



# Wyoming Department of Education

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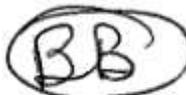
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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-028

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School Principals  
Curriculum Coordinators

**FROM:** Bob Bryant, WDE GEAR UP Coordinator  
Educational Quality and Accountability Unit 

**DATE:** February 20, 2009

**SUBJECT:** GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Inaugural Edition

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GEAR UP Wyoming has published the inaugural edition of its state-wide newsletter, *GEAR UP Wyoming Matters*. An electronic version is attached to this memo. It will be published three times per year with a focus on the GEAR UP Wyoming program and its management at the University of Wyoming.

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 first issue provides an overview of the GEAR UP Wyoming program including a description of its partners, programs for students, professional development for educators, and its student scholarship component.

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 [rbryan@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:rbryan@educ.state.wy.us).

RB:al

Attachment

WINTER 2009

# GEARUP

## WYOMING

# Matters

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

University of Wyoming

<http://www.uwyo.edu/gearup/>

Wyoming Department of Education

<http://www.k12.wy.us/>

Casper College

<http://www.caspercollege.edu/index.html>

Central Wyoming College

<http://www.cwc.edu/Trio/Gear-Up-and-ETS.htm>

Eastern Wyoming College

<http://ewc.wy.edu/instruction/gearup/index.cfm>

Laramie County Community College

<http://www.lccc.wy.edu/Index.aspx?page=439>

Northern Wyoming

Community College District

<http://www.sheridan.edu/gearup/>

Northwest College

<http://www.northwestcollege.edu/gearup/>

Western Wyoming Community College

<http://www.wvcc.wy.edu/gearup/>

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## UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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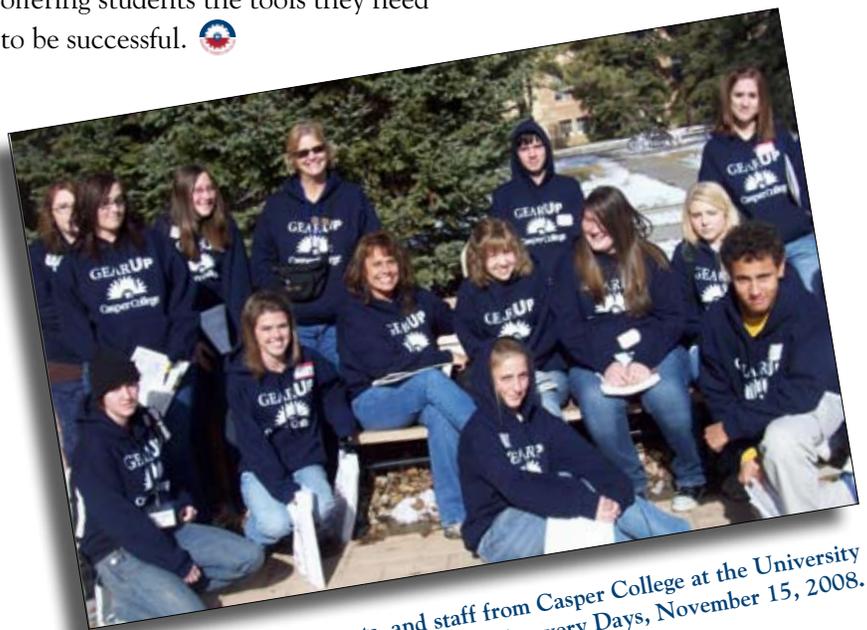
## Inaugural Issue

We hope you enjoy this first issue of *GEAR UP WYOMING Matters*. It will be published three times per year and focus on the GEAR UP WYOMING program and its management at the University of Wyoming and across the state.

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, is a true educational partnership. The University of Wyoming (UW) manages the grant and partners with the seven community colleges within the state. The community colleges work directly with 7th-12th grade students who can benefit from the program.

GEAR UP WYOMING targets 2,000 income-eligible students throughout the state and encourages them to complete high school and succeed at a post secondary institution. It accomplishes this mission by offering students the tools they need to be successful. 



GEAR UP students, parents, and staff from Casper College at the University of Wyoming during Discovery Days, November 15, 2008.

## Turning the GEAR UP Vision into the GEAR UP Reality

In 2002, a vision was formed. Fuji Adachi, the former Director of the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) at the University of Wyoming, learned of a federal grant that would help under represented students realize their dreams of attending college. However, for the federal government to supply funding, the state would have to match the funds. Mr. Adachi decided working with the state's community colleges would be a good way to administer the grant and to provide the dollar for dollar match.

