



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness
for Undergraduate Programs

GEAR UP IS...

Oregon GEAR UP **Annual Report 2013-2014**



Dear Fellow Oregonians,

Now more than ever we know the importance of a quality education for our state’s youth, including access to affordable higher education. Oregon GEAR UP’s mission to help more low-income students prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education perfectly aligns with the state’s 40-40-20 goal where all Oregonians will earn a high school diploma or its equivalent, 40 percent will go on to earn an associate’s degree or credential, and 40 percent will earn at least a bachelor’s degree.

GEAR UP’s reach is broad: educators and principals benefit from robust professional development, parents and community members participate in college and career readiness programming in the schools, and statewide initiatives like College Application Week bring this work to schools in the farthest reaches of the state. Oregon GEAR UP builds partnerships that provide tutoring, mentoring, college visitations, and academic enrichment activities that will

prepare students 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.

I appreciate the continued efforts of Oregon GEAR UP and all educators, parents, students and organizations that aspire to higher education.

Sincerely,

John Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor





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ON THE COVER

We asked our GEAR UP coordinators from each school to describe GEAR UP in one word—these are their answers.



GEAR UP is top notch - it ranks as the top in terms of what it does for kids. I haven't found a comparison.

GEAR UP Principal

Greetings,

For me, GEAR UP is...life-changing. This summer I had the good fortune of spending some time with Gracie Lyons from Elkton High School who attended the summer leadership institute held in conjunction with our national conference in Washington, D.C. While we were in our nation's capital we paid a visit to our Senators and Congressman. As I listened to her describe what GEAR UP has done for her and her peers in that small community, I was reminded of just how transformative the program can be.

This year marks a bitter-sweet transition as the program comes to a close in the communities served by the federal grant. We will miss our regular interactions with those schools, but know that the groundwork has been laid for them to continue helping students realize their dreams of college. While it is too early to know the ultimate impact of our work in terms of high school graduation and college enrollment (stay tuned for that report this winter), we know

that students are better prepared as evidenced by increased test scores in all subjects and surveys of students assure us that their college aspirations remain high.

As you peruse this year's annual report, you'll see evidence of the lives changed by the dedicated teachers, counselors and administrators providing GEAR UP services. Walking the hallways of GEAR UP schools is a truly inspiring way to see this change first hand. And while it is far from a perfect substitute, I hope that the stories on the following pages will give you a good sense of the amazing work being done in Oregon.

On behalf of all the students who are planning for their dreams of great success, thank you for your continued support of Oregon GEAR UP.

All my best,

Stephanie Carnahan,
Director, Oregon GEAR UP

Our goal is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary programs.



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. Our goal is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary programs by working with school districts, colleges and universities, and a variety of partner organizations.

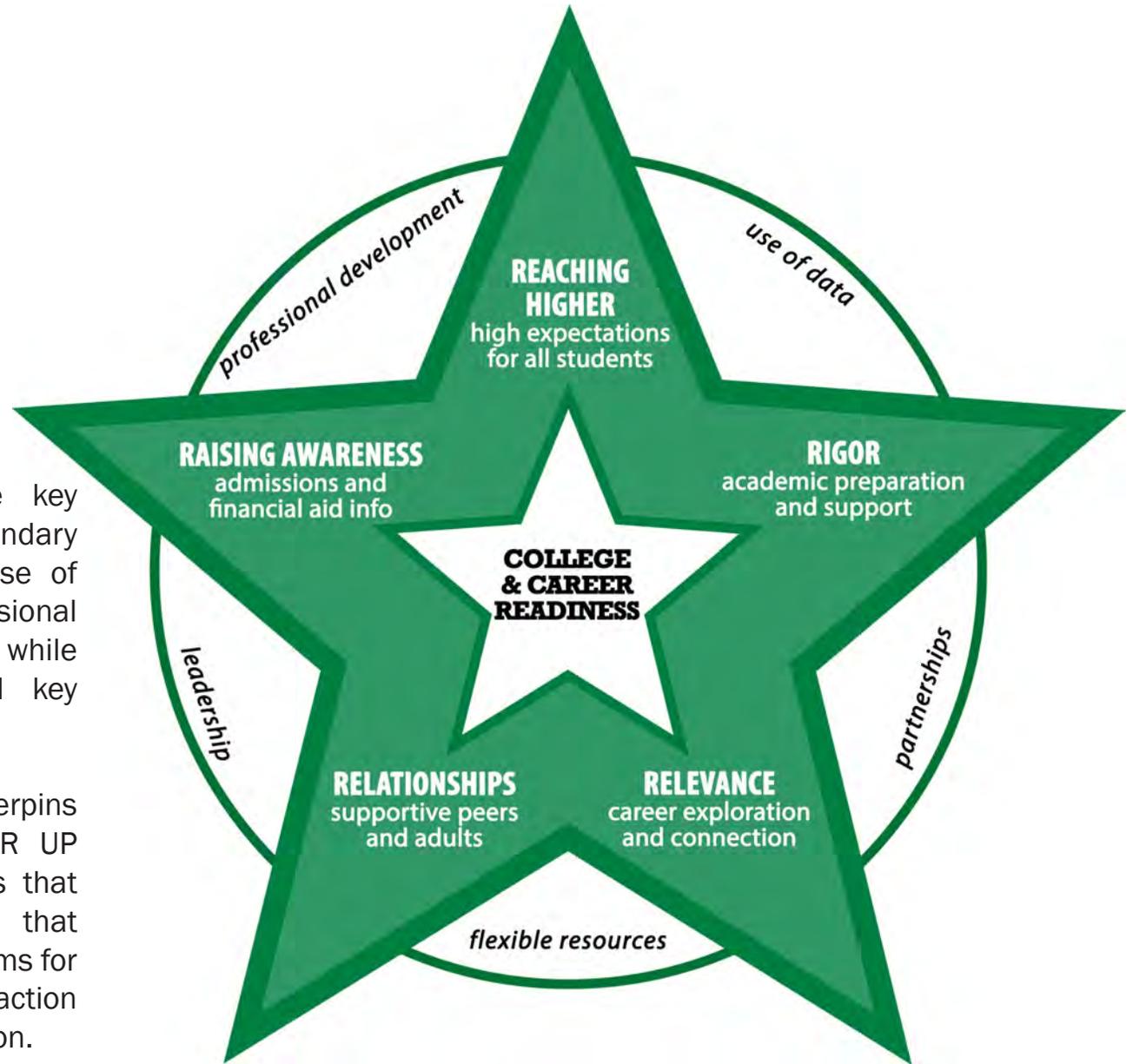
GEAR UP—which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs—is a six-year grant program funded by the United States Department of Education that engages students in 7th-12th grades. Oregon GEAR UP is also supported by The Ford Family Foundation and the work of many partners.

