



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7675 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: edu.wyoming.gov

MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-052

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
Curriculum Coordinators
School Counselors

FROM: Bob Bryant, WDE GEAR UP Coordinator
Standards, Learning and Accountability Division

DATE: March 26, 2012

SUBJECT: GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Winter 2012 Edition

INFORMATION TO SHARE

GEAR UP Wyoming has published the Winter 2012 edition of its state-wide newsletter, *GEAR UP Wyoming Matters*. An electronic version is attached to this memo. The newsletter is published three times per year with a focus on the GEAR UP Wyoming program at the University of Wyoming and Wyoming's seven community colleges.

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is funded by a federal grant with matching state funds. The Wyoming program, called GEAR UP Wyoming (GUWY) is an educational partnership including the University of Wyoming, the seven community colleges, the Governor's office, the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Community College Commission.

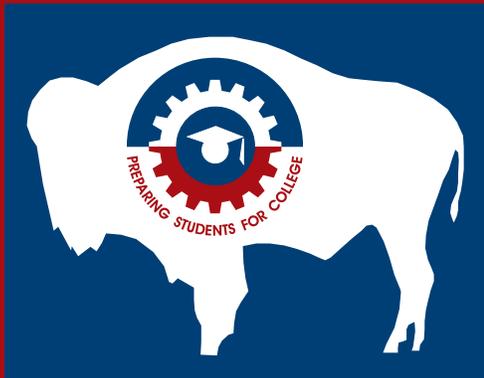
This issue features articles on a variety of GEAR UP Wyoming programs including:

- a description of GEAR UP Wyoming Student Services and the new Student Programming Coordinator, Gabrielle Eklund Rowley
- an education spotlight on Dean Morgan Junior High School
- a description of GEAR UP Institutional Scholarships at UW and many of the Wyoming Community Colleges
- an overview of GEAR UP Wyoming professional development opportunities

Please take some time to review this *GEAR UP Wyoming Matters* newsletter. You are encouraged to share it with school district staff, parents and community members.

Please contact Bob Bryant with questions at (307)777-6840 or robert.bryant@wyo.gov.

Attachment



GEAR UP WYOMING

WINTER 2012

Matters

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

University of Wyoming
www.uwyo.edu/gearup

Wyoming Department of Education
www.k12.wy.us

Casper College
www.caspercollege.edu/gearup

Central Wyoming College
www.cwc.edu/what/Gearup

Eastern Wyoming College
www.ewc.wy.edu/future/gearup

Laramie County Community College
lccc.wy.edu/highschool/collegeprep/gearup

Northern Wyoming
Community College District
www.sheridan.edu/site/sc/admissions/gear-up-wyoming

Northwest College
www.northwestcollege.edu/gearup

Western Wyoming Community College
www.wwcc.wy.edu/gearup

UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-1121, (800) DIAL-WYO
www.uwyo.edu

GEAR UP WYOMING Student Services

As was announced in the Fall 2011 newsletter, GEAR UP WYOMING (GUWY) is operating under a new grant with a renewed focus on individual student services.

To help students with college readiness and success, GEAR UP is tailoring services to meet individual student needs. For example, staff will meet with students twice each semester to create and discuss an Individual Academic Plan. In addition to college visits and summer academies, GEAR UP will offer mentoring, academic coaching, and tutoring for students.

GUWY will also begin a new service for first-year college and university students entering college during the 2012 fall semester. GEAR UP students can participate in a GEAR UP specific orientation for the Wyoming college they will be attending, connect and build a relationship with a mentor, and access tutoring. These freshman services will ease the transition to college and enhance the services offered at each college.

In addition to a new programming focus, GUWY has a new Student Programming Coordinator, Gabrielle Eklund Rowley. Gabe works at the University of Wyoming as part of the administrative team. After growing up in a small farming community in Montana, she attended college at Tufts University in Massachusetts. She has been working with youth and educators for the past ten years. Most recently, Gabe was the Program Director for Outward Bound in Baltimore. In her first few months with GEAR UP, Gabrielle has helped deliver a series of statewide trainings for GEAR UP staff.

GEAR UP will continue to offer group programming to students and families as well as professional development to educators. GEAR UP serves students in over 100 schools around the state. If you are interested in receiving GEAR UP services, contact a local site coordinator for additional information. 



Gabrielle Eklund Rowley, GEAR UP WYOMING's Student Programming Coordinator.