Mr. Adachi presented his vision to the Wyoming Community College Presidents, the Wyoming Department of Education leadership, and the Wyoming Community College Commission; everyone agreed to participate in the partnership. The partners were asked to appoint a contact from each of the partnering institutions to serve on the grant planning and writing team.

In 2003, a meeting between the community colleges and the University provided the atmosphere to pull together the specifics of the grant proposal. Based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced lunches within the state, the team determined 2,000 students could be served through the grant by the community colleges.

On April 8, 2005, Governor Freudenthal officially designated the University of Wyoming as the lead agency to apply for and administer the state GEAR UP grant. During that same year, the grant was submitted and awarded. At a special ceremony in August 2005, the first lady of Wyoming, Nancy Freudenthal, announced the grant award in the Capitol rotunda.

The grant provides funding for six years and is now in its fourth year. It is managed from SEO in Knight Hall at the University of Wyoming with a grant management team who works with the community colleges. 



Senator Mike Enzi with members of the GEAR UP management team. From left to right: Bob Bryant, Michael Wade, Senator Enzi, Donna Regan, Dori Benavides, Lori Kimbrough



Knight Hall at the University of Wyoming, where the GEAR UP WYOMING grant is administered.



Senator John Barrasso with members of the GEAR UP management team. From left to right: Bob Bryant, Lori Kimbrough, Senator Barrasso, Donna Regan, Dori Benavides

DAVE FREUDENTHAL  
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor  
April 8, 2005

Curtis Sandberg  
Interim Associate Director  
Student Educational Opportunity, UW  
Dept. 3808, Room 330 Knight Hall  
1000 E. University Ave.  
Laramie, WY 82701-3808

Dear Mr. Sandberg:

In writing this letter, I officially designate the University of Wyoming to be the lead Wyoming agency to apply for and administer the state GEAR-UP grant.

This statewide GEAR-UP grant reflects a grand opportunity for the State of Wyoming and its education institutions. The direct services offered to low-income students and their parents, as well as the professional development and school improvement activities, will significantly increase the high school and college graduation rates of low-income students and of all students in general.

As you may know, the State of Wyoming is set to make a significant commitment itself in higher education. During the past legislative session, I signed into law the commitment to establish an endowment that will ultimately total \$400 million for financial aid. This is a significant investment in Wyoming's future that will work hand-in-hand with GEAR-UP initiatives to bring about significant opportunities to low-income students. As you are well aware, money for educational access should go hand in hand with providing the knowledge, skills, and support so essential to success in increasing access. I believe that GEAR-UP is an important component of providing these skills and support.

I support the grant and its services and stand ready to aid in implementing the initiatives associated with its award. Specifically, I believe that we must facilitate the integration of GEAR-UP initiatives into other state-sponsored initiatives, such as the Hathaway Scholarship plans and the Children and Families Initiative. I would also appreciate attending GEAR-UP conferences and awards banquets, as you feel appropriate. Finally, my staff will continue to work with you to identify additional opportunities to support your plans for GEAR-UP and its students.

Thank you for your work on this important project and please do not hesitate to contact my office for further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Freudenthal".

Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

Letter from the Governor of Wyoming designating the University of Wyoming as the lead agency to apply for and administer the state GEAR UP grant.

## GEAR UP Wyoming: Sound Structure through Partners

GEAR UP WYOMING (GUWY) has developed a powerful group of partners and a sound structure to systemically affect Wyoming's entire educational system. A local saying is that Wyoming, while large geographically, is really just a small town with long streets. GUWY takes advantage of our "smallness" to gather all of the relevant stakeholders together to bring about change so that Wyoming's children experience educational success.

GUWY partners include every institution of higher education in the state — the University of Wyoming and the seven community colleges. Other partners include the Governor's office, the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Community College Commission.

Low-income students in Wyoming perform significantly lower academically than non-low-income students. They continue on to college at rates that are among the lowest in the country. Across the board, low-income 8th and 11th graders fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in math, reading, and writing. Fortunately, the state is addressing these issues in order to ensure that income is no longer a significant barrier to obtaining a college degree.

GEAR UP works to solve these problems by targeting students, parents, teachers, administrators, and schools. Curriculum and early academic planning are central to the success of students, as well as teacher professional development and school reform. Students and their families gain key knowledge and receive support that targets the causes for low academic performance and college-going rates.