In 2013-14, Oregon GEAR UP worked with 36 schools in 22 communities serving 9,928 students by providing funding, technical assistance, professional development and resources to aid in college readiness initiatives.

OUR MODEL

Oregon GEAR UP emphasizes five key components of effective postsecondary preparation, delivered through the use of data, flexible resources, and professional development for teachers and staff while gaining support of leadership and key partnerships.

This research-based “5 R” model underpins all school-based and statewide GEAR UP activities. Schools create yearly plans that incorporate activities and services that address each area, customizing programs for their individual needs. See the “R”s in action in the School Promising Practices section.



NEW AND IMPROVED IN 2014

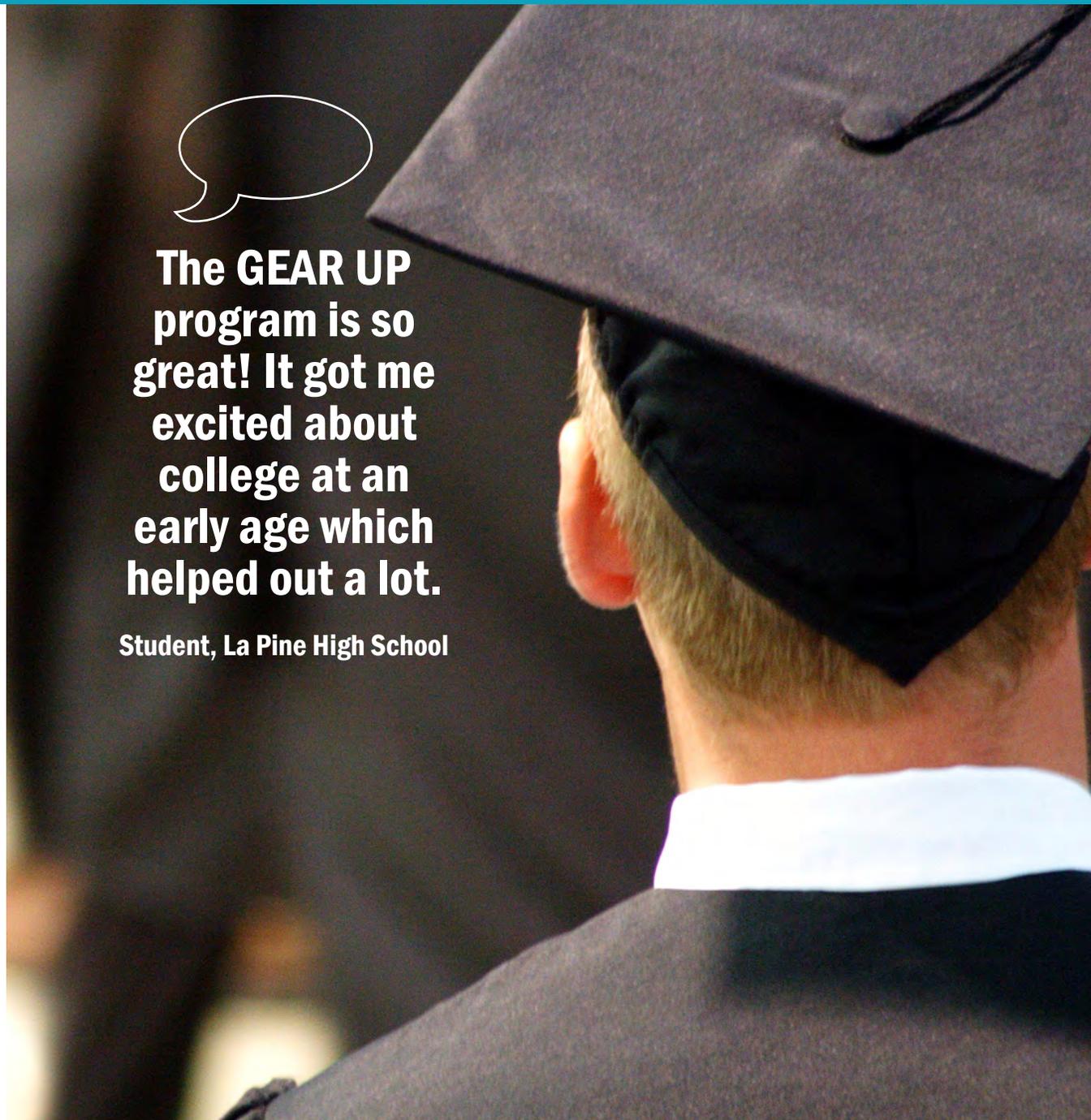
Our model continues to evolve with current research. The newest iteration includes a new “R”: **Reaching Higher**, dedicated to setting high expectations for all students and creating a college-going culture.

In addition, the detailed strategies and resources that accompany the model now reflect the importance of non-cognitive skills and character building, drawing on the latest research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Stanford University, and the Educational Policy Improvement Center, among others.



