



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-089

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
Curriculum Coordinators
Counselors

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

DATE: May 21, 2012

SUBJECT: GEAR UP Wyoming Newsletter – Summer 2012 Edition

INFORMATION TO SHARE

GEAR UP Wyoming has published the Summer 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.

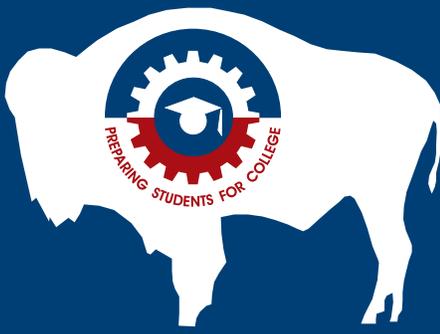
This issue features articles on a variety of GEAR UP Wyoming programs including:

- A description on the role of concurrent and dual enrollment credit courses for Wyoming's GEAR UP students. These courses are offered through all seven community colleges and the University of Wyoming,
- a review of student resources for students enrolling in college in fall 2012
- an education spotlight on the GEAR UP program at Central Wyoming College,
- an update on GEAR UP Wyoming sponsored professional development with an introduction to the new GEAR UP Wyoming Professional Development Coordinator, Sara Whittle, and
- a former GEAR UP Wyoming student now attending the University of Wyoming shares her story about how GEAR UP helped her to be able to attend college.

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.

RB/dm
Attachment



GEAR UP WYOMING

SUMMER
SEMESTER
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

**Share GEAR UP with a friend!
Students, sign up at one of the
following community colleges:**

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](http://www.sheridan.edu/site/sc/admissions/gear-up-wyoming)

Northwest College
www.northwestcollege.edu/gearup

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

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OF WYOMING

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www.uwyo.edu

Concurrent and Dual Enrollment in Wyoming High Schools

Concurrent and dual enrollment credit courses are offered through all seven community colleges and the University of Wyoming. These courses allow high school students to earn both high school and college credit while still attending high school.

Concurrent enrollment courses are taught by college-approved high school teachers at the high school while dual enrollment courses are college courses taught by college instructors.

Students who take advantage of these courses gain a variety of benefits including a chance to a) earn college credit before starting their first year of college; b) save money on college courses; and c) gain self confidence by successfully completing college course work.

In addition, these courses add rigor and relevance to high school courses which is a major goal of national and state school reform. Most high schools in the state of Wyoming have formed partnerships with one or more community colleges to allow students to take these courses at no cost to the student.

Students should be aware, however, that effective July 1, 2011, changes to Federal Student Financial Aid rules regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will impact students who enroll in concurrent and dual enrollment courses. Federal law requires that all college course work be measured to determine academic success, including concurrent and dual enrollment courses.

This means that before each term (fall, spring, and summer) colleges and universities will review



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grades, including concurrent and dual enrollment courses taken in high school, to make sure students maintain a 2.0 GPA and a 67% course completion rate. If not, students will have one term to correct this or potentially lose their federal student financial aid. Failing a course and not completing a course carry the same consequence.

Example 1:

Jane is a high school student in Wyoming. She takes a 3-credit course at her local community college during her senior year of high school. She decides during the semester to withdraw from the community college course after the official withdraw period. Jane attempted 3 credits at a Wyoming community college, but she did not complete the course. She therefore has a completion rate of 0%. Because Jane's completion rate must meet or exceed 67%, when Jane starts college the next Fall she may be on "warning" status.

Example 2:

Tony takes a 3-credit college course during Fall and a 3-credit college course during Spring of his senior year of high school. After the official withdraw period, Tony withdraws from the 3-credit course in the Fall semester and completes the Spring course with a "B". Tony's completion rate was 0% after the Fall, which means he was in "warning" status during Spring. Although he completed the Spring course, Tony's completion rate is 50% for the two semesters, below the required 67%. He may lose his federal student financial aid before he starts college in the Fall. 

Student Resources

Going to College? 5 Things to Do This Summer

1. Sign up for orientation. This is a great way to learn about the college, meet people, and get settled in. At the University of Wyoming (UW), you'll need to go to Orientation, Summit, and GEAR UP Kick Off.
2. Call the financial aid office at your school one month prior to arriving to make sure they have all necessary paperwork. Ask if they need anything else from you.
3. Befriend your roommate. Call, email, or Facebook your new roommate. Learn a little bit about their hobbies, habits, and pet peeves. Begin to set dorm "ground rules" about visitors, borrowing items, quiet/noise, and lights out. Talk about what you might share in your dorm (TV, stereo, fridge) since there is no need to bring two of everything.
4. Make a packing list. You will need to bring clothes, school supplies, and a few household items to college. Don't forget quarters for laundry, ear plugs, and duct tape! It may make sense to buy some things after you arrive at college.
5. Get a calendar — electronic or print — and mark down key academic dates: the start and end of classes, dates for finals, and vacation times. (This information will be online at your school's website.) Also, take time to assess your daily commitments (work, child care, etc.). 

In the Numbers

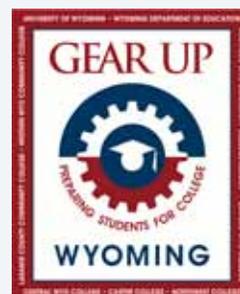
72% of GEAR UP Wyoming students completed the FAFSA by April 1, 2012!

The 2012 national FAFSA completion average was 54%, and Wyoming's 2012 completion average was 26%.

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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www.uwyo.edu/gearup/

Off-to-College Checklist

(adapted from www.Collegeboard.com)

Use this checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your first year at college. These are just suggestions; you should adapt this list to suit your own situation. To figure out your specific needs, it might make sense to buy some of these items after you arrive. Items marked with an * are must-haves or important.

Clothing

- 7-14 sets of underwear*
- 7-14 pairs of socks
(more if you play sports)*
- 3-5 pairs of pants/jeans*
- 7-14 shirts/blouses*
- 1-2 sets of sweats
- Pajamas
- Slippers and/or flip-flops*
- 2 sweaters or sweatshirts
- Light/heavy jackets*
- Gloves/scarf/hat*
- 1 pair of boots*
- 1 pair of sneakers
or comfortable/walking shoes*
- 1 set of business-casual clothes
(for interviews, presentations, events)
- 1 pair of dress shoes

Room Needs/Storage

- Alarm clock/clock radio*
- Wastepaper/recycling basket*
- Storage bins for toiletries, supplies, food, etc.*
- Under-the-bed storage trays
- Desk lamp*
- Fan*
- Drying rack for laundry (you can save money if you don't have to use the dryer)
- Bulletin board and pushpins
- Dry-erase wall calendar/board

Electronics

- Computer and printer
(if you don't have a computer, there are some to use on campus)
- Ethernet cord for computer if needed
- Surge protector
- Extension cords*

Linens/Laundry Supplies

- Sheets and pillowcases (1-2 sets. Check with college for size needed — some college twin beds are extra long.)*
- Towels (bath, hand and face)*
- Pillows*
- Mattress pad (Check with college for size needed.)*
- Blankets (2)*
- Comforter/bedspread
- Clothes hangers*
- Laundry bag/basket*
- Laundry detergent *
- If coin-operated machines, rolls of quarters for doing laundry. (You have to pay to use the dorm laundry machines.)*
- Sewing kit

Toiletries

- Tissues
- Adhesive bandages, antibiotic ointment
- Cough drops
- Shower tote*
- Shampoo and conditioner*
- Bath and face soap*
- Travel soap container*
- Toothpaste, toothbrush and dental floss *
- Comb/brush and hairstyling products
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers
- Hair dryer
- Razor and shaving cream
- Lotion and/or facial moisturizer

Miscellaneous

- Backpack*
- Swimsuit
- Sports equipment

Office/Desk Supplies

- Personal calendar to record assignments, appointments, events*
- Electronic storage media such as USB flash drives*
- Folders and 3-ring binders to collect notes and paperwork*
- Printer paper
- Pens and pencils*
- Pencil holder and sharpener
- Notebooks*
- Stapler and staples
- 3 x 5 cards
- Sticky notes
- Paper clips, binder clips, rubber bands
- Scissors
- Highlighter pens (multiple colors)
- Ruler
- Dictionary and Thesaurus

Shared Items — Check with roommate(s)

- Audio equipment
- TV and VCR/DVD player
- Microwave
- Small refrigerator
- Area rug
- Posters/art

Household and Kitchen Items

- Food-storage containers*
- Dish soap and dish sponge*
- Bowl, plate and cup*
- Coffee mug*
- Silverware*
- Paper towels
- Trash bags
- All-purpose cleaner

Tips on what NOT to take to College

Often students get to college and discover that many of the items they packed were unnecessary, prohibited, or cumbersome.