Beyond the individual services, long-term systemic change is sought. Teachers, schools, and educational processes are impacted through comprehensive professional development. Change is not dictated from the outside, but led from those within through extensive partnership building. GEAR UP funding and its six years of intensive services will leave Wyoming in a much better place for tomorrow's students.

## GEAR UP Wyoming Advisory Committee

### **Brenda Abbott**

*Manager of High School Programs*  
Laramie County Community College

### **Joanna Anderson**

*Vice President of Student Services*  
Casper College

### **Laurel Ballard**

*Supervision, Accountability Team*  
Wyoming Department of Education

### **Rex Cogsdill**

*Dean of Student Services*  
Eastern Wyoming College

### **Mark Englert**

*Dean of Student Enrollment,*  
Northern Wyoming Community College District

### **Pilar Flores**

*Director, Student Educational Opportunity*  
University of Wyoming

### **Jackie Freeze**

*Vice President of Student Success Services*  
Western Wyoming Community College

### **Bill Landen**

*Associate Vice President for Student Services*  
*Athletics Director*  
Casper College

### **Dana Young**

*Vice President for Student Affairs*  
Northwest College

### **Donna Regan**

*Grant Manager*  
University of Wyoming

### **Michael Wade**

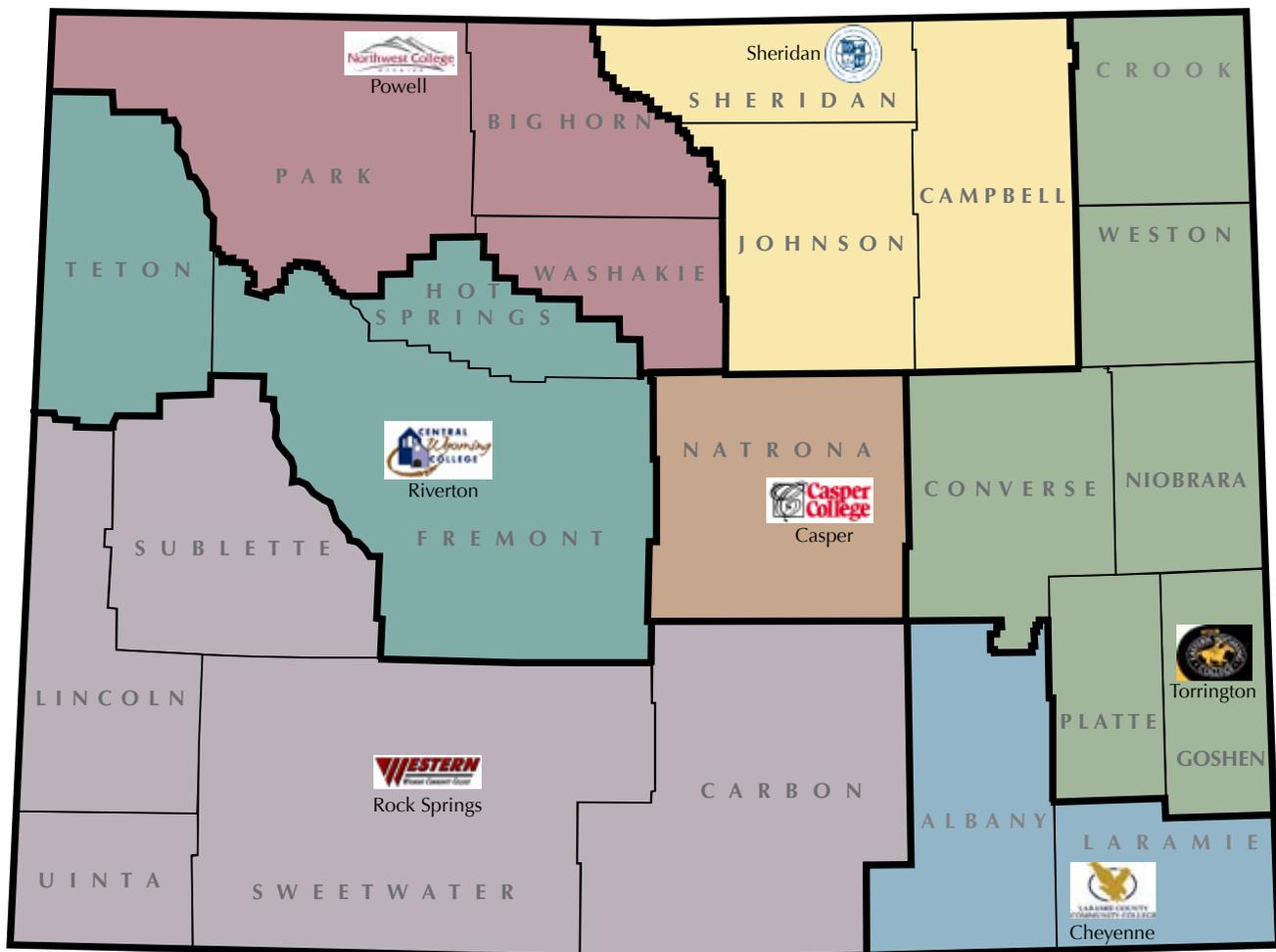
*Associate Director, Student Educational Opportunity*  
University of Wyoming