The GEAR UP program is so great! It got me excited about college at an early age which helped out a lot.

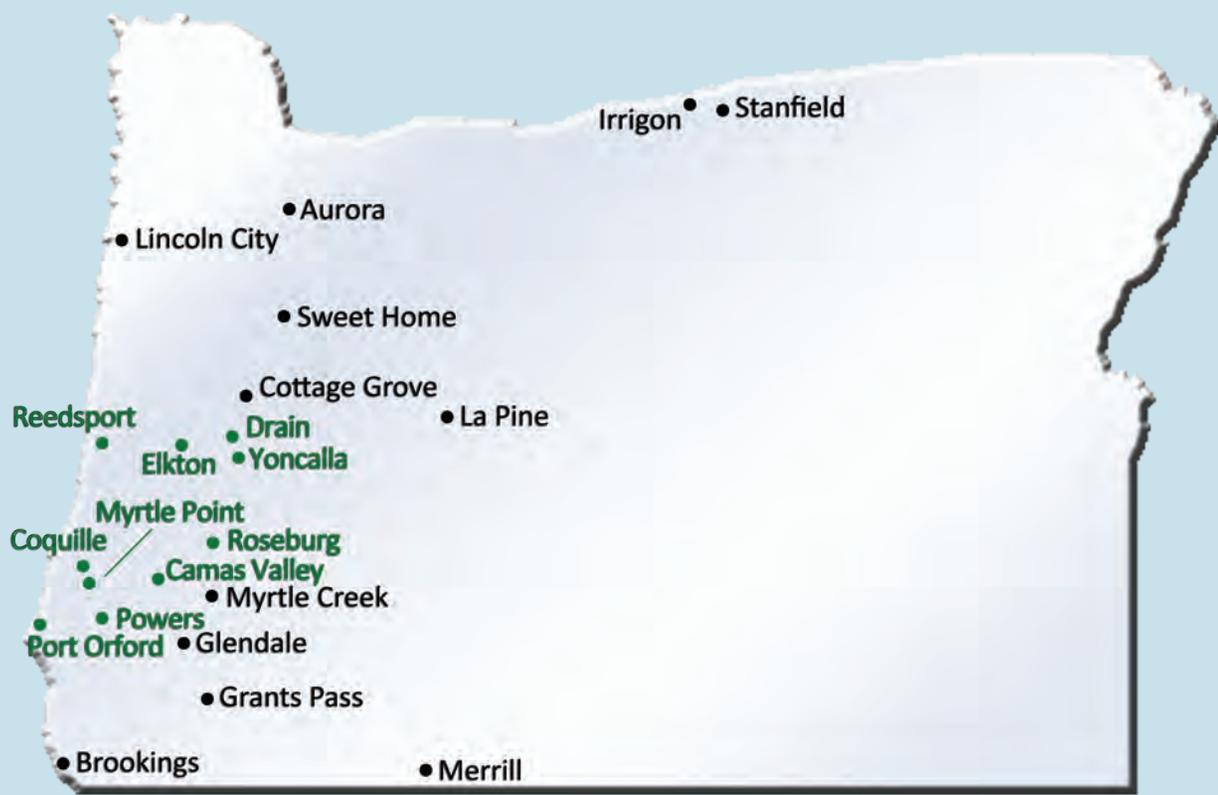
Student, La Pine High School



OUR SCHOOLS

● 2008-2014 Cohort

● 2011-2017 Cohort



Public schools around the state were selected to receive GEAR UP funding based on five criteria: demonstration of need, strong staff commitment to the program, sufficient 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. All schools must have 50% or more of the student population eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education supported twelve rural GEAR UP clusters from 2008 through 2014. With additional funding from The Ford Family Foundation, ten school districts in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties began GEAR UP activities and services with a cohort of 7th graders in the fall of 2011 continuing through 2017.

The selected middle and high schools target students beginning in the 7th grade. With each subsequent year, a new cohort of seventh graders joins the GEAR UP program so that a college-going culture becomes ingrained in the district.

2008-2014 COHORT

- 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 Junior/Senior High
- Grants Pass: Fleming Middle and North Valley High
- Irrigon: Irrigon Junior/Senior High
- La Pine: La Pine Middle and La Pine High
- Lincoln City: Taft 7-12
- Merrill: Lost River Junior/Senior High
- Myrtle Creek: Coffenberry Middle and South Umpqua High
- Stanfield: Stanfield Secondary
- Sweet Home: Sweet Home Junior High and Sweet Home High

2011-2017 COHORT

- Camas Valley: Camas Valley School
- Coquille: Coquille Valley Middle and Coquille High
- Drain: North Douglas Elementary and North Douglas High
- Elkton: Elkton Charter
- Myrtle Point: Myrtle Point High
- Port Orford/Langlois: Driftwood Elementary and Pacific High
- Powers: Powers High
- Reedsport: Reedsport Community Charter
- Roseburg: John C Fremont Middle, Joseph Lane Middle and Roseburg High
- Yoncalla: Yoncalla Elementary and Yoncalla High

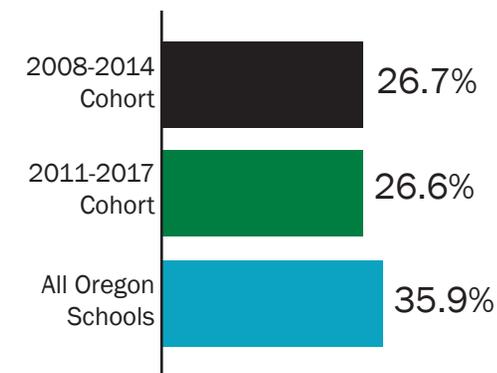
WHO WE SERVE

The middle and high schools that comprise both cohorts yield a demographic profile that is fairly representative of rural Oregon. As reflected in the graphs below, the population served by these schools is lower-income and somewhat less ethnically diverse than the state’s population as a whole.

Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch



Percent Minority Student Enrollment



Source: Oregon Department of Education, 2013-14

I'm Alyssa and I
an on being a Lawyer when
get out of Highschool. I
go to a 4 year University
followed by Law school.

I want to go to OSU
with my brother and enter into
career that involves Electronic
mechanical engineering.

To make sure I can do
this, I will get good grades, study
hard, and be optimistic.

I'm completely decided but
might to a University (the University of Oregon)
because it costs so much more, I might go
to a community college (WCC) to get all of my
prerequisites and then transfer to a University. I
am interested in business but am not yet sure
business is the career path for me. Thanks
Bear up, I have decided that I am going
to college, I just don't know for what
where.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES



hours of advising, academic
planning and career
counseling for students



community members served
as mentors for students



hours of professional development
for teachers

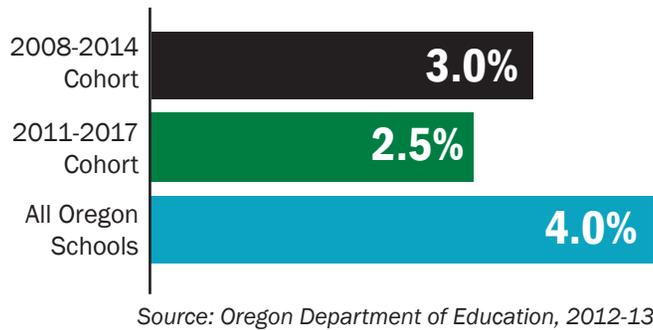


parents attended a college visit
or educational field trip

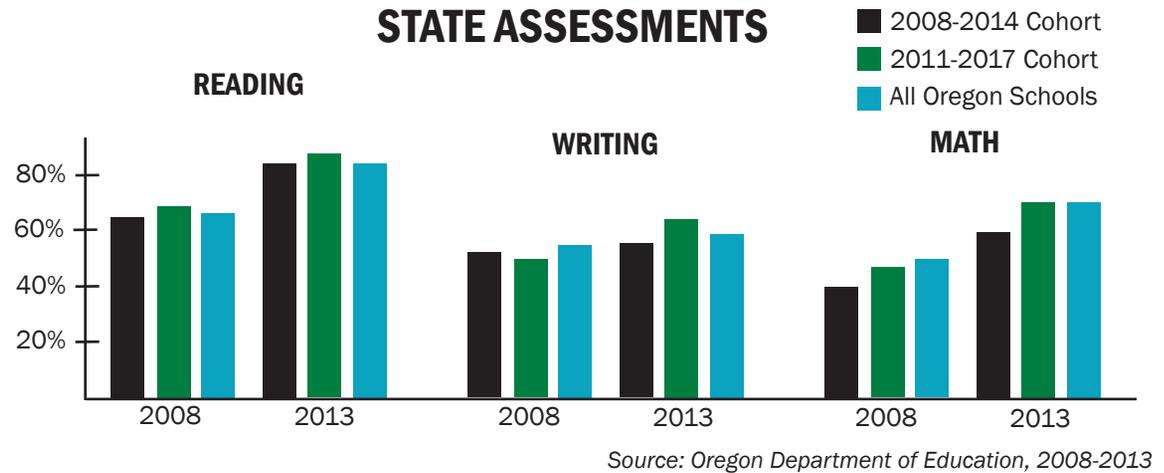
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Students share their plans for after high school
on postcards that were sent to elected officials.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

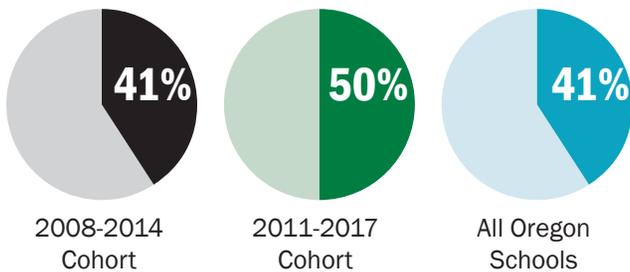


STATE ASSESSMENTS



GEAR UP seniors were **more likely to complete the OSAC scholarship application** compared to the state average.

FAFSA COMPLETION

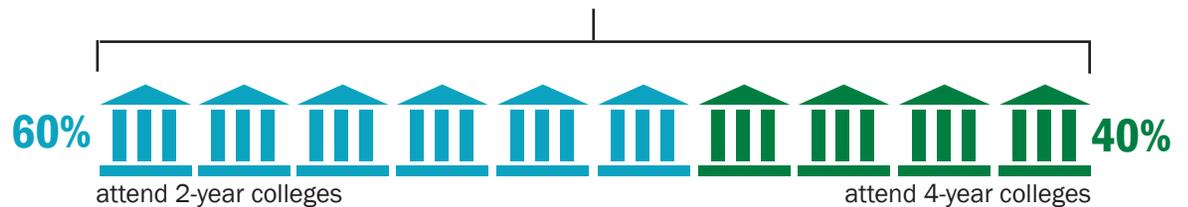


Source: OSAC, 2012; Federal Student Aid, 2014; Oregon Department of Education, 2013-14

COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS & ENROLLMENT

90% of GEAR UP seniors surveyed plan to earn a college degree or certificate

89% of GEAR UP students attend Oregon colleges



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, 2008-2013



A GEAR UP t-shirt on display at North Marion High School.

SCHOOL PROMISING PRACTICES

The bulk of the GEAR UP work takes place in our schools, implemented by coordinators and their teams according to local needs. The following promising practices highlight a successful activity at each school, which showcase some of the many ways that GEAR UP fosters a college-going culture that will be sustained even after the grant ends.

2008-2014 Cohort

The 2008-2014 cohort finished out their grant by supporting their original cohort of GEAR UP students, now in their senior year. In addition to helping 12th graders with critical college application steps, schools continued successful programs for other grades.

