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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-151

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
Curriculum Coordinators

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

DATE: September 25, 2009

SUBJECT: GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Fall 2009 Edition

INFORMATION TO SHARE

GEAR UP Wyoming has published the Fall 2009 edition of its statewide 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 issue features articles on a variety of GEAR UP Wyoming programs such as the impact of Quantum Learning in a Cheyenne elementary school and a description of GEAR UP's Quantum Learning professional development initiative. These include upcoming Quantum Learning workshop opportunities, Central Wyoming College's GEAR UP program and an interview with a GEAR UP Wyoming student scholarship recipient.

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.

RB:al

Attachment

FALL 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/>

UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

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Afflerbach Kids Benefit From Quantum Learning Program

What do Michael Jordan, Michael Vick and the television show “Pimp My Ride” have to do with the Civil War? For students in Jerry Storebo’s fifth grade class at Afflerbach Elementary, they have everything to do with it.

Storebo, along with third-grade teacher Amanda Martin and Principal Carol Clarke, attended a workshop in April to learn about Quantum Learning. The program teaches innovative techniques to help students not only increase academic ability, but positive classroom behavior.

Upon returning to the classroom, Storebo put his training to work immediately. He explained the class was just starting their unit on the Civil War. One of the techniques is to associate information in the lessons to students’ current life experiences.

“We were learning about how military ships were changed during the Civil War,” Storebo explained. “One of my students said, ‘That’s just like

continued on page 6



Afflerbach fifth-grade teacher Jerry Storebo wears his “re-cap” during a recent review session in class. The cap is a visual signal the class uses to know what they will be doing next. Storebo said the cap has made a huge difference and has cut down on wasted time in his classroom. (Photo by Montika Bunner)

GEAR UP WYOMING's Student Programming Coordinator

Chris Harnden recently joined the GEAR UP WYOMING team. Chris received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wyoming (UW) in secondary science education and psychology. He is currently working on a master's degree in mental health counseling.

As the former intern for the Inaugural GEAR UP Mentoring Program at UW, Chris brings specialized experience to the GEAR UP WYOMING team. While working as an intern, he helped organize and implement many aspects of the new program.

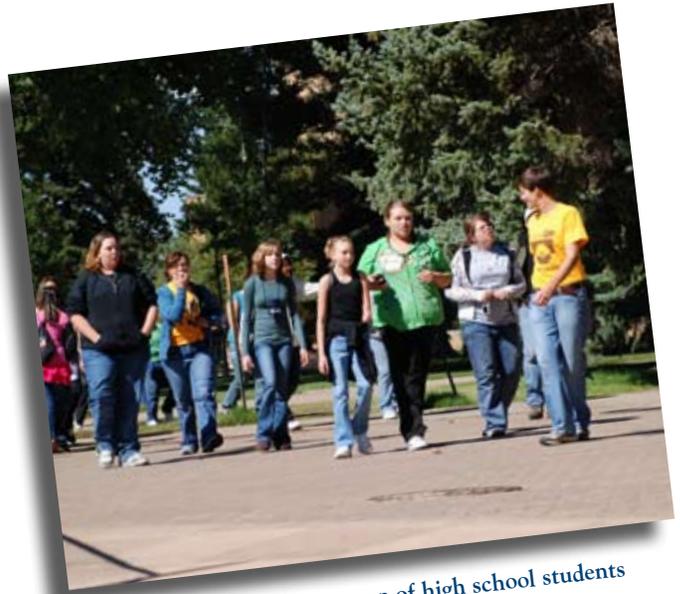
In addition to the Mentoring Program, he was a conference coordinator who organized UW events for 50-10,000 people. Most recently, he organized the Campus Race for 300 incoming freshmen students. It was based on the TV show "Amazing Race" and was a huge hit.

Chris's interests include downhill skiing, cooking, and volunteering. His volunteer interest has led him to three Alternative Spring Breaks, the last of which took him to Costa Rica where he worked with Sea Turtle rescue. He helped locate the nests of endangered leatherback turtles and helped protect the turtles as they hatched. He also measured and tagged adult turtles, which is no small feat considering they sometimes measure 8 feet across and weigh 1,500 pounds.