### **Mohammed Waheed,**

*Vice President Student Services*  
Central Wyoming College



## Community College GEAR UP Districts



The percentage of GEAR UP Wyoming participants (2,000 annually) served in each community college district is determined by using the number of 7th through 12th graders eligible for free and reduced lunch located within each service area divided by the number of eligible students statewide. For example, if a service area contains 15% of Wyoming students eligible for free and reduced lunch that community college serves 15% of the GEAR UP target of 2,000 participants annually. The GEAR UP Wyoming enrollment numbers fluctuate throughout the year as students graduate or leave the area and as new participants enroll in the program. As such, the annual number served may exceed 2,000. The following enrollment numbers were current January 2009.

GEAR UP WYOMING is in the division of Student Affairs within the office of Student Educational Opportunity (SEO). For more information, visit the SEO website at <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/SEO/>

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.



### Casper College

Casper College (CC) is located in Casper near the geographic center of the State.

Currently serving 280 students, CC GEAR UP is housed in Student Services. The CC GEAR UP district includes Natrona County.

**School Districts:** Natrona #1.

**Area:** 5,340 square miles.

**Website:** <http://www.caspercollege.edu/index.html>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Chelse Depaolo, (307) 268-3036, [cdepaolo@caspercollege.edu](mailto:cdepaolo@caspercollege.edu)



## Central Wyoming College

The Central Wyoming College (CWC) campus is located in Riverton and has off-campus sites in Jackson, Lander, Thermopolis, Dubois, and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Currently serving 305 students, CWC GEAR UP is housed in Student Services. The CWC GEAR UP district includes Fremont, Hot Springs, and Teton Counties.

**School Districts:** Fremont #1, Fremont #2, Fremont #6, Fremont #14, Fremont #21, Fremont #24, Fremont #25, Fremont #38, Hot Springs #1, Teton #1

**Area:** 15,194 square miles

**Website:** <http://www.cwc.edu/Trio/Gear-Up-and-ETS.htm>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Tami Shultz, (307) 855-2033, tshultz@cwc.edu



## Eastern Wyoming College

Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) is located in Torrington.

Currently serving 298 students, EWC GEAR UP is housed in Student Services. The EWC GEAR UP district includes Converse, Crook, Goshen, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

**School Districts:** Converse #1, Converse #2, Crook #1, Goshen #1, Niobrara #1, Platte #1, Platte #2, Weston #1, Weston #7

**Area:** 16,448 square miles

**Website:** <http://ewc.wy.edu/instruction/gearup/index.cfm>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Judy Brown, (307) 532-8269, 1-866-327-8996 ext 8269, judy.brown@ewc.wy.edu



## Laramie County Community College

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) is located in Cheyenne, and the Albany County branch campus is located in Laramie, Wyoming. In addition, LCCC maintains an Eastern Laramie County Outreach Center in Pine Bluffs.

Currently serving 422 students, LCCC GEAR UP is housed in High School Programs. The LCCC GEAR UP district includes Albany and Laramie Counties.

**School Districts:** Albany #1, Laramie #1, Laramie #2

**Area:** 6,959 square miles

**Website:** <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/Index.aspx?page=439>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Rakhshi Hamid, (307) 778-1325, rhamid@lccc.wy.edu



## Northern Wyoming Community College District

Sheridan College and Gillette College is operated by the Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) and includes Sheridan College, Gillette College, and outreach programs in Sheridan, Johnson, and Campbell Counties.

Currently serving 274 students, NWCCD GEAR UP is housed in Student Enrollment. The NWCCD GEAR UP district includes Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties.

**School Districts:** Campbell #1, Johnson #1, Sheridan #1, Sheridan #2, Sheridan #3

**Area:** 11,486 square miles

**Website:** <http://www.sheridan.edu/gearup/>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Joyce Thompson, (307) 674-6446 Ext. 2009, jthompson@sheridan.edu



## Northwest College

Northwest College (NC) is located in Powell.

Currently serving 273 students, NC GEAR UP is housed in Student Affairs. The NC GEAR UP district includes Big Horn, Park, and Washakie Counties.

**School Districts:** Big Horn #1, Big Horn #2, Big Horn #3, Big Horn #4, Park #1, Park #6, Park #16, Washakie #1, Washakie #2

**Area:** 12,319 square miles

**Website:** <http://www.northwestcollege.edu/gearup/>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Robert Hill, (307) 754-7822, robert.hill@northwestcollege.edu



## Western Wyoming Community College

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) is located in Rock Springs.

Currently serving 557 students, WWCC GEAR UP is housed in Student Success Services. The WWCC GEAR UP district includes Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Uinta Counties.

**School Districts:** Carbon #1, Carbon #2, Lincoln #1, Lincoln #2, Sublette #1, Sublette #9, Sweetwater #1, Sweetwater #2, Uinta #1, Uinta #4, Uinta #6

**Area:** 29,355 square miles

**Website:** <http://www.wgcc.wy.edu/gearup/>

**GEAR UP Coordinator:** Dustin Conover, (307) 382-1800 or 1-800-226-1181, dconover@wgcc.wy.edu

## GEAR UP Wyoming Professional Development

In addition to providing student and parent services, GEAR UP Wyoming also provides and supports professional development opportunities for K-12 personnel across the state. In collaboration with the Wyoming Department of Education, GEAR UP Wyoming (GUWY) has focused on statewide initiatives and professional development aimed at increasing the academic achievement and postsecondary aspirations of students, particularly students at-risk or from low-income backgrounds.

Some specific statewide initiatives and professional development activities and involvement include:

- Facilitated access to online ACT prep for all Wyoming students
- Quantum Learning for Teachers Workshops
- Quantum Learning Site License
- Professional Development Support for Instructional Facilitators
- Support of Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute (WTPI) Activities
- Professional Development Support for Summer Program Teachers
- WedGate Fusion Portal Development
- Professional Development Stipends for School Districts with GEAR UP WYOMING Students

Through the Quantum Learning Site License, GUWY is in the process of providing training to select educators to become Quantum Learning facilitators in our state. Educators who complete this training will be eligible to conduct Quantum Learning workshops upon request in any school district in the state at a rate far less than the Quantum Learning Network (QLN) typical charge. However, the caliber of training provided will meet or exceed the QLN standards. For more information about Quantum Learning workshop options, contact Lori Kimbrough at (307) 766-6736 or [lorik@uwyo.edu](mailto:lorik@uwyo.edu).

### Upcoming Professional Development Events

April 20-24

Cheyenne Holiday Inn

Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5

June 6

Casper Holiday Inn

WTPI Presentations to Legislators and Policy Makers



Quantum Learning for teachers, May 19-23, 2008, Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Quantum Learning for teachers, October 27-31, 2008, Lander, Wyoming.

## GEAR UP Wyoming Student Services

The services provided to GEAR UP WYOMING students and their families are delivered by coordinators and staff located at each community college. The services provided to students include workshops and activities that focus on improving academic outcomes at all levels, increasing high school graduation rates and increasing higher education awareness and enrollment.

Some specific student services include:

- Academic Support and Tutoring
- Mentoring
- ACT/SAT Preparation and Testing
- Leadership Development
- Educational and Cultural Field Trips
- Summer Programs
- Career Exploration and College Visits
- College Application Preparation
- Financial Aid and Scholarship Assistance



“Everything was great. I enjoyed the movie presented because I realize I have to change my attitude in some things.”

– Student Comment after a Family Event



“This was great! We got to see the library and the dorms - it’s totally way cool. Thank you!” – Student Comment after a Community College Visit

## GEAR UP Wyoming Parent Services

Parents of GEAR UP students are strongly encouraged to take part in the program. Parents learn that middle school is the best time to start preparing for college and are taught to be active participants in the planning process.

Some specific parent services include:

- Financial Aid Workshops
- Family Events and Banquets
- College Preparation Workshops
- College Visits



“I think this is a wonderful thing you are doing for the students. I know how hard it can be going from high school to college. I wish I had this!”

– Parent Comment after a Family Event



“I like the fact that there is a group of people that show interest in the future of my child. She is a very bright girl and this kind of support will help her succeed in life.”

– Parent Comment after a Family Event



## Scholarship Corner

GEAR UP WYOMING is involved with four major types of scholarships. Below is a quick overview.

### Institutional Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to GEAR UP WYOMING students by the partner institution where the student attends college. Criteria is determined by the host institution. Last year approximately \$450,000 was awarded to GEAR UP students from the partner institutions.

### Hathaway Scholarships

The Hathaway Scholarship program provides merit- and need-based awards to eligible students. GEAR UP works with students to prepare and encourage them to meet the criteria set by the Hathaway program.

### GEAR UP WYOMING Federal Scholarships

Federal dollars are placed into a trust fund to provide scholarships for GEAR UP WYOMING students to attend college. The Federal Scholarship criteria include focused requirements that demonstrate regular participation in the project. Funds will be available to students currently participating in the program, but not entering college until after the grant has ended.

### Daniels Fund

GEAR UP WYOMING is a Referral Agency for the Daniels Scholarship, a prestigious scholarship program for students who are “diamonds in the rough.” Students must be nominated by a participating Referral Agency and meet certain criteria. For more information, visit the Daniels Fund website at <http://www.danielsfund.org/>

To apply for the need-based financial aid portions of most scholarships, filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required.

Assistance for GEAR UP students in completing the FAFSA is available through community colleges.

For more information about FAFSA, visit the website’s frequently asked questions at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/faq002.htm>

## Scholarship Fast Facts

Federal Scholarship Trust Fund – \$3,233,008

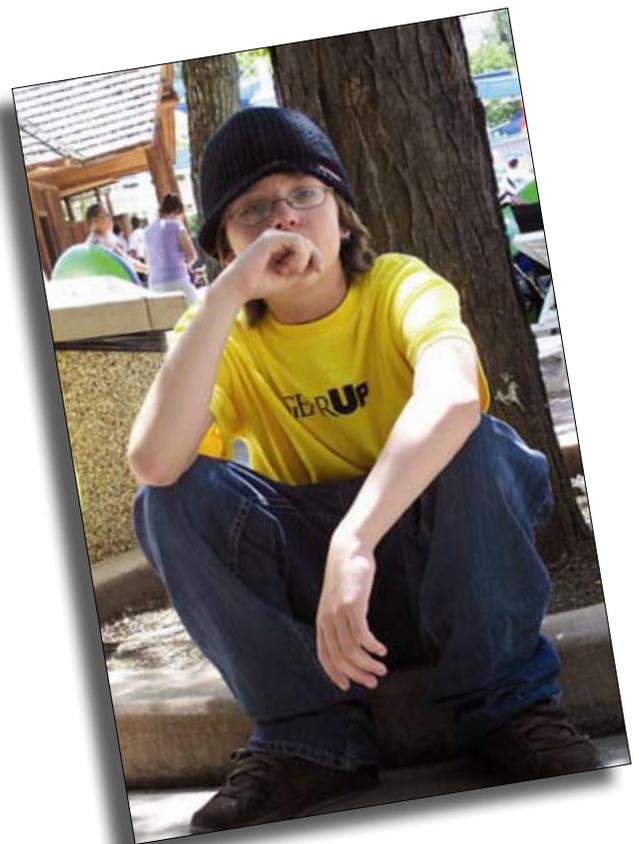
Earnings since inception of Trust Fund – \$126,699

Total funds available for distribution – \$3,543,008

Federal scholarships awarded from Trust Fund in Fall 2008 – approximately \$70,000

GEAR UP university and community college partners have distributed approximately \$450,000 in scholarship funds through Fall 2008

Of the 20 Wyoming scholarships awarded by the Daniels Scholarship Fund in 2008, 75% of the recipients participated in a college access program located in SEO at UW.





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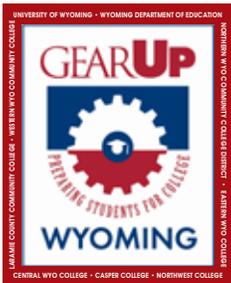
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GEAR UP Wyoming is funded 50% through a grant from the US Dept of Education totaling \$3.5 million annually with an additional \$3.5 million provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions from Wyoming's community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and the Wyoming Department of Education.



## UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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