Aurora

North Marion Middle School
North Marion High School

Wearing college gear is a weekly tradition at North Marion Middle and High School. Staff endorse postsecondary education every week by donning college t-shirts and sweatshirts, often of their alma maters, thus prompting conversations with students about their educational journey. Students are also encouraged to wear a college or GEAR UP t-shirt, making it an easy and visible way to promote a college-going culture.

Brookings

Azalea Middle School
Brookings-Harbor High School

Brookings-Harbor High School hosted a series of **evening workshops specifically for families who identify English as their second language**. Listo Para Éxito (Ready for Success), as the program was called, began with dinner and socializing at an off-campus location, with Spanish-speaking translators and trusted members of the community from a cross-section of economic and social backgrounds available to help. The meetings covered topics including the importance of post-secondary education as well as how to pay for college, and included breakout sessions at five tables, each hosted by a Spanish-speaking volunteer. A survey at the conclusion of the events found that 100% of parents increased their knowledge about the college process. “It was an invaluable tool for the community and the parents of our Hispanic students,” said GEAR UP coordinator Christal Miller.

Cottage Grove

Lincoln Middle School
Kennedy High School
Cottage Grove High School

100% of seniors at Cottage Grove High School visited a college campus and completed a job shadow or internship as part of graduation requirements and the culmination of the Career Pathways program. It starts with **career exploration and college awareness embedded in the social studies curriculum and during advisory periods** for all grades. “These activities are institutionalized,” said GEAR UP coordinator Brian McCasline. “We will keep the requirements and continue to visit colleges.”



We’ve been able to expose students to campuses and postsecondary opportunities that they wouldn’t have otherwise had the chance to do. GEAR UP Principal

Glendale

Glendale Junior/Senior High School

A new, modern **vocational industrial arts lab** provided high school students with hands-on experience in the operation of equipment and technology for welding, drafting and other industrial arts. In addition, students explored related careers and the required training and education by visiting vocational/technical programs at two local community colleges. GEAR UP funded the initial equipment and infrastructure costs while the district is committed to maintaining the lab and providing appropriate staffing for years to come.

Grants Pass

Fleming Middle School
North Valley High School

In order to increase the number of students passing core classes, North Valley High School continued **before and after school programs focusing on skill development and academic support**. The program gives students targeted help in specific areas, including content-specific academic tutoring, time management training and college admission test preparation. These opportunities not only increased student's knowledge base and academic abilities, but enhanced students' quest for knowledge and a vision for their academic future. Thanks in part to this extra support, over two-thirds of students achieved C's or better in all of their core classes, a 5% increase over the previous year.

Irrigon

Irrigon Junior/Senior High School

Since the first year of the GEAR UP grant, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School has utilized the **Path to Scholarships® curriculum**, designed to empower students to give them the tools to apply to and pay for postsecondary education. The information has been presented to both middle and high school students over the years, both as part of the regular school day and as an afterschool club. The program will continue in an expanded form even after GEAR UP funding ends. "Next year, we are adding a career class for seniors," said GEAR UP coordinator Sarah Miller. "The seniors will complete the Path to Scholarships® curriculum in that class."

La Pine

La Pine Middle School
La Pine High School

An annual tradition, Civil War Day is always a highlight at La Pine Middle School. Organized by student members of the College Club, the event takes advantage of the popular rivalry between Oregon State University and University of Oregon and turns it into a **school and community-wide college awareness event**. Activities include in-class games, a full-school assembly, contests, and a tailgate party. "We had 15 local businesses including visible ones like the grocery stores and Bi-Mart, participating in wearing college gear that day," said co-GEAR UP coordinator Nanette McPherson. "In the future, we want to expand the day's activities to the elementary and high school."



GEAR UP has impacted my future in many ways. College was always an option but now the possibilities of college choices are endless. GEAR UP works! Student, Elkton Charter School

Lincoln City

Taft 7-12 High School

On New Year's Day, when most students (and teachers!) were savoring the final few days of winter break, seniors at Taft High School were hard at work - completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) the day it opened. Counselor and GEAR UP coordinator Vicky Roller organized the first-annual **New Year's Day FAFSA Party** at the behest of students. "Despite the technical difficulties on the FAFSA website, Tigers still took care of business!" Roller said. Food, drinks, and a raffle made the event fun for attendees. The FAFSA Party was also open to Taft graduates - a great way to continue supporting students in their first year of college and beyond. This event contributed to a 10% increase in FAFSA completions from the previous year.

Merrill

Lost River Junior/Senior High School

More and more students at Lost River High School are taking advantage of the 8 different **courses that may be counted for college credit**, including Advanced Placement and dual credit courses: over 55% of seniors graduated with some form of college credit. "This is a district priority," said GEAR UP co-coordinator Kjerstin Spark-Stahl. "We will have more dual credit classes next year, including ones for juniors." The school will continue to strengthen its partnership with Klamath Community College which is just one of GEAR UP's legacies at the school.



Glendale High School advertises workshops on seniors' lockers.

Myrtle Creek

Coffenberry Middle School
South Umpqua High School

Students at South Umpqua High School have GUTS. Rather, they have the opportunity to take a **GEAR UP To Success (GUTS) class** that covers the college preparation, admission and financial aid process. “This class is a huge benefit to our seniors as they prepare for college,” said co-GEAR UP coordinator Jennifer Vaughn. “Every student in the class completed college applications. The OSAC and FAFSA are actually a proficiency to pass the class.” As an elective for juniors and seniors based on the principles of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), GUTS has also encouraged students to take more rigorous classes - 95% of students in the previous year’s class enrolled in at least one advanced course.

Stanfield

Stanfield Secondary School

Stanfield Secondary School utilized the power of **near-peer relationships** to motivate and prepare students for postsecondary education. High school students heard from recent alumni who are now in college during panel discussions, and middle school students subsequently listened to advice from high school students. The Generation College Club provided additional peer and staff support in the application process, and assisted with outreach to recent alumni, including sending care packages to students attending college.