Schools Served by GEAR UP WYOMING, 2011-2012

GEAR UP WYOMING thanks the following schools for their partnership:

Casper College

C Y Junior High School
Casper Classical Academy
Centennial Junior High School
Dean Morgan Junior High School
Frontier Middle School
Kelly Walsh High School
Natrona County High School
Roosevelt High School
Star Lane Center
Transitions Learning Center

Central Wyoming College

Hot Springs County High School
Jackson Hole High School
Jackson Hole Middle School
Lander Middle School
Lander Valley High School
Pathfinder High School
Riverton High School
Riverton Middle School
Shoshoni High School
Shoshoni Junior High School
Summit High School

Eastern Wyoming College

Douglas High School
Glenrock High School
Guernsey High School
Hulett School
Lingle-Ft. Laramie High School
Lingle-Ft. Laramie Middle School
Lusk Middle School
Moorcroft Secondary School
Newcastle High School
Newcastle Middle School
Niobrara County High School
Southeast High School
Southeast Junior High School
Sundance Secondary School
Torrington High School
Torrington Middle School
Upton High School
Wheatland High School
Wheatland Middle School

Laramie County Community College

Burns Jr & Sr High School
Carey Junior High School
Central High School
East High School
Johnson Junior High School
McCormick Junior High School
Pine Bluffs Jr & Sr High School
Rock River High School
Rock River Junior High School
South High School
Triumph High School
Whiting High School

Northwest College

Burlington High School
Burlington Middle School
Cloud Peak Middle School
Cody High School
Greybull High School
Greybull Middle School
Lovell High School
Lovell Middle School
Meeteetse School
Powell High School
Riverside High School
Rocky Mountain High School
Rocky Mountain Middle School
Shoshone Learning Center
Worland High School
Worland Middle School

Northern Wyoming

Community College District

Buffalo High School
Campbell County High School
Clear Creek Middle School
Ft. Mackenzie
Kaycee School
Sheridan High School
Sheridan Junior High School
The Wright Place

Tongue River High School
Tongue River Middle School
Twin Spruce Junior High School
Westwood High School
Wright Jr. & Sr. High School

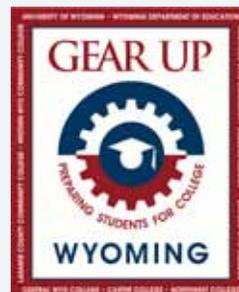
Western Wyoming Community College

Big Piney High School
Big Piney Middle School
Cokeville High School
Cooperative High School
Davis Middle School
Desert Middle School
Encampment K-12 School
Evanston High School
Evanston Middle School
Expedition Academy
Farson-Eden High School
Farson-Eden Middle School
Green River High School
HEM Junior/Senior High School
Horizon Alternative School
Independence High School
Kemmerer Alternative School
Kemmerer High School
Kemmerer Middle School
Lincoln Middle School
Little Snake River Valley School
Lyman High School
Lyman Middle School
Mountain View High School
Mountain View Middle School
Pinedale High School
Pinedale Middle School
Rawlins High School
Rawlins Middle School
Rock Springs High School
Rock Springs Junior High School
Saratoga Middle/High School
Star Valley High School
Star Valley Middle School
Swift Creek High School

GEAR UP WYOMING is administered by the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Wyoming.



Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs of the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief.



GEAR UP WYOMING
SEO, University of Wyoming
Dept. 3808
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6189
email: gearupwy@uwyo.edu
www.uwyo.edu/gearup/

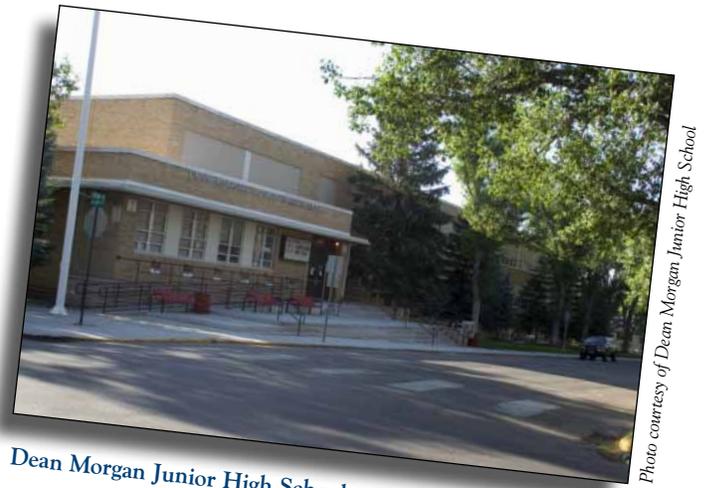
Education Spotlight: Dean Morgan Junior High School

Dean Morgan Junior High is located in Casper, Wyoming and is served by Casper College's GEAR UP program. It has a total of 840 6th–8th grade students with about 280 students per grade.

