deliver media-rich instruction: The Brookings, Glendale and South Umpqua teams all purchased SMART Boards for use in classrooms; the Irrigon, Taft, North Marion and Cottage Grove teams purchased new laptop computers; and the North Valley team established a new student computing center. In addition, the Sweet Home team purchased new hardware and software to expand students' credit recovery opportunities, and the La Pine team hosted a day-long Central Oregon Technology Conference where



“As a new GEAR UP Coordinator, it has been exciting and challenging to see all of the changes that GEAR UP is creating at our school, and even more exciting and challenging to be part of them.”

*-Susan Smith
GEAR UP Coordinator
Taft 7-12*

educators gained new exposure to innovative instructional technologies. The professional development fund allowed five staff members from Taft 7-12 to access training in career-related instruction, and six of Glendale's educators attended a college and career readiness workshop in Salem. The Sweet Home team sent two staff members to Hillsboro for a training in pre-AP strategies for social sciences, and the Cottage Grove team trained middle and high school teachers in Oregon's new alternative reading assessment.

An especially exciting development this year was the new Principals' Partnership program, a collaboration between Oregon GEAR UP and Education Partnerships, Inc. (EPI). The mission of the program is to enable and assist principals in GEAR UP schools to strengthen, enhance and refine their leadership skills to create sustainable instructional practices and school traditions that promote postsecondary access and success. Through the Principals' Partnership, each Tier One GEAR UP principal had access to an experienced, committed education professional to serve as a personal consultant, sounding board, and liaison with other mentors and resources. These EPI consultants provided participating principals with a variety of professional development and networking opportunities as well as cutting-edge research tailored to each principal's needs and interests. GEAR UP and EPI look forward to continuing the Principals' Partnership in 2010-11.

In the fall of 2009, Oregon GEAR UP initiated a statewide outreach campaign designed to engage more low-income serving schools in our college readiness effort. GEAR UP contacted all eligible schools in the state, encouraging them to join the GEAR UP community and to take advantage of several key resources, including a free set of full-color posters containing college-going messages, a subscription to GEAR UP's weekly electronic newsletter, discounted professional development opportunities, and membership in a statewide professional network of college access practitioners. As a result of the campaign, over 100 new schools joined the GEAR UP community this year.





College. It's not a dream. It's a plan.

GEAR UP Partners

Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE)
Community and Shelter Assistance (CASA) Corp of Oregon
Eastern Oregon University
Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC)
Education Partnerships, Inc. (EPI)
Envictus Corporation
Gear Up for Excellence
Lane Community College
Linfield College
NELA Center for Student Success
Oregon State University
Oregon Student Assistance Commission
Rogue Community College
Southern Oregon University
Umpqua Community College
United States Department of Education
University of Oregon
University of Oregon Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior
Western Oregon University

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