Sweet Home

Sweet Home Junior High School
Sweet Home High School

Sweet Home High School’s science and math departments put a twist on the traditional campus visit by organizing **field trips to explore specific careers** in engineering and marine biology at Oregon State University and Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. After the field trips, 92% of participating students understood the need for upper level math and science courses. In fact, students suggested expanding math and science course selections at the high school. The activity will be continued and will be funded through the school’s frozen yogurt business (created in part through a sustainability grant from GEAR UP and The Ford Family Foundation) and community sponsorships.

SUSTAINING GEAR UP

In addition to carrying out regular program activities, the federally-funded schools also gave consideration to sustaining the college readiness activities that GEAR UP has supported over the past six years. The Ford Family Foundation generously provided funds to encourage innovative ways to sustain and build the capacity of post-secondary education awareness, readiness, and enrollment efforts. Schools from the first GEAR UP cohort (2002-2008) were also eligible to apply.

Nine clusters received funds for a variety of projects that included revenue-generating projects like a student-run coffee shop, providing professional development to teachers, creating a local radio station and revamping college and career centers.



BROADCASTING COLLEGE

Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School used the funds to start a local, student-run FM radio station that will include information about getting ready for college.

Photo: Herald and News



**GEAR UP
has been
responsible
for changing
the culture in
this school and
in this town.
College is a
reality.**

GEAR UP Principal

2011-2017 Cohort

Supported by The Ford Family Foundation, the 2011-2017 cohort primarily served 9th graders during their third year of the grant.



Coquille

Coquille Valley Middle School
Coquille Valley High School

The popular **Pizza with Professionals** program expanded into the high school this year, giving both middle and high school students a monthly opportunity to learn about different occupations during lunch. The program encourages college-going aspirations by connecting students to respected community members who have successfully completed their educational and career journey. Professionals from a variety of backgrounds come and speak to students and share the education requirements and preparation necessary to enter their field. Replicated by many other GEAR UP schools, Pizza with Professionals is a low-effort, low-cost way to expose students to a variety of occupations.

Camas Valley

Camas Valley School

In order to recognize and reward students for their academic growth and achievements, Camas Valley School organized an **academic awards ceremony** for all students and their parents. Teachers presented awards for each subject and the students served dinner to a packed gym. The inspiration and theme for the evening event was the Academy Awards, with the drama club entertaining the audience with several skits. “We wanted to promote high expectations and college awareness,” said GEAR UP coordinator Wendy Roque. “We are especially proud of our Academic Awards Night.”

Elkton

Elkton Charter School

Elkton Charter School capitalized on the **influence of near peers** by enlisting high school students to give presentations to 8th graders about the importance of working hard to prepare for college even in middle school. 100% of 8th graders attended the presentations and completed a reflection of what they learned including the types of classes necessary to prepare for college. The program has plans to evolve, too. “Next year we will connect with college students to bring them to talk to high school students,” said Lisa Olson, GEAR UP coordinator.

Drain

North Douglas Elem. School
North Douglas High School

46% of students at North Douglas High School took advantage of a new **homework club and tutoring lab**, where students could work on homework after school hours with support from staff and high-achieving student tutors. “It is a great place to go to for help on assignments, and it is very relaxing with music playing and almost no talking,” raved one regular attendee. “I highly recommend homework club to any student, because it gives that extra push.” The program will be extended to the middle school next year, with more staff available in a variety of subjects.

Myrtle Point

Myrtle Point Junior/Senior High School

In an effort to increase students’ writing skills and performance on state tests, Myrtle Point Junior/Senior High School provided in-service and training to staff to ensure that **writing standards were addressed in all content area courses**. Small groups of teachers in Professional Learning Communities met each Wednesday to evaluate writing samples and share best practices. The work shows promise: student writing sample scores increased in all areas including organization, sentence fluency, word choice, and content. The staff will continue discussions, planning, and scoring as a group as well as schedule specific times for fall and spring writing samples.

GEAR UP has been instrumental in fundamental changes to teaching and learning practices, exposing kids to college. We wouldn’t have been able to do it without GEAR UP support. GEAR UP Principal



Port Orford/Langlois

Driftwood Elementary School
Pacific High School

In order to provide students and teachers with the latest technology and resources, math and science teachers at Driftwood Middle and Pacific High School received iPads and other tablets as well as Apple TV devices. Teachers were also given funds to purchase apps to help them **integrate technology into their classrooms and teaching strategies**. So far, it's paid off: grades improved in math and science classes between the first and third quarters. The school plans to purchase additional tablets for student usage and work with the community to have places where Wi-Fi is available for free for students.

Powers

Powers High School

Like most GEAR UP schools, Powers High School held a College Application Week in November for seniors to complete postsecondary applications. However, in addition to providing support for 12th graders during this week, the 9th grade students also participated, completing **'mock' college applications** and learning about the college application process. 100% of freshman experienced the process and now know what they will need in order to complete an application to the college(s) of their choice. (100% of seniors also participated in College Application Week!)

Reedsport

Reedsport Community Charter School

Drawing on the popular Knowledge Bowl trivia format, Reedsport Community Charter School established a **College Bowl competition**, with teams of high school students competing against one another by demonstrating their knowledge of Oregon-based colleges and universities. Teams of four students (with at least one freshman per team) were asked questions ranging from the cost of attendance, types of majors offered, famous alums, mascots, and more. GEAR UP coordinator Lisa Smart commended the first-ever event: "100% of participants improved overall knowledge of college information!"



GEAR UP helps to keep college as a focal point for success. Even my 8 year old thinks he knows which college he will attend because of GEAR UP events my daughter talks about.