For six years, GEAR UP has been a valuable asset in the school to help students who may need assistance for a variety of reasons. According to Mr. Larry Meeboer, the assistant principal, "The program helps a lot of kids. Some of them need multiple interventions, and GEAR UP is an important one." Mr. Meeboer went on to talk about the three-tier program that the Natrona County School District implements for behavior modification in an intervention process for at-risk students. GEAR UP is written into this discipline framework as an intervention and support program.

Dean Morgan also partners with local high schools. Students who enroll in high school leadership classes serve as role models and mentors for junior high school students. For example, high school students helped students at Dean Morgan collect 2½ tons of food for a community canned food drive this semester.

When asked what is the most unique aspect of Dean Morgan and why parents and students would choose the



Dean Morgan Junior High School.

Photo courtesy of Dean Morgan Junior High School

school, Mr. Meeboer said, "There are many reasons, but I will share the top two. First, Dean Morgan is a safe place. We make safety a number one priority. Our parents know their kids are safe. When they drop their children off at school, they see an adult at every crosswalk, every door, and in every hallway. We do not tolerate bullying, either.

"The program helps a lot of kids. Some of them need multiple interventions, and GEAR UP is an important one."

Second, we have a kid-friendly and kid-centered culture. Those same adults make our students feel welcome. They visit with them, check in with them, and make sure they are well. We hire those people — the kid magnets. They are concerned about the whole child and not just test scores. It is important to them that our students are good people, too. This is because they are good people."

Mr. Meeboer also replied, "We have a waiting list —and for good reason." Dean Morgan Junior High School has high academic growth on local and state assessments. Sixty percent of its students are on the honor roll. It has a 97% daily attendance rate, and student misbehavior is very low. It offers about 30 activities and clubs and has a wide range of sports for students of all abilities and interests.

GEAR UP appreciates the strong commitment from Dean Morgan Junior High School to help students succeed in preparing for high school and, ultimately, college. 🇺🇸



Three Dean Morgan Junior High School students and their Student Success Advisor during "Picture Yourself a Graduate" family night at Casper Community College. Pictured from left to right: Saje Boykin (8th grade), Breanna Bible (8th grade), Amber Bennett (7th grade), and Stephanie Marker (Student Success Advisor at Dean Morgan).

Photo courtesy of Casper Community College

Scholarships

Many of the community colleges and the University of Wyoming have scholarships specifically for GEAR UP students called GEAR UP Institutional Scholarships. Each of the scholarships has unique qualification requirements and applications. See the websites provided for more detail. Also, remember that every school has many other scholarships!

GEAR UP Institutional Scholarship by Location

Please view websites provided for complete information

Casper College – Rolling acceptance

\$500/semester. Students must maintain 2.0 GPA, have a FAFSA on file, and enroll in at least 9 credits. During high school, students need to attend a summer academy and complete 5 or more hours of PrepMe.

<http://www.caspercollege.edu/gearup/> (Click on Scholarships/Forms tab)

Central Wyoming College – Due May 1

Amount varies from \$500 - \$2,136/semester. Students must maintain 2.0 GPA. Award is greater if GPA is higher.

<http://www.cwc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/high-schoolpg2.aspx>

Laramie County Community College – Due June 30

Depends on need (average award \$1,236/semester). Students must enroll in 12 credits, complete 9 of the 12 credits and maintain a 1.75 GPA (fall semester) or 2.0 GPA (spring semester). Students must also complete 25 hours of community service.

<https://www.keysurvey.com/survey/347535/4047/>

Northwest College

Due March 1 (fall semester); Oct 1 (spring semester)

Depends on need – scholarship may cover unmet need. Students must maintain 2.0 GPA.

<http://www.northwestcollege.edu/dotAsset/205096.pdf>

University of Wyoming

Due June 1 (fall semester); Nov 1 (spring semester)

Depends on need – scholarship may cover up to \$4,509.50/semester of unmet need. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA. Student may also receive \$500/semester towards books and/or a living stipend.

<http://www.uwyo.edu/gearup/Scholarships/> (scroll to bottom of the page for link to document)

Western Wyoming Community College – Due April 1
\$1600 /year. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and full-time status. The application for GEAR UP has been combined with the Hathaway scholarship application by WWCC. Students need to participate in a student success program, work, or volunteer on campus.

<http://www.wbcc.wy.edu/gearup/forms.htm>

There is no GEAR UP Institutional Scholarship for Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) or Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD).