It's always a good idea to consult your roommate when deciding what to bring to college. Having duplicates of larger items like stereos, televisions, and vacuums in small dorm rooms is not ideal. Shipping large items home is an expense that could have been avoided by a simple pre-college phone call.

Also, avoid taking too much. You do not have to take everything you own to college; less is more in the world of college packing. Leave your knick knacks and collections at home. While special,

they are not ideal for display in a dorm room. Additionally, remember that there will be limited closet and dresser space, so pack wisely when it comes to clothing.

Most colleges supply basic furniture in dorm rooms. While you may want to have a few items, waiting to decide until you know what space is available can save you time, energy, and money. Further, some colleges have restrictions on what items you can and cannot have. For example, some allow or provide a mini refrigerator or microwave while others prohibit them.

College is an exciting time and having what you need and want to make you feel at home is important, but having space to function is just as essential.

Scholarships

Don't Forget

- ▶ Students – The University of Wyoming GEAR UP Scholarship application deadline is June 1. No late applications will be accepted.
- ▶ Parents and students – The FAFSA completion deadline was April 1. Check your student activity report (SAR) from your FAFSA and check in with your college or university to verify whether you have been selected for tax verification. Students should have the tax verification completed by June 1.
- ▶ Students - Keep a current email address on file and notify the GEAR UP office if you transferring between community colleges or University of Wyoming. 

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

<http://www.uwyo.edu/gearup/scholarships/index.html>

Student Stories

Rhiann Kaylene Dameron is a junior at the University of Wyoming (UW) and plans on applying to the UW Nursing Program. In her own words, she describes how GEAR UP helped her to be able to attend college.

“When I was 13, my dad was diagnosed with cancer. This challenge changed a lot of things for me. He had treatments for about a year before going into remission. Then, during one of his check-ups, the doctors found that the cancer had spread throughout his body and was in seven different locations, including a brain tumor that was the size of a lemon.

“I had to do everything that a mother would do and take care of my father at the same time.”

My dad became very weak at a rapid pace, and since my mother was always working to pay the bills, I had to do everything that a mother would do and take care of my father at the same time. Throughout all of this, I was also committed to numerous sports and school.

On August 24, 2008, my dad passed away in the living room of our home. Times became extremely hard for my family after my dad passed away, since my mother was a single mom taking care of four children. I began to worry if I would be able to go to college. Then, I became involved in GEAR UP at Eastern Wyoming College.

GEAR UP helped me prepare for college, it helped me to get involved, it told me what I needed to do in order to get into college, and it helped me to become a well-rounded college student. I was able to attend the University of Wyoming because of the GEAR UP scholarship! It has been extremely helpful to me thus far, and I really enjoy getting to know other people who have similar situations in their lives.” 



Rhiann Kaylene Dameron is a former GEAR UP student who is currently attending the University of Wyoming

Photo courtesy of Rhiann Dameron

Education Spotlight: GEAR UP at Central Wyoming College

Central Wyoming College asked their schools and students what they valued most about GEAR UP. Below are some of the answers they received.

"I have several students going to college on GEAR UP scholarships right now, and they are very successful. GEAR UP helped prepare them for the demands of college and has also provided them with a network of support while they are in college."

– Kelli Clay, Counselor at Jackson Hole High School

"The GEAR UP program has been a great addition to our school by helping us enhance programs that are geared at getting students into postsecondary training. GEAR UP is very flexible and always willing to arrange their schedules to benefit our students. They bring a vast array of knowledge to our school that helps us to target students who should be looking towards college but don't often have the support at home to make it a reality."

– JoAnne Flanagan, Principal for Riverton High School

"GEAR UP has helped me stay focused on going to college and gave me resources to see my opportunities. It has helped me with finding scholarships and learning which college is right for me."

– Kyla Randall, Riverton High School Student

"As a parent, GEAR UP helped by making sure my son made it through school with passing grades. As an employee at the school, I see the students succeed in school with the help of the academic coaches. The communication with GEAR UP academic coaches is what I value most about my relationship with GEAR UP; they keep in touch with the parents."

– Veronica Hitshew, Lander Valley High School Parent

"Middle School students tend to live in the 'now' instead of the future. The GEAR UP program focuses on exposing students to postsecondary education and what skills they need to develop now so they can succeed in college later."

– Cheryl Mowry, Principal of Riverton Middle School

"GEAR UP has helped with every aspect of our community; parents are even involved with some meetings. My GEAR UP experience was most helpful, memorable, and awesome. I really value the people."

– Larin Wheeler, Student at Lander Valley High School

"GEAR UP has been great working with at-risk students and helping them reach their academic goals. Watching the relationships GEAR UP develops with students and seeing students' growth is what I value most about GEAR UP."

– Jeremy McCormick, Teacher at Riverton High School

"They have a great staff at Central Wyoming College that puts in a tremendous amount of work into helping students."

– Kaylie Randall, Riverton High School Student

"It will be a great opportunity for our students/staff/community when we have it running completely for the 2012-13 school year!"

– Dan Martin, Shoshoni Jr and Sr High School Principal

"GEAR UP made it possible for Riverton High School (RHS) to pilot a peer mentoring program. GEAR UP paid for nationally recognized Ignition trainers to come to Riverton and train 30 RHS juniors and seniors who became mentors for the incoming freshmen. This is an excellent program and we are already seeing great results!"

– Kristy Richmond, Teacher at Riverton High School

GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development

GEAR UP WYOMING Welcomes Sara Whittle!

Sara Whittle is the new GEAR UP WYOMING Professional Development Coordinator. Originally from the Little Snake River Valley area of Wyoming, Sara came to Laramie in 2002. Before receiving her Master's Degree in Communication at the University of Wyoming, she attended Cottey Women's College in Nevada, Missouri and Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Sara has a background in higher education, college instruction, and event management. 



~ In Appreciation ~

We would like to thank Lori Kimbrough for the many years she worked for GEAR UP WYOMING. We wish her the best in her new position.

GEAR UP WYOMING would also like to thank Brandon Kosine and Grace Johnsen in the Service, Leadership and Community Engagement office (SLCE) at the University of Wyoming (UW) for their hard work and investment in the GEAR UP mentoring program at UW.

Upcoming Professional Development

August 10-11, Casper

August 13-14, Gillette

August 15-16, Rock Springs

ACT Prep & College Readiness Workshop

The Wyoming Department of Education and GEAR UP WYOMING are collaborating to offer three ACT Preparation Workshops for Wyoming high school teachers, GEAR UP outreach staff, and others who can use the practices and strategies to improve student ACT scores. Contact Sara Whittle at swhittle@uwyo.edu or 307-766-6736 for registration information.

September 24-25, Cheyenne

Little America Resort & Hotel

AdvancED Wyoming Fall School Improvement Conference

GEAR UP WYOMING will be partnering with AdvancED to provide professional resources and a Quantum Learning for Teachers, Level 4 Workshop as a strand during the conference. Contact AdvancED for registration information (www.advanc-ed.org/locations/wyoming-office).



ACT® College Entrance Exam – 2012-2013 Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 8, 2012	August 17, 2012	August 18 - 24, 2012
October 27, 2012	September 21, 2012	September 22 - October 5, 2012
December 8, 2012	November 2, 2012	November 3 - 16, 2012
February 9, 2013	January 11, 2013	January 12-18, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013	March 9 - 22, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013	May 4 - 17, 2013

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. (GEAR UP WYOMING cannot pay for or waive late fees.) Also, GEAR UP WYOMING students have free access to ACT preparation programs.



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.

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 Sara Whittle at (307) 766-6736 or swhittle@uwoyo.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

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ACT® Prep Workshop in Riverton, Wyoming.

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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.

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