



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-069

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
Curriculum Coordinators
Counselors

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

DATE: May 16, 2011

SUBJECT: GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Spring 2011 Edition

INFORMATION TO SHARE

GEAR UP Wyoming has published the Spring 2011 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:

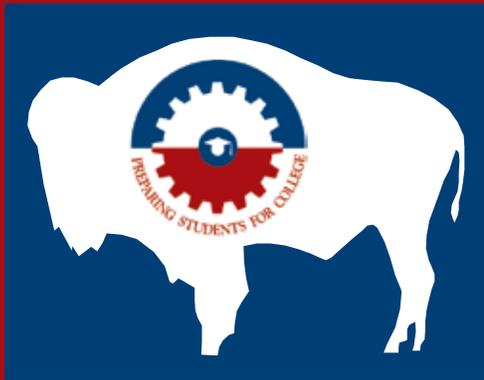
- a description of a new GEAR UP summer program, **Camp GEAR UP 2011: *Experience the Possibilities***. Over 300 grade 8-12 students from across the state have registered to attend this first time event that includes several hands-on college preparatory activities and a four night stay on the UW campus,
- some highlights of Western Wyoming Community College's GEAR UP program,
- an overview of GEAR UP Wyoming sponsored professional development opportunities focusing on dropout prevention, peer mentoring, and ACT, PLAN and EXPLORE data interpretive workshops, and
- an interview with a GEAR UP Wyoming student scholarship recipient and graduate from Rock Springs High School.

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.

RB:al

Attachment



GEARUP
WYOMING

SPRING 2011

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/what/Gearup>

Eastern Wyoming College
<http://www.ewc.wy.edu/future/gearup/>

Laramie County Community College
<http://www.lccc.wy.edu/highschool/collegeprep/gearup>

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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Experience the Possibilities

GEAR UP WYOMING has initiated a new summer program called Camp GEAR UP for current 8th grade through 12th grade GEAR UP students. Camp GEAR UP will be held at the University of Wyoming (UW) July 25-29, 2011. More than 300 high school students from Wyoming's seven community college GEAR UP programs have already registered for the camp.

The Camp GEAR UP staff has planned an intensive schedule of events with activities in three different locations: the University of Wyoming main campus, Curt Gowdy State Park, and the University of Wyoming Recreation Camp, located in Medicine Bow National Forest.

A variety of college preparatory events are planned for the students, including leadership building activities, a college financial aid workshop, a career services workshop, a "Leave No Trace" canoe adventure, and a Wyoming college fair which will include Wyoming's seven community colleges. There will also be evening activities such as "Movie on the Lawn"; a campus recreation night at UW's Half Acre Gym; and GEAR UP's Got Talent, a showcase highlighting student talents.

At Camp GEAR UP, students will truly "Experience the Possibilities". 



Student Resources



GEAR UP WYOMING is dedicated to student success in high school as well as to enrollment and success in college. To assist in this mission, GEAR UP WYOMING offers all GEAR UP students access to PrepMe, an online ACT preparation program. PrepMe provides students the opportunity to prepare for taking the ACT college admissions test and achieve the best score possible.

Because of its online format, many people might think that PrepMe can only be used if you have access to a computer – **NOT TRUE**. GEAR UP students have the ability to print off any of the quizzes and exams to practice at home. Once complete, they simply upload the answers into PrepMe to see their score and receive individualized guidance for areas which may need improvement.

Also, exclusively offered to GEAR UP WYOMING students is the ability to get printed copies of any of the 83 lessons included in PrepMe. These easy-to-follow lessons target specific academic areas a student may be working to improve.

Ask your GEAR UP Coordinator about PrepMe!



Photos courtesy of LCCC

ACT College Entrance Exam – 2011 Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13-26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17-30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5-18, 2011

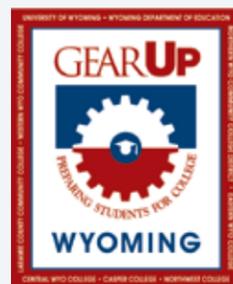
All Wyoming eleventh-grade students will take the ACT in April at their schools. Students who want to take the test again can visit the following ACT website to register for the test and to locate testing centers: www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

GEAR UP WYOMING students may contact their GEAR UP coordinator to obtain an ACT test fee waiver.

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.



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Community College Spotlight



Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) serves 460 GEAR UP students in the five counties of Carbon, Sweetwater, Sublette, Uinta, and Lincoln. WWCC GEAR UP serves students in 35 schools in southwestern Wyoming.

Ten staff members provide services to the students. These services include lunch workshops, tutoring, after-school programs, and family events with topics ranging from test prep skills to college life.

WWCC's biggest events are nights at the theatre. Students and their families come to WWCC's campus, and the evening starts with dinner, followed by workshops. The night's finale is a musical by WWCC's theatre department. Students and their families love attending this event and are quick to ask when the next one will be. Workshop topics during the theatre events have included financial aid presentations, Hathaway Curriculum, United Way Services, Cent\$ible Nutrition program, test-taking skills, college life, college housing, and a panel of current college students. GEAR UP students are able to interact with the panel and ask them questions they may have about college.