GEAR UP WYOMING Federal Scholarship

This GEAR UP Federal Scholarship can be applied to the University of Wyoming or any of the community colleges in Wyoming. This scholarship is available for students served in GEAR UP during 2005-2011. Students must have joined GEAR UP by Oct 31, 2010 in order to be eligible. Contact your local GEAR UP host site or visit the website www.uwyo.edu/gearup/scholarships/index.html for more information on qualifying requirements.

Award amount: Depends on need. Maximum scholarship is \$4,162.50 per semester.

Deadlines:

- Complete FAFSA application by April 1.
- Submit a GEAR UP (GU) Scholarship application by June 1 (fall) or November 1 (spring) deadline.
- Ask your Outreach Coordinator to fill out an on-line Coordinator Verification Form with the application. Students may receive the GU Wyoming Federal Scholarship for a maximum of six (6) semesters for an associate's degree or 12 semesters for a bachelor's degree regardless of part-time or full-time status. 

GEAR UP WYOMING Federal and UW Institutional Scholarships

Questions concerning scholarships for GEAR UP students should be directed to Barbara Marino in Student Financial Aid at the University of Wyoming.

Barbara Marino, Financial Aid Specialist
Knight Hall 174

University of Wyoming

Dept. 3335, 1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, WY 82071

(307) 766-3393

bmarino1@uwyo.edu

Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM – 12PM

Student Resources

Important FAFSA information

The priority deadline is March 1. If a student applies by March 1, the student is given first priority for financial aid and scholarships. For more information, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov or contact your local GEAR UP host site. The final deadline is April 1.

What you need to fill out a FAFSA

You will need records of income earned in the year prior to when you will start school (2011 income information for admission in Fall 2012). You may need records of your parents' income information.

You may need to refer to:

1. Your driver's license and social security numbers
2. Your 2011 W-2 forms
3. Your parents' 2011 Federal Income Tax Return and their birthdates
4. Records of other untaxed income

ACT College Entrance Exam – 2012 Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
April 13, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10-23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 4-18, 2012
September 8, 2012	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
October 27, 2012	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
December 8, 2012	To Be Announced	To Be Announced

All Wyoming eleventh-grade students will take the ACT on April 24 at their schools. Students who want to take the test again can visit the following ACT website to register for the test and to locate testing centers: www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

GEAR UP WYOMING students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT test fee waiver. Also, GEAR UP WYOMING students have free access to ACT preparation programs.

Student Resources (continued from page 5)

Important Fee Waiver Information for GEAR UP Students Applying to the University of Wyoming

Step 1: Apply for the GEAR UP Scholarship:

- Complete a FAFSA application by April 1. Priority will be given to FAFSA applications completed by March 1.
- Complete the GEAR UP scholarship application by June 1. (<http://www.uwyo.edu/gearup/scholarships/index.html>)

Step 2: Apply to the University of Wyoming:

- Complete the online or paper application (<http://www.uwyo.edu/admissions/apply/index.html>)
- APPLICATION FEE WAIVER INSTRUCTIONS: The UW application fee will be waived for GEAR UP students, but your GEAR UP coordinator must FIRST submit a fee waiver to the GEAR UP office at UW. Please contact your GEAR UP coordinator to request that they submit a fee waiver. It is not automatic and you must contact your GEAR UP coordinator to receive a fee waiver. If you are submitting your application online, the GEAR UP Coordinator can email the fee waiver. If you are submitting a paper application, the GEAR UP coordinator must attach the fee waiver to the application and send both to GEAR UP UW.
- ENROLLMENT DEPOSIT: The University of Wyoming requires a \$300 enrollment deposit to be paid as part of the admission and enrollment process for all first-time freshmen and transfer undergraduate students. \$200 of this enrollment deposit will be waived for GEAR UP students. The remaining \$100 will serve as your housing deposit at the University and CANNOT be waived. This \$100 must be paid by the deadline.

Please be certain to follow the fee waiver and enrollment deposit processes above. If you are contacted by UW concerning these fees, tell them you are a GEAR UP student. If you have any questions, please contact your GEAR UP coordinator. 

GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development

Upcoming Professional Development

February 10 and 11, Casper

Natrona County High School

March 2 and 3, Riverton

Holiday Inn Convention Center

ACT Prep & College Readiness Workshop

The Wyoming Department of Education and GEAR UP Wyoming are collaborating to offer two ACT Preparation Workshops for Wyoming high school teachers, GEAR UP outreach staff, and others who would be able to use the practices and strategies taught to improve student ACT scores. These workshops will be presented by a team of teachers from Cheyenne Central High School that has been trained in ACT Test Prep and assisting students in extended day ACT preparation. Contact Bob Bryant at robert.bryant@wyo.gov or 307-777-6840 for registration information.