GEAR UP WYOMING is fortunate to have a Student Programming Coordinator who has exceptional organizational skills as well as previous GEAR UP experience. 



Chris Harnden, Student Programming Coordinator at GEAR UP WYOMING

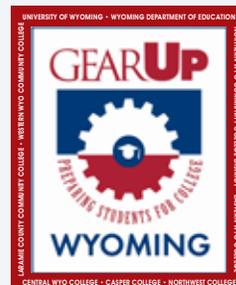


Chris (far right) leading a group of high school students during UW's 2008 Campus Pass.

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.



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Community Colleges



This issue's featured community college is Central Wyoming College (CWC) which is located in Riverton and has off-campus sites in Jackson, Lander, Thermopolis, Dubois, and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Currently serving 300 students, CWC GEAR UP is housed in Student Services. The CWC GEAR UP district includes Fremont, Hot Springs, and Teton Counties, covering 15,194 square miles.

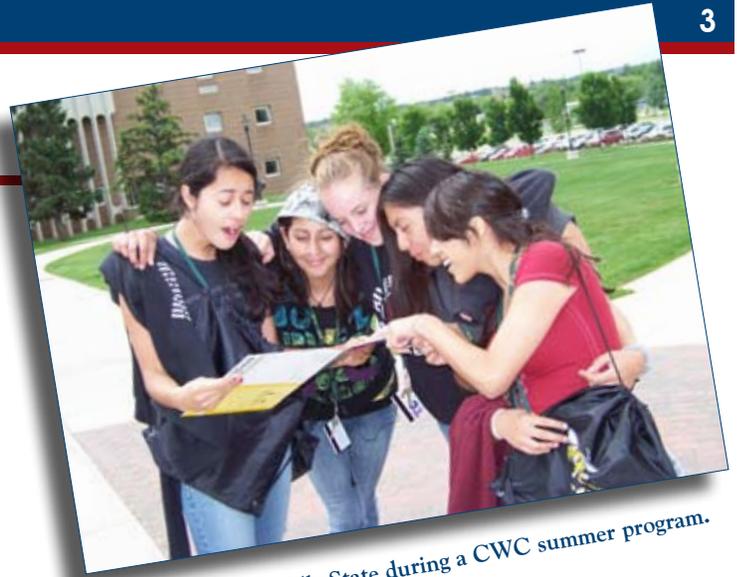
The CWC GEAR UP program is divided into two distinct programs. The first, CWC GEAR UP, serves Arapahoe, St. Stephens, Wyoming Indian, and Ft. Washakie Schools. The second, CWC-WY GEAR UP (in partnership with the GEAR UP WYOMING), serves students in Riverton, Lander, Thermopolis and Jackson schools.

"We believe the more exposure they get, the less intimidating the college process will be, and the less likely students and families will think going to college is "out of reach" for them.."

– Tami Shultz, CWC GEAR-WY Site Director

To prepare students to pursue and succeed in post-secondary education, CWC GEAR UP partners with schools, communities, students, and parents. They also provide tutoring and college preparation activities for the students.

In addition to helping students improve their academic performance in the classroom and on their PAWS tests, a strong emphasis is placed on opportunities to provide students and their parents visits to college campuses. Tami Shultz, the CWC-WY GEAR UP Site Director, believes the more

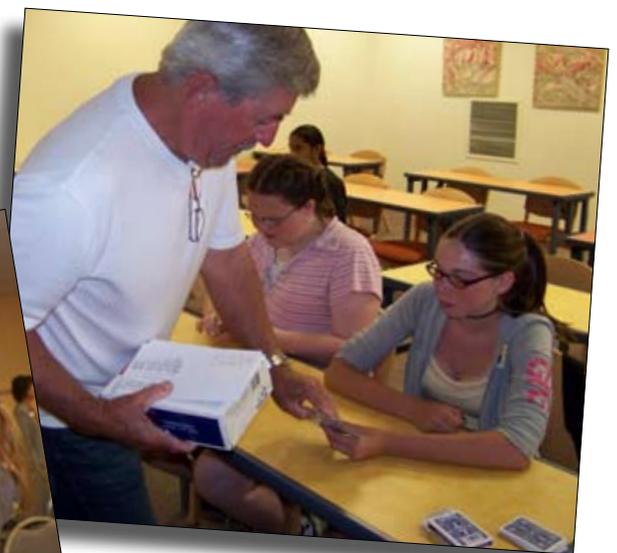


Students at Black Hills State during a CWC summer program.

exposure the students receive, the less intimidating the college process will seem. She states, "We never say 'if you go to college,' instead we say 'WHEN you go to college.' We want our students to know they can and WILL do it!"

The Central Wyoming College GEAR UP team is dedicated to working with its students, parents, and partners. Together, they have created a successful program.

For more information, contact Tami Shultz at (307) 855-2033 or visit their website at <http://www.cwc.edu/Trio/Gear-Up-and-ETS.htm> 



Above: Middle school students learning math strategies through playing cards from Professor Emeritus Roger Melton.

Left: CWC WY GEAR UP students practice scarf juggling to promote cross lateral brain connecting both hemispheres.

GEAR UP WYOMING Student and Parent Services

Central Wyoming College (CWC) is fortunate to have a campus in the Wind River Canyon where GEAR UP students are able to interact with others in real life learning situations. Many outdoor education program classes, including the nationally renowned National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), are taught by CWC at the Sink's campus. In addition to classes and Summer Academies, students and their families can participate in a Family Fun Day at the CWC Field Station in Sink's Canyon.

"My daughter had a blast at the Sink's Center Academy. She said she would love a job there! She learns best when she is doing hands on things and GEAR UP has given her a chance to learn how she learns best."

– Parent who attended family day at the Sink's Center

This year's Family Fun Day took place on Saturday, May 2, 2008. Frank Berch, a CWC Sink's Center employee, led the families on a historical hike of the Wind River Canyon and answered general questions about CWC programs as well as specific questions in the areas of history, anthropology, and outdoor leadership. To give families an idea of what life as a settler would have been like, Frank presented an presentation on homesteader life in the mid-1800s.

Students and families were exposed to college life utilizing interactive techniques. GEAR UP staff was present and discussed individual student/parent concerns and up-coming GEAR UP opportunities. Afterwards, everybody enjoyed a pizza lunch in the scenic area. 



CWC GEAR UP students interact with college mentors to experience real life learning.



CWC WY GEAR UP students learned orienteering with CWC Outdoor leadership students.



CWC WY GEAR UP College Academy at the Sink's Canyon Center Campus with CWC Outdoor Leadership Students discussing outdoor education and career options.



Frank Berch with GEAR UP families at the Sink's Center presenting history of the Canyon through "acting" out the part of a settler from the 1800s.

MICHAEL B. ENZI
WYOMING



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510
June 25, 2009

Dear Friends:

Congratulations! I was very pleased to note that this year marks the 10th anniversary of GEAR UP's successful work with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships. This is a great milestone for you, an opportunity to reflect on the important contributions you have made to our education system and to the future of students of all ages.

GEAR UP is making a great difference in Wyoming as it provides a variety of services that are designed to keep our state's young people interested in and excited about learning. In today's world a good education isn't a luxury – it's a necessity. If we are going to be competitive in the coming global economy we are going to have to do everything we possibly can to ensure students stay in school and graduate so they will be fully prepared and well qualified for the jobs of tomorrow.

There is no question that our young people are our greatest resource. Someday they will be asked to take their place as our leaders on the local, state and national level. Programs like GEAR UP will make sure that, when that day comes, they will be ready.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I will continue to strongly support programs like GEAR UP. Simply put, they put the dream of a high school diploma or a college degree within everyone's reach.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you for all you do to make our education system more efficient and effective. Thanks to you, students of all ages know that someone cares and will be there to make sure they realize that the only limit to their dreams and goals in life will be the extent to which they are willing to work to achieve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Enzi".

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

MBE:rh

This letter from Senator Michael Enzi was featured in the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) annual GEAR UP conference bulletin. NCCEP is the national advocate group for GEAR UP programs.

Afflerbach Kids, continued from page 1

'Pimp My Ride.' All of the other kids got excited and it stuck."

Now when they review battle techniques, Storebo says "Pimp My Ride" and the students immediately begin to list all the ship "upgrades" from their lessons.

Students associate Robert E. Lee as the "Michael Jordan of generals," while Michael Vick is a memory trigger for the Battle of Vicksburg, the bloodiest battle in American history.

Martin said the program is a brainbased learning system that helps students and teachers communicate better. It emphasizes character strengths as well as academic ones.

One of the techniques Martin has incorporated in her classroom is the "Above the Line" system. Students learn about proper behavior and taking responsibility for their own actions. At the end of every day, each student writes his or her name above or below a line written on the board.

"It is a self-evaluation technique for them," she explained. "I don't always agree with where they put their name. Most the time they are much harder on themselves."

The use of music is also a big part of the Quantum Learning module. The teachers play different songs throughout the day as a "trigger" for the students to know what is expected of them.

Storebo explained the music is specifically designed to mimic the heart beat rhythm of the students. For study times, slower non-verbal music is played at a lower volume. At the start of the day, Storebo plays more contemporary music, like Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer," as the students come inside to take their seats.

"The music is loud in the mornings when they come in," he explained, "because it gets them energized, but it also helps keep them from talking as they are putting up their things."

Following the rock music, Storebo switches it to a Looney Tunes melody that lets the students know they have about 30 seconds to get in their seats.

While students are busily taking their seats, Storebo dons a baseball cap with an index card taped to the front of it with the letters "re" written on it. This is the "re-cap" he explains. Students know it is time to review the

material they have been learning when he puts it on.

"We can have an entire review session now in the time it used to take me to get them in their seats," Storebo added.

One of the teaching techniques Storebo's class has integrated is the use of cartoon-like pictographs for note taking. It is a memory association activity the students have become very fond of. He said at first it was hard for him to come up with images the students could associate with the lesson, but now they are doing it on their own.

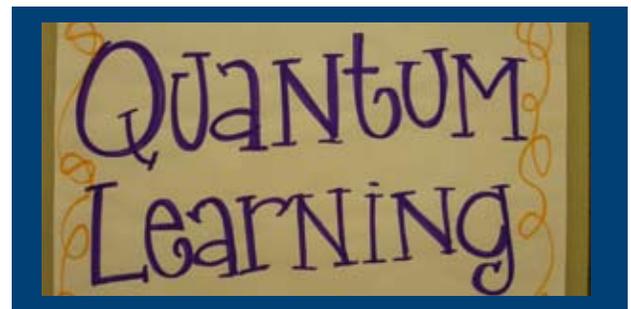
Storebo said it really works. "The first test we took after I came back from the Quantum Learning is typically one of the hardest tests I give all year," he said. "It has a lot of memorization of states, dates and names. This year after doing just a few of the techniques I learned, my lowest grade was an 88 percent. I was amazed."

Clarke said the teachers are reenergized after taking the week-long course. "They are excited about the active learning in the classroom," she said. "I love the way students are happily assuming the role of learning every day." 

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GEAR UP WYOMING sponsored the April 2009 Quantum Learning for Teachers workshop which Jerry Storebo, Amanda Martin, and Carol Clarke attended to learn about Quantum Learning.

For more information about Quantum Learning training, contact Lori Kimbrough at lorik@uwyo.edu or 307.766.6736.



GEAR UP Wyoming Professional Development

Service Focus

Under federal grant requirements, the GEAR UP WYOMING (GUWY) professional development activities are targeted specifically at 7th through 12th grade educators. As such, GUWY public workshops, such as the Quantum Learning for Teachers provided each fall and spring, will be available first only to secondary teachers. A month prior to the scheduled workshop, if space is available, seats will be opened to K-6 educators. Additionally, school districts will be responsible for the cost of materials for K-6 staff.

Quantum Learning for Teachers Public Workshop

The week of October 26-30, 2009, Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5 will be provided on a first come, first serve registration basis. No registration fee will be charged and materials will be provided to 7th-12th educators and related personnel. The workshop will be located in Casper at the fully remodeled Platte River Resort, formerly known as the Parkway Plaza. Participants are responsible for their own lodging, transportation and meal costs. If space is still available, K-6 educators and related personnel will be able to register starting September 28, 2009. For additional workshop details and online registration visit: www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB22975ZKMHPA

GUWY Quantum Learning Site License

At the end of July, Ms. Christine Olson and Dr. Jeanie Barent completed the Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5 certification process. They are the first Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators (WQLFs) certified in our state under the GEAR UP WYOMING site license agreement with Quantum Learning Network. As WQLFs, Barent and Olson are able to provide Quantum Learning training within their home school districts and to other districts as time allows. In addition to our two WQLFs, a group of facilitators-in-training will be able to build capacity within their school districts and the state starting as early as spring 2010. Contact Lori Kimbrough at lorik@uwyo.edu or 307.766.6736 to coordinate a Quantum Learning training.

Educator Professional Development Stipends

Six school districts will receive Educator Professional Development Stipends from GUWY to offer eight staff development opportunities during the 2009-2010 school year. The staff development provided to middle school and secondary educators focuses on developing strategies to increase student engagement and improve learning outcomes for all students but particularly at-risk students. Training strands include making a career pathways focus in high school relevant to students, assisting at-risk students to become self-motivated and increasing the number and type of students prepared for college-level work. 

Upcoming Professional Development

September 28, Cheyenne

School Improvement Conference Sessions:

1:15-2:15 pm Quantum Learning Success Model
in YOUR Classroom: Orchestrating Student
Willingness to Risk (Ms. Christine Olson)

2:30-3:30 pm Quantum Learning: The Role of
Relationships in Learning (Dr. Jeanie Barent)

October 26-30, Casper

Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5



Jeanie Barent (left) and Christine Olson (right), first GEAR UP Wyoming certified Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators.

Scholarship Corner

GEAR UP Wyoming Matters recently spoke with Mandy Simpson, a student at the University of Wyoming (UW), who participated in the Pathways and GEAR UP program during high school and received a scholarship from UW.

GUWY: I'd like to start with where you went to high school.

Mandy: I went to high school in Cheyenne at Central.

GUWY: How did you learn about the GEAR UP program?

Mandy: I was in a program called Pathways at LCCC (Laramie County Community College) at the time, and Pathways and GEAR UP kind of merged, and so I was the first class to graduate from GEAR UP.

"I was in a program called Pathways at LCCC at the time, and Pathways and GEAR UP kind of merged, and so I was the first class to graduate from GEAR UP."

GUWY: What grade were you in?

Mandy: I was a senior.

GUWY: What type of scholarship were you awarded?

Mandy: It was the GEAR UP institutional scholarship from the University of Wyoming. It paid for any unmet costs of attendance that I had. So, it was on top of anything else that I had. It would pay for all my tuition and fees and room and board. It was really nice.

GUWY: Why did you choose the University of Wyoming?

Mandy: Well, I was planning on going to LCCC, but since I heard about the scholarship, I decided that I wanted to come to UW, because it was just such a good opportunity.

GUWY: Was it difficult to apply for the scholarships?

Mandy: No, at that time, there was no set process. Basically, the grant manager called my coordinator and asked if there was anybody that they thought would be good for the scholarship. My name came up, and I accepted.



Mandy Simpson is a senior at the University of Wyoming.

GUWY: Was Donna Regan the grant manager then?

Mandy: Yes, Donna was the grant manager, and it was actually my pathways coordinator that she talked to, since GEAR UP wasn't really set then.

GUWY: So, that was the first year of GEAR UP, and you helped develop what it became?

Mandy: Yes.

GUWY: Is the scholarship meeting your financial needs?