Parent, Elkton Charter School

Roseburg

John C Fremont Middle School
Joseph Lane Middle School
Roseburg High School

Upon reviewing annual GEAR UP surveys, the team from Roseburg identified a gap between students/parents and educators expectations of students pursuing postsecondary education. As a result, the team decided to include information and **professional development about the importance of college for all students during regular staff meetings** so that educators could develop a shared vision and goals. Surveys will be administered again in the fall in order to assess the impact and tweak the type of professional development and information that is offered to educators, students and parents.

Yoncalla

Yoncalla Elementary School
Yoncalla High School

Now a yearly tradition, Yoncalla High School established a **Wall of Fame** profiling current senior students with verifiable plans after high school: those who have received a letter of acceptance through the military or college or a pay stub from a place of employment. The technology class plans to make a permanent Wall of Fame board so photos will be on display every year. This year showcased an impressive graduating class: 94% of seniors had their photos on the board, an increase of 17% from the previous year. Other examples of a college-going culture on display include student-created college pennants, decorated doors and prominent posters about postsecondary planning.





CAREER PHOTO BOOTH

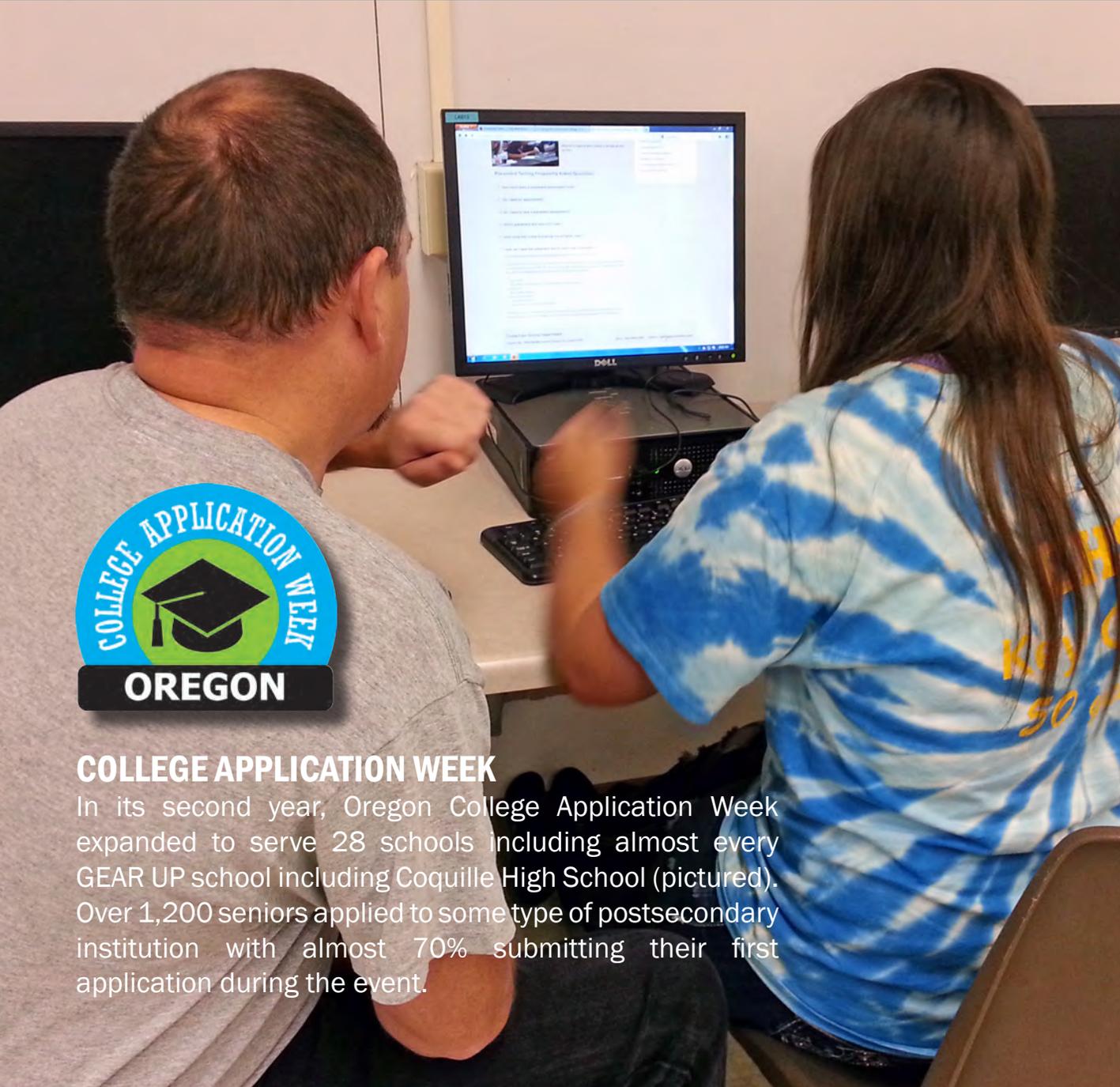
Budding nurses, marine biologists and video game designers learned about the education requirements for their future careers. The Photo Booth travelled to five schools and served 185 students in 2013-14.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES

GEAR UP thrives in large part due to our partnerships with universities, programs, and organizations that provide professional development, campus programs for students, and funding for low-income students and school staff across the state. In 2013-14 we instigated, continued and expanded many collaborations across the state.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Access to Student Assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE)
- Camp Odyssey & Oregon Solutions
- Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA)
- Education Northwest
- Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC)
- Gear Up for Excellence
- National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
- NeighborWorks® Umpqua
- Oregon Career Information System
- Oregon College Access Network
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Oregon State University Precollege Programs
- Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC)
- Path to Scholarships®
- Practical Leadership
- Seeds Training
- Southern Oregon University Precollege Programs
- Student Paths
- The Ford Family Foundation



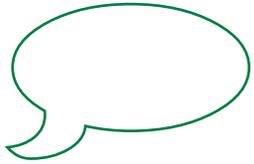
COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

In its second year, Oregon College Application Week expanded to serve 28 schools including almost every GEAR UP school including Coquille High School (pictured). Over 1,200 seniors applied to some type of postsecondary institution with almost 70% submitting their first application during the event.



I wouldn't have applied without College Application Week. I couldn't have even done this at home.

Student, Taft 7-12 School



I'm determined to attend college and this scholarship helps. I speak not only for myself but for the other recipients: we are eternally grateful for all that you do for students who want to pursue higher education. Thank you for investing in my future.

**Student,
North Marion High School**

GEAR UP Scholarships

522 graduating seniors received a college scholarship of \$1,000, renewable for three additional years at \$500. All students who participated in GEAR UP activities at school and completed the OSAC scholarship application were eligible to receive the GEAR UP scholarship.

College Savings Accounts

CASA of Oregon and NeighborWorks® Umpqua offered income-eligible students a matched college savings account, also known as Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). Schools assisted students and families in the enrollment process, giving them the tools to begin investing in their future. 110 students have enrolled, with every dollar a student saves matched up to five dollars.

Gates Millenium Scholars

Two students from Oregon GEAR UP schools won the prestigious Gates Millenium Scholarship: Jordan Connell from Irrigon High School and Shirley Bravo Gonzalez from North Marion High School, who will be attending George Fox University.



Highlights included meeting with Senator Ron Wyden to share the personal impact of GEAR UP.

National Youth Congress

Graciela "Gracie" Lyons from Elkton Charter School represented Oregon at the National Youth Congress in Washington D.C. during the National GEAR UP Conference. Gracie learned leadership and communication skills that and advocated for GEAR UP on Capitol Hill.

National GEAR UP Week

Oregon celebrated National GEAR UP Week with a reception attended by over 40 school staff, current and former students and community partners. In addition, schools held a variety of GEAR UP kickoff events that included door decorating contests and postcard writing campaigns to be shared with elected officials and other stakeholders.



“It’s easy to advocate for GEAR UP because the results speak for themselves.”

Elizabeth Gonzalez

Toolkits & Publications

A comprehensive set of resources and toolkits have been developed to ensure the successful implementation of GEAR UP activities such as college campus visits, parent workshops, and supporting seniors through the college application process and on into college. Organized around the “5 R”s and specific to various audiences across all grade levels, toolkits contain current research and best practices as well as customizable templates to implement activities and services.



GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy

Elizabeth Gonzalez, a graduate of Madras High School and a junior at Oregon State University joined 29 other students from across the country for the inaugural leadership development program. After training on grassroots advocacy, social media advocacy, and leadership skills during a week-long retreat in Washington D.C., she applied her skills at home speaking about the impact of GEAR UP and creating monthly videos with step-by-step advice including how to fill out the FAFSA and contacting congressional representatives.



Leadership Workshops

Over 200 students at Sweet Home High School, Myrtle Point Junior/Senior High School and Glendale High School participated in full-day leadership workshops at their schools. Led by the team from Gear Up for Excellence and Seeds Training, students explored behaviors that impact learning and understanding a diversity of perspectives.

COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS

GEAR UP builds bridges between K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions through field trips and summer programs on college campuses. In 2013-14, over 4,400 students benefitted from a college campus experience. Campus representatives also visited schools as part of college and career fairs to meet with students and parents.



For more photos and videos, visit www.facebook.com/oregongearup

Marine Science & Engineering Camp

Oregon State University Precollege Programs' led 50 high school students in an intensive week of hands-on marine science and engineering activities as well as college readiness programming. One highlight of the week: a trip to the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport to build remotely operated underwater vehicles and explore the nearby estuary.

Student Leadership Event

Over 50 middle and high school students came to University of Oregon for three days of activities focused on leadership, academic success, and personal growth led by Gear Up for Excellence and Seeds Training. Students worked in groups with college student mentors on problem-solving and teamwork challenges that apply to real-life situations.

Travelling Engineering Camps

Through a partnership with the Center for Outreach in Science and Engineering for Youth (COSEY) at Oregon State University, student engineering instructors hit the road and delivered two-day camps for middle and high school students in three GEAR UP communities. The students were busy with hands-on activities exploring wind power, building solar cars, experimenting with circuits and more.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Oregon GEAR UP continued to provide teachers and administrators with a broad range of professional development opportunities. GEAR UP coordinators and administrators attended the regional conference, GEAR UP West, in Portland and the national NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference in Washington D.C. to learn promising practices from across the country. In addition, school teams were able to discuss ideas, brainstorm initiatives, and plan programs during statewide meetings.



SUCCESS Retreat

The three-day retreat for Supporting Unique Community Coalitions Engaged in Student Success (SUCCESS) was one of the most valuable professional development opportunities for GEAR UP clusters.

Co-organized with Education Northwest, schools were encouraged to bring a diverse team of constituents including coordinators, teachers, parents and administrators to learn from regional and national experts and generate an outline for GEAR UP services at their school in the year ahead, including plans to sustain programs and activities.

Principals' Leadership Program

Knowing how important school leadership is to college readiness efforts, GEAR UP school leaders benefitted from the expertise of school administrator consultants and each other for the fifth year in a row. School principals received a personal education mentor, access to current research on school trends, workshops, and networking opportunities.

“GEAR UP is really supportive and helpful!” said one principal. “We have resources when we need them.”



Oregon College Access Award

GEAR UP program director Stephanie Carnahan was honored by the Oregon College Access Network with the Orca Service Award for her contributions to the organization and her tireless support of postsecondary educational opportunities for all Oregonians. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Find us online!

The latest resources and information on college readiness are on our website and delivered weekly via our e-newsletter and social media. From Facebook to YouTube, Twitter to Pinterest, be sure to friend, follow, subscribe and like us to stay connected with Oregon GEAR UP all year.

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