March 5 and 6, Casper – Parkway Plaza

Quantum Learning for Teachers Level 3

This workshop will be a strand offered at the Spring School Improvement Conference at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. Contact Karan Wright at kwright@advanc-ed.org or 970-372-3010 for conference registration information.

May 2 and 3, Casper – Ramkota Hotel

Instructional Facilitator Summit

GEAR UP WYOMING and the Wyoming Department of Education are co-sponsoring a two-day training and networking opportunity for Instructional Facilitators and Summer School Administrators. Literacy strategies for under-resourced learners will be emphasized. Contact Bob Bryant at robert.bryant@wyo.gov or 307-777-6840 for registration information.



GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Professional Development Offered by GEAR UP WYOMING

GEAR UP WYOMING offers the following professional development opportunities at no cost to GEAR UP schools. GEAR UP students are 7th through 12th graders who meet income-eligibility requirements and want assistance in graduating high school and enrolling in college. GEAR UP WYOMING welcomes the opportunity to discuss sponsoring other types of professional development beyond what is listed below, providing the training meets the GEAR UP goals and objectives.

aha!Process Workshops

aha!Process is the organization founded by Dr. Ruby Payne who is most well known for her book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, and work regarding educating students from low-income backgrounds. There are several workshops offered by aha!Process that fit well with the GEAR UP WYOMING mission of helping students graduate from high school and enroll in college. Most of the workshops are six hours in length presented in one day.

Some specific examples of aha!Process workshops include, *School Improvement: Raising Achievement with 9 Systemic Processes*, *Engage and Graduate Your Secondary Students: Preventing Dropouts*, *The R Rules Facilitator Training*, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* and *Under Resourced Learners*. For more detailed information about these workshops and others visit <http://www.ahaprocess.com/>.

ACT, PLAN and EXPLORE Data Interpretative Workshops

In an ACT, PLAN or EXPLORE workshop, staff will learn how to quickly interpret student and school reports to improve student achievement. Workshops are usually 3 hours and include training with your own student data. The workshop can be completely customized to meet the specific training needs of your staff.

Ignition

Ignition is a comprehensive research-based transition to high school and peer mentor program. Students in transition who have a mentor are more academically and socially successful. Upperclassmen and advisors receive the training and curriculum they need to develop a sustainable program that has a positive impact on the entire school.

GEAR UP WYOMING Quantum Learning Site License

Quantum Learning for Teachers (QLT) Levels 1-5 (Each level is a one-day, six-hour workshop)

This professional development program for educators provides proven strategies that motivate students and boost achievement. Under the GEAR UP WYOMING site license, QLT can be offered at any Wyoming school or district where at least 50% of the staff attending are secondary educators. The workshops are delivered by one of the fully certified Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators at a rate that is far less than the typical Quantum Learning Network charge. Summer dates are currently available but you are encouraged to book early. GEAR UP WYOMING does not sponsor this workshop but instead coordinates the booking with a Wyoming facilitator so that schools and districts can receive the greatly reduced site license rates.

For more information about workshops sponsored by GEAR UP WYOMING or the Quantum Learning for Teachers workshops, contact Judy Trujillo at (307) 766-6733 or jtrujil7@uwyo.edu. At least thirty days advance booking is required for most workshops. These workshops may be scheduled during school days, staff development days or summer.

GEAR UP Wyoming is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling \$3,548,876 annually with an additional \$3,548,876 annually provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

GEAR UP Wyoming
SEO, University of Wyoming
Dept. 3808
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LARAMIE, WY
PERMIT #75



GEAR UP students at the University of Wyoming campus.

GEAR UP WYOMING is a statewide program that serves 2,000 7th-12th grade income-eligible students each year. Wyoming's seven community colleges provide services to these students and encourage them not only to complete high school, but to enter and succeed at a postsecondary institution. The GEAR UP Wyoming program also supports students through their first year of college.

In this Issue

- GEAR UP WYOMING Student Services 1
- Schools Served by GEAR UP WYOMING, 2011-2012 2
- Education Spotlight:
 Dean Morgan Junior High School 3
- Scholarships 4
- Student Resources 5, 6
- GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development 6, 7

GEAR UP WYOMING is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling \$3,548,876 annually with an additional \$3,548,876 annually provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions.