



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-073

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

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

**DATE:** April 2, 2010

**SUBJECT:** GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Winter 2010 Edition

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### INFORMATION TO SHARE

GEAR UP Wyoming has published the Winter 2010 edition of its state-wide newsletter, *GEAR UP Wyoming Matters*. An electronic version is attached to this memo. The newsletter 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.

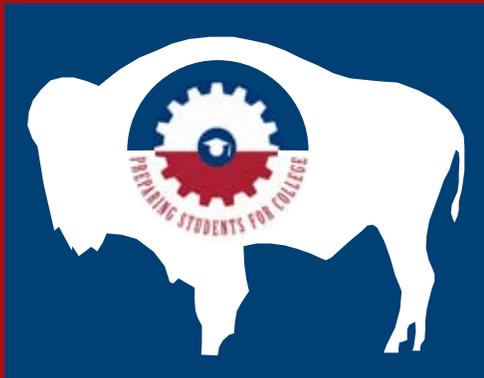
This issue includes an introduction to GEAR UP Wyoming's new Grant Manager, Judy Trujillo. It also features articles on a variety of GEAR UP Wyoming programs including a description of Campus Pass, professional development opportunities, highlights of Eastern Wyoming College's GEAR UP program, and an 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)721-1946 or [rbryan@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:rbryan@educ.state.wy.us).

RB:al

Attachment



# GEAR UP

## WYOMING

WINTER 2010

# 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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## GEAR UP WYOMING Welcomes Judy Trujillo as Grant Manager

In October, Judy Trujillo joined the GEAR UP Wyoming team as their Grant Manager. Prior to accepting the position, Judy had been an Assistant Outreach Coordinator for the GEAR UP program at the Laramie County Community College, focusing on programming for junior high students.

Judy was born and raised in Los Alamos, New Mexico. She attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico and graduated with a degree in Applied Geography from the University of Missouri. Judy worked for the University of Missouri for sixteen years in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems.

In 1997, Judy received her Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Social Studies. For many years, she taught Social Studies in Columbia, Missouri. By 2002, Judy had become the Columbia Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator. Three years later, she also became the English Language Learner (ELL) Curriculum Coordinator and Title III federal grant manager.

Judy has earned many awards for leadership and outstanding teaching, including several Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year awards and the "High Flyer" Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of Missouri in 2004 and in 2006.

Judy's enthusiasm and expertise is a great asset to GEAR UP WYOMING, and the team members are pleased to welcome her. 



Judy Trujillo, GEAR UP  
WYOMING's Grant Manager

## Community College Spotlight



This issue's featured community college is Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) which is located in Goshen County in the town of Torrington.

EWC serves a 16,448 square mile area in the eastern part of Wyoming with seventeen schools. The EWC GEAR UP district includes Converse, Crook, Goshen, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties. The schools in EWC's service area with GEAR UP students are Douglas Middle and High School, Glenrock, Guernsey, Hulett, Lingle/Fort Laramie, Lusk, Moorcroft, Newcastle, Southeast, Torrington High and Middle Schools, Upton, and Wheatland High and Middle Schools.

Last year EWC served 220 students. Thirty-eight of the 39 seniors are attending college, 14 of which are attending EWC. Because of the recent success, EWC has received an increase in the number of students that can be served, and this year they will be serving up to 320 7th through 12th graders.

*"Eastern Wyoming College is proud of the students we serve. We are excited for GEAR UP students and the future that they are working hard to attain."*

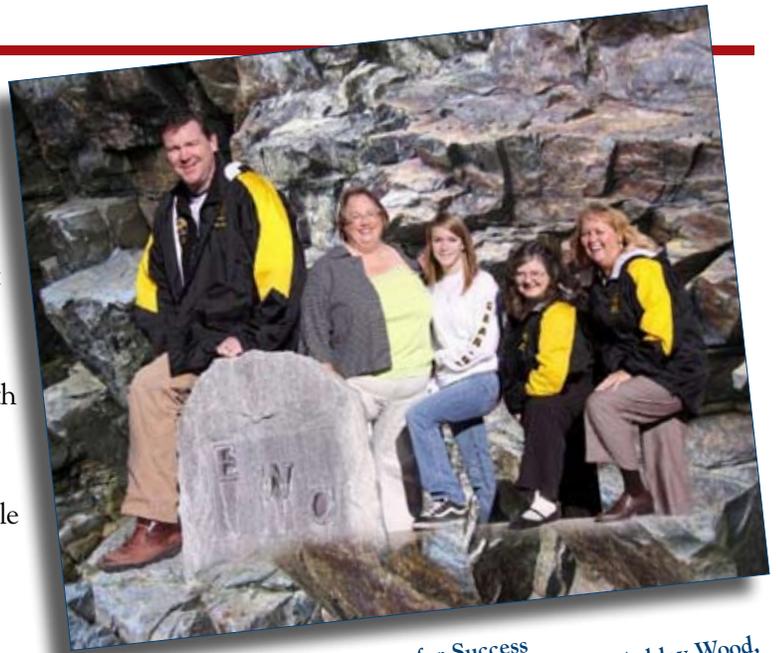
*– Judy Brown, EWC GEAR UP Coordinator*

Meeting the students' academic needs, EWC GEAR UP provides high school students with academic tutoring in programs that run before, during, and after school. The tutors also provide students with activities that encourage career exploration. Special academies and camps are provided for students throughout the year.

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/>

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OF WYOMING

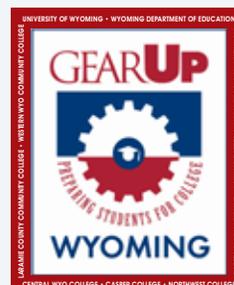
Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs of the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political belief.



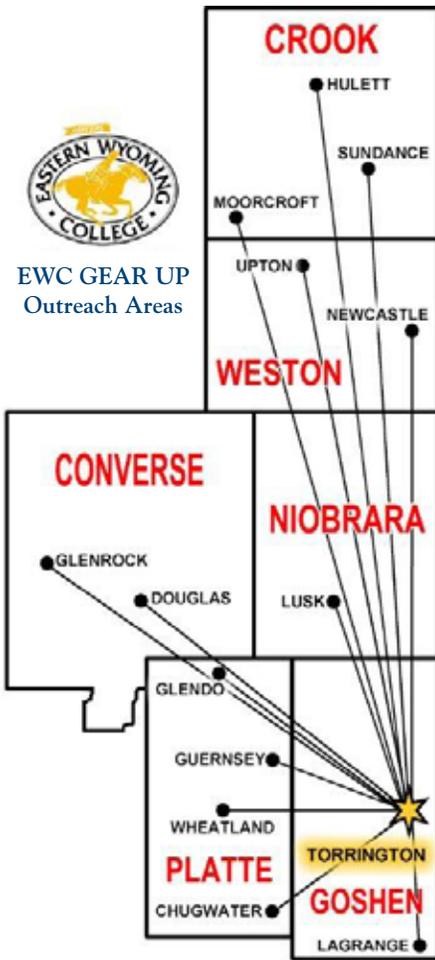
*EWC GEAR UP: The Base Camp for Success  
Pictured from left to right: Aaron Wolfe, Sally Mason, Ashley Wood, Lee Ann Forrester, Judy Brown*

With established partnerships, EWC GEAR UP has been able to expand its services through additional programs and parenting services. One such partnership is with the Eastern Wyoming College Workforce Service. Students attend a Y-Generation workshop which teaches them how to interact in an inter-generational workforce. They learn how historic circumstances influence generational values to help them understand the differences of each generation.

Another partnership EWC GEAR UP works with is the Adult Basic Education – General Educational Development (ABE-GED) program and the Even Start



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program which gives families access to the training and support they need to create a literate home environment and enhance the academic achievement of their children. During the year as activities are organized, other short term partners such as community merchants and area clubs provide support by donating materials that go toward the after school activities and programs.

One of the favorite activities of EWC GEAR UP is the Summer Academy. Students from our entire service area gather to interact with their peers from across the eastern part of the state. The academies include job shadowing, Quantum Learning for students, leadership, visiting college campuses in Wyoming and surrounding states, as well as historic sites. Students come away from the academy with a greater appreciation of their state, improved leadership skills, and a sense of high self esteem that will carry them into their academic and career futures. College visits and overnight stays provide students with a look into their future to attend one of Wyoming’s seven community colleges or University of Wyoming.

Another popular activity is Campus Pass Day at the University of Wyoming. For many, this is their first contact with a college atmosphere. The treat of attending Campus Pass is a college football game which caps the day off. Students leave with great memories, new friendships, college information, and sometimes if the weather cooperates, a suntan.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops bring parents and students together to learn about the financial aid process. The program brings families together to work on the process of preparing for entry into college and demystifies some of the financial aid processes.

For more information about the EWC GEAR UP program, contact Judy Brown at (307) 532-8269, 1-866-327-8996 ext 8269, judy.brown@ewc.wy.edu or visit their website at <http://ewc.wy.edu/instruction/gearup/index.cfm>



Left: Images from Campus Pass, University of Wyoming, Fall 2009

Below: GEAR UP students at Eastern Wyoming College



## GEAR UP WYOMING Student and Parent Services

### Campus Pass

GEAR UP Wyoming hosted five Community Colleges at the 2009 Fall Campus Pass at the University of Wyoming (UW): Casper College, Central Wyoming College, Eastern Wyoming College, Northern Wyoming Community College District, and Western Wyoming Community College. Campus Pass is a UW Admissions event which enables potential students and their parents an opportunity to discover more about the university.

Over 100 GEAR UP Wyoming middle and high school students gathered on Saturday, September 26 to experience what UW has to offer to prospective students.

The visiting students were welcomed by GEAR UP alumni students who now attend UW. The day's activities included a resource fair and a scavenger hunt which helped the students learn about the organizations, programs and resources at UW. They interacted with individuals at the resource fair to learn more about life and academics at UW. In addition, they were served lunch and were able to attend a UW football game. 



2009 Fall Campus Pass Activities  
at the University of Wyoming





## Scholarship Corner

GEAR UP Wyoming Matters recently spoke with Amy Gibbs, a sophomore at Eastern Wyoming College (EWC). She participated in the GEAR UP program during high school and received a GEAR UP WYOMING Federal Scholarship this school year.

**GUWY:** Where did you attend high school?

**Amy:** I attended high school at Lingle-Fort Laramie High School and graduated in 2009.

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

**Amy:** I was informed of the GEAR UP program through an informational presentation/program that told us the benefits and advantages we could gain through the GEAR UP program.

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**“It’s helpful knowing that I don’t have to worry about student loans at this time in my educational career.”**

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**GUWY:** What grade were you in?

**Amy:** I was a Junior.

**GUWY:** What type of scholarship were you awarded?

**Amy:** I was awarded the GEAR UP WYOMING Federal Scholarship which covered any of my unmet financial cost.

**GUWY:** What college are you attending and why did you choose it?

**Amy:** I am attending Eastern Wyoming College. I chose it because it is an accredited school, a small campus, close to home, and financially affordable.

**GUWY:** Was it difficult to apply for the scholarships?

**Amy:** No, not at all. There were certain activities that I was required to participate in, in order for me to be eligible.

**GUWY:** Is the scholarship meeting your financial needs?

**Amy:** Yes, it has been very helpful and allows me to be worry free, knowing that my education is paid for.

**GUWY:** What type of support are you receiving and does it help?

**Amy:** My college is being paid for through financial aid



Amy Gibbs is a student at Eastern Wyoming College

and scholarships for which I am eligible. It’s helpful knowing that I don’t have to worry about student loans at this time in my educational career.

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

**Amy:** It allows me to be a lot more relaxed and confident in my schooling. Knowing that everything is currently being paid for helps me to focus on my school work and social activities, instead of worrying about how I’m going to pay for school.

**GUWY:** What has having a scholarship opened up for you? Does it allow you to participate in extracurricular activities?

**Amy:** Having the GEAR UP Scholarship enables me to participate in other on-campus activities. I am currently participating in three campus clubs, as well as a work study position.

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

**Amy:** I’m majoring in Elementary Education and will be graduating from EWC after the 2010 Fall Semester. Following this, I plan to transfer to Chadron State College or the University of Wyoming. 

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Note: To be considered for the GEAR UP Wyoming Federal Scholarship, GEAR UP students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or before February 15 each year.

## GEAR UP Wyoming Professional Development

### GUWY Quantum Learning Site License

Keather Pierantoni, an educator in Lincoln County School District No. 2, recently completed the first phase of the qualification process under the GEAR UP WYOMING site license agreement with Quantum Learning Network. Ms. Pierantoni is now qualified in Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1 and 2. She will complete the qualification process in Levels 3 through 5 before summer.

Meanwhile, Chris Olson and Jeanie Barent, the first Wyoming Quantum Learning Facilitators (WQLFs) qualified in our state, are available to provide Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5 upon request. Contact Lori Kimbrough at [lorik@uwyo.edu](mailto:lorik@uwyo.edu) or 307.766.6736 to coordinate a Quantum Learning training.

### Creating a College-Going Culture in Middle and High Schools

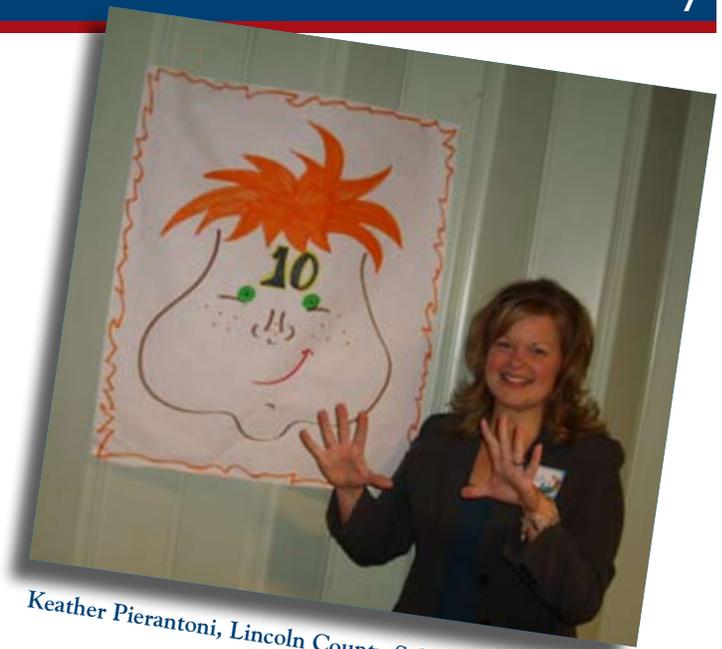
This feature, aimed at middle and high school counselors, educators and administrators, will appear in subsequent GUWY newsletters and will address ways to help students think about college early and often. The goal of a college-going culture is preparing all students for a full range of postsecondary education options.

Why should students or schools think about college starting as early as middle school?

- Research shows there is a disparity between college intentions and actual enrollment. Even though students may intend to go to college, they need help in figuring out how to actually get there.
- Having college plans by 7th grade is a key determinant in college attendance.
- Middle school years are critical college preparation years.

What are some outcomes from schools that have a college-going culture?

- State test scores increased
- National test scores increased
- State standards mastered
- Attendance rates increased
- Graduation rates increased
- School climate healthier
- Parental involvement increased



*Keather Pierantoni, Lincoln County School District No. 2*

### GEAR UP WYOMING Presentations at the 2009 GEAR UP Northwest Conference

Three GEAR UP Wyoming professionals presented sessions at the 2009 GEAR UP Northwest conference on October 4-6 in Spokane, Washington.

Judy Trujillo and Nicole Pritchard from Laramie County Community College demonstrated how music can be used effectively to enhance learning environments in their presentation, "Music to Your Ears: Using Music for Improved Academic Performance and Classroom Management."

In his presentation, "¡Bienvenidos! How to Better Understand and Serve Our Growing Population of Hispanic GEAR UP Students," Dustin Conover from Western Wyoming Community College discussed how to better understand the growing Hispanic population in the United States and how to provide them with opportunities for academic success. 

#### Upcoming Professional Development

##### March 29 & 30, Thermopolis

Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1 & 2

##### June 14-18, Rock Springs

Quantum Learning for Teachers Levels 1-5

Contact Lori Kimbrough at [lorik@uwyo.edu](mailto:lorik@uwyo.edu) for registration information for these public workshops.



Laura Croswell, a GEAR UP student from Southeast High School in Goshen County School District #1, during Campus Pass 2009, University of Wyoming

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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.

## ACT Corner

The ACT college entrance exam is offered in the Fall and Spring. Students and parents should contact their GEAR UP Coordinator for information on ACT preparation.

### National ACT High School Poster Contest

ACT is conducting a poster contest. By designing a poster, you could win scholarship money to attend college. For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.actstudent.org/postercontest/index.html>  
Deadline is January 30, 2010.

### Sample ACT Prep Questions:

- If Jane has 5 pairs of pants and 7 shirts, how many different combinations of pants and shirts are possible?
  - 25
  - 42
  - 38
  - 35

- 18 is approximately what percent of 44?
  - 41%
  - 25%
  - 49%
  - 39%
- If a cube has a volume of 64, the perimeter of one face of the cube is:
  - 8
  - 32
  - 4
  - 16

### Answers to ACT Prep Questions:

- Correct Answer: D  
For each pair of pants, there are seven different combinations:  $5 \times 7 = 35$   
Correct Answer: A
- The problem can be solved with the following equation:  
 $18/44 = x/100$   
Correct Answer: D
- In a cube, the length, width, and height will be the same, and so they will be the cube root of 64, or 4.  
Each side, then, will be a square with both length and width of four, so the perimeter will be 16 for each side.