WWCC GEAR UP outreach staff members during a 2010 summer academy.

Photo courtesy of WWCC

Each spring, WWCC GEAR UP students visit a community college in Wyoming. WWCC takes junior and senior students on the trip, stopping first at a museum and then visiting the campus. The two-day trip has been a great success, and WWCC values the importance of showing GEAR UP students their many college options. WWCC has taken students to Laramie County Community College, Casper College, Northwest College, Central Wyoming College, and Eastern Wyoming College. Each fall, WWCC also takes students to the University of Wyoming's Campus Pass, a unique college visit to the university's campus.

"WWCC values the importance of showing GEAR UP students their many college options."



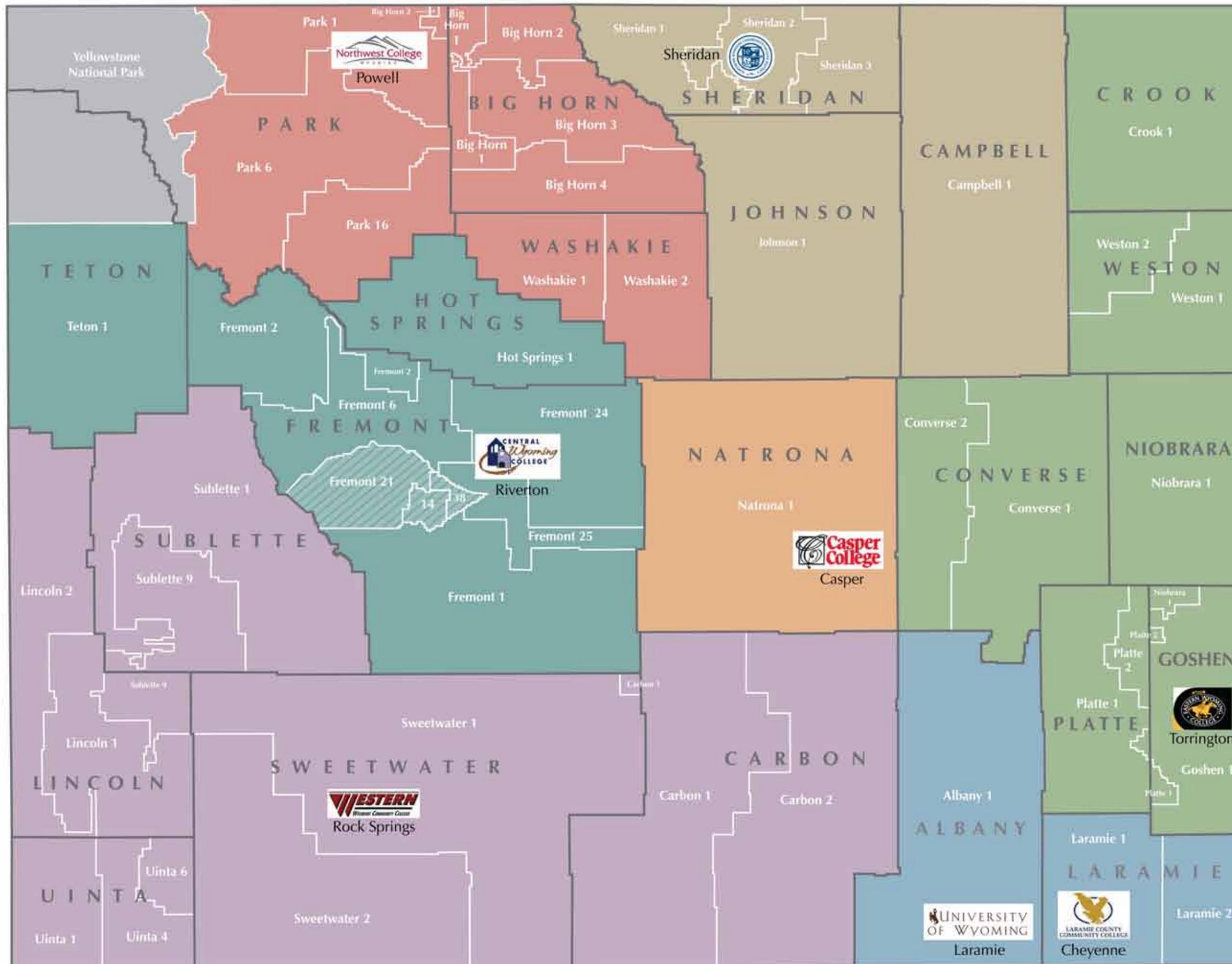
Left: Campus Pass at the University of Wyoming
 Below: A group of GEAR UP students present a business they created to help others



Photos courtesy of WWCC

WWCC also provides two summer academies for high school students. GEAR UP students live on campus for three full days of workshops, classes, and team building activities. Other events include human foosball, dodgeball, swimming, and using WWCC's game room. A highlight of summer academy is Reality Town, an educational program that gives realistic financial experience. Students are given a family scenario and a job. They have to visit businesses in Reality Town such as Buckaroos Daycare, Mustang Mall, or Western Insurance Company. The goal is to have money left over at the end of the month after visiting all the businesses. Students come to realize the importance of having a quality education and budget planning. Reality Town has been an eye-opener for WWCC's GEAR UP students, and they thoroughly enjoy the event.

WWCC has built a successful GEAR UP program because of the relationships staff members have built with students and their families. Those relationships are key to helping students be successful in school and create aspirations of post-secondary education.



**Community College
GEAR UP WYOMING
Student Service Areas**

- Casper College**
Casper, Wyoming
- Central Wyoming College**
Riverton, Wyoming
- Eastern Wyoming College**
Torrington, Wyoming
- Laramie County Community College**
Cheyenne, Wyoming
- Northern Wyoming Community College District**
Sheridan, Wyoming
- Northwest College**
Powell, Wyoming
- Western Wyoming Community College**
Rock Springs, Wyoming

COUNTY

County Lines and Names in gray

School District

School District Lines and Names in white



Students in this area are served by a GEAR UP partnership grant through Central Wyoming College.

Scholarship Corner

Alina Fatima is a graduate of Rock Springs High School who participated in the Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) GEAR UP program. She recently graduated from WWCC with an Associate of Science degree and transferred to the University of Wyoming (UW). While attending WWCC, Alina received the GEAR UP WWCC institutional scholarship.

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

Alina: I don't remember. I just started receiving letters and began going to things.

"I have a big workload as an engineering student, so [the scholarship] allowed me to focus on school. I am really thankful to the GEAR UP program."

GUWY: What grade in high school were you in?

Alina: I joined in April of 2006, so I was a sophomore.

GUWY: What type of scholarship were you awarded?

Alina: When I started college, I received the WWCC institutional GEAR UP scholarship.

GUWY: Why did you choose the colleges you attended or are attending?

Alina: I chose WWCC because it's close to home, and I wasn't ready to leave. Plus, I received so much money that I made money going to WWCC. I chose UW because everything transferred easily. Also, the in-state tuition was affordable, and UW has a good engineering program.



In Remembrance

Ms. Ann R. McNeal,
our GEAR UP Program Officer
at the US Department of Education,
passed away on December 16, 2010.



Alina Fatima, a former GEAR UP student, currently attends the University of Wyoming.

Photo courtesy of Alina Fatima

GUWY: What are you majoring in?

Alina: Chemical Engineering

GUWY: Did the scholarship at WWCC meet your needs?

Alina: Yes, more than enough. I'm a non-eligible, non-U.S. citizen, so I am not eligible for the GEAR UP scholarships offered at UW.

GUWY: Did you receive support from GEAR UP staff while attending college?

Alina: Yes, I came to Laura (Grossnickle, GEAR UP Assistant Coordinator) every time I was feeling down, or I would text her. It really helped.

GUWY: How did having your financial needs met affect you?

Alina: I didn't have to worry about my job, as I only worked one day per week. I didn't have to stress about my dad working hard and having to use his money. I have a big workload as an engineering student so it allowed me to focus on school. I am really thankful to the GEAR UP program.

GUWY: When will you graduate and what are your plans?

Alina: I will graduate in 2013 and will look for a job or return to Pakistan.

GUWY: What do you plan to do with your engineering degree?

Alina: I would like to clean the world or make a perfume named after my mom. 🇵🇰

GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development

GEAR UP WYOMING offers the following professional development opportunities at no cost to schools with GEAR UP students.

aha!Process Workshops

aha!Process is an organization founded by Dr. Ruby Payne who is well known for her 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. Some specific examples of those workshops include "A Framework for Understanding Poverty", "School Improvement: Raising Achievement with 9 Systemic Processes", "Engage and Graduate Your Secondary Students: Preventing Dropouts",

Upcoming Professional Development

May 14, Cheyenne

The R Rules Facilitator Training

This workshop is for staff at alternative high schools or who work with at-risk secondary students.

June 21 and 22, Casper

Coaching for Student Success

This workshop is for secondary Instructional Facilitators.



Professional Development at a GEAR UP state staff retreat.

"The R Rules Facilitator Training" 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 ACT, PLAN or EXPLORE workshops, staff will learn how to quickly interpret student and school reports to improve student achievement. Workshops are usually three 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.

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 Lori Kimbrough at (307) 766-6736 or lorik@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 through August 31, 2011. 🇺🇸



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Educational Access Day

On February 24, 2011, forty students and staff from the Laramie County Community College GEAR UP and SAGE TRiO programs visited the Wyoming State Capitol. First Lady Carol Mead delivered a proclamation, signed by Governor Mead, declaring the day as Educational Access Day, a day to celebrate and advocate for federally funded programs that increase access to education for students who are under represented in college such as those with limited income, disabilities, or first generation.



First Lady Carol Mead

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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.