Mandy: Yes, it helps me a lot. I love the scholarship.

GUWY: How does having your financial needs met affect your social and academic life?

Mandy: It really helps me a lot. I don't have to worry so much about having to work all the time, and I can focus a lot more on my school work. And also working for GEAR UP has helped a lot, because I have a set schedule, and they work around my schedule. And if I get overwhelmed, I can always take time off without any questions asked, which is really nice.

GUWY: How did you start working for GEAR UP?

Mandy: I felt like I needed to give something back, since they gave me such a huge scholarship, so I started volunteering for them once I started at UW. And then from that, last summer, they asked me if I wanted a part-time job here helping them out, because they really needed some extra help and they wanted to pay me to help them.

GUWY: Is there anything else that having a scholarship has opened up for you, like allowing you to participate in extracurricular activities?

Mandy: Yes, that's really helped a lot. I started doing intramurals last year, and before that, I had a job where I'd have to work later, so I didn't have enough time to do anything really. It was basically, work, school, homework. But now, I have more time to be with my friends and do intramural activities.

GUWY: What types of intramurals do you do?

Mandy: Mostly volleyball.

GUWY: Have you found the GEAR UP staff open-minded, easy to talk to, and willing to help you?

Mandy: Very much so. They're very helpful. I was having trouble in my math class, and another program I'm involved with wasn't able to find me a tutor, so Donna told me the next time I was having problems to come talk to her, so she could find help. Donna, Dori (Benavides) and Lori (Kimbrough) have always listened and helped me with whatever problem I was having, whether it be personal or not. Especially Donna, she became like a second family to me while she was here and it really helped.

GUWY: And you're a mentor. How did that get started?

Mandy: Last summer, when I started working here, Lori asked if maybe I could help her out, trying to start this mentoring program and calling all the students and getting together with the Campus Activity Center. We started talking about it and coming up with ideas. It turned out really well. I really enjoyed it, and I really liked helping and meeting all the kids that came in.

GUWY: So you were never a mentee, because you were one of the first mentors in program.

Mandy: Yes. It was me, Saige (Albert), and Hilary (Hughes).

GUWY: Anything you want to discuss about the mentor program? Any experiences?

Mandy: I really liked how we're all so different, but we all came together through all the activities that we did. Especially with the ropes course, it was a lot about teamwork and teambuilding and stuff like that, which was a lot

of fun. I really enjoyed doing that. Since then, we've all been close and talk and hang out. It's really nice. We've all really opened up to each other without any difficulties.

GUWY: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Mandy: I really like the mentoring program. I think it was a really good idea. I wish I could have had something like that, because with the situation that all these students are in, they're first generation. Their parents don't know anything about going into school or what to do, so if I would have had some help, that would have been a lot nicer for me, having people direct me when I needed it. It was nice that I had Donna, but it would have been nice to have a peer advocate, but I'm glad I could help the students coming in if they had any problems or anything.

GUWY: When do you graduate, and what are your plans?

Mandy: In a year and a half. Next summer, hopefully. After I graduate, I plan to continue my education and get my master's in genetic counseling.

GUWY: What do you do in genetic counseling?

Mandy: Basically, I would help people who discover that they or their family members have a genetic disease. I can help them deal with it or refer them to other people. Anything like Down's Syndrome or Sickle Cell Anemia. It would be rewarding. 



Mandy serving as an ambassador to GEAR UP students visiting the UW campus.



Chris Harnden (left) and GEAR UP high school students during Campus Pass, 2008, University of Wyoming.

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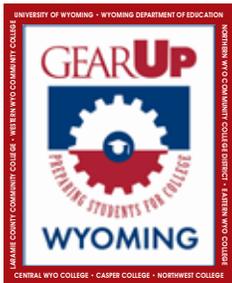
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GEAR UP Wyoming is funded 50% through a grant from the US Dept of Education totaling \$3.5 million annually with an additional \$3.5 million provided by in-kind and scholarship contributions from Wyoming's community colleges, the University of Wyoming,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



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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