

GEAR UP Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

840 Research Park/ OCAP Conference Room

Members Present:

Kristi Allison	Amy Bruce
Amber Clark	Jermie Fansler
Penny Gandy	Terri Grissom
Mary Stone	Jolynn Horn
Caryl Parsons	Jerrod Murr
Cathy Perri	Kerry O'Dell
Edra Thrower	Chad Wiginton

Members Not Present:

Ashton Khoury	Lorri Windom
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Guests:

Jake Heister	John Morrow
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The fifth meeting of the Oklahoma GEAR UP Advisory Board came to order at 10:10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

GEAR UP Project Director Cathy Perri opened the meeting by welcoming board members and special guests, GEAR UP Education Specialists, Jake Heister and John Morrow. Each board member introduced him or herself and described their role with GEAR UP.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for GEAR UP Jolynn Horn began by stating the mission of GEAR UP; the mission of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Oklahoma GEAR UP has had the same mission since the first grant in 1999 and continues to support the same objectives that fall into our mission. The objectives are printed on a board in each staff member's office. Objective 1: Increase the academic performance and preparation for post –secondary

education for GEAR UP students. Objective 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students. Objective 3: Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. Jolynn stated that we are preparing every student as if they will be pursuing college; it is their choice to attend or not to attend. GEAR UP is serving 19,000 students in the 7th through 12th grade per the fall accreditation report. We are now feeling a sense of urgency to make a big difference since our grant is just 2 ½ years away from ending in 2018.

We are always looking for new ways to serve the students, faculty, and parents. One way is the recent implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for school faculty and administration. (See the Goal Rubric handout #1)

Other new professional development opportunities implemented this year are the Superintendent's Roundtable and the first Principals Summit. Both will take place in February.

We have continued participation in the NCCEP's Superintendent Leadership Institute through Quantum Learning and have provided funds to attend this training since July 2013. This training aligns closely with the School Reform Initiatives.

Our internal evaluator Terri Grissom, presented Gallup Student Poll data (see handout #2) that measures Hope and Engagement for years 2013 through 2015, following a cohort of GEAR UP 8th grade students in 2013 and will continue through 2018. Terri mentioned that this data is more telling than ACT results and noted that some of the scores seem to be dropping as the students get older. Chad commented that the scores may be affected by the teachers and faculty feeling overwhelmed and may lose sight of the little actions, like asking students how they are doing and showing a sincere interest in their well-being. Carol and Jarrod added that Hope may be due to socioeconomic factors and the decline in numbers show an opportunity for educator's to voice you matter messages to their students. Carol also added that this information should be shared with parents to start them thinking what role do they play in your child's hope. This report affects the community as well; these students are our future and the community has a vested interest in developing well rounded youth. Board

members want to know what questions are on this survey and Terri will send the questions to all and asked the board to send any suggestions.

Terri's next data handout is a graph of ACT data (handout #3) given to all GEAR UP juniors and seniors in 2013 through 2015. The graph is broken down into Percent Meeting Benchmarks (B or higher) in English (18), Math (22), Reading (22) and Science (23) and the actual ACT scores in those subjects along with a composite score by year. The composite scores for seniors range from 19.6 to 18.4 over the 3 year. The Oklahoma average composite is 20.8 and the national composite is 21. Terri has this report broken down by individual for each school; please contact her if you would like her to send you that report. Board members discussed what can be put into place, such as the ACT prep classes, that would help build sustainability after the completion of the grant.

Terri handed out a data sheet (handout #4) from the National Student Clearinghouse, which reports real time data collected in the spring from all of the institutes for higher education throughout the nation. This report shows the number of college going student's in-state and out of state by GEAR UP district and for school year 2012-2014. Terri will update in the spring when she receives the 2015 enrollment numbers. This report shows that GEAR UP students have a 10% higher college going rate than the rest of the students in Oklahoma. Carol asked if the bordering states offer in-state tuition. Terri responded that most have reciprocity, but students do lose their Oklahoma's Promise benefits if they attend higher education outside of Oklahoma. If you would like a detailed list for your school, contact Terri.

Terri distributed a list of available Oklahoma GEAR UP data to members (handout #5); please contact Terri if you are interested in more information.

Our communication staff Kristi Allison and Amy Bruce gave a brief report on the College App Week held November 16-20, 2015 with a summary sheet (handout #6-1/6-2) for review. This year we had 1,946 participants that started/submitted 2,378 applications. GEAR UP partnered with Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP) for the first time taking the College App Week statewide and had approximately 5,500 students participate.

Kristi showed the board several non-scripted video testimonials that were recently completed and will be rolled out each quarter. You can find the current video on our webpage under the Impact tab. Here is a link for your reference; <http://www.okgearup.org/impact.shtml>.

Kristi also handed out the Summer/Fall 2015 bi-annual report (handout #7) that gives a summary of Student Services provided to GEAR UP students, school faculty and parents.

Direct Student Services Specialist Edra Thrower discussed the information on the second side of the above handout. Edra shared that 2,668 juniors took the ACT test in September 2015 paid for by GEAR UP. All juniors in each GEAR UP district were offered to take this test. Other Direct Student Services include college campus visits/tours, GEAR UP University camps held on 3 campus in July, Career Choices and BRIC – college and career readiness classes offered as part of the school's curriculum, and the Parent Leadership Academy (PLA). Each of these is described on the handout but if you would like more information please contact Edra.

Cathy Perri explained the important role of our six College Liaisons and asked Jermie Fansler, College Liaison housed at Northern Oklahoma College campus in Tonkawa, to give an overview of a typical work day. Each college liaison has 3 to 5 GEAR UP school sites assigned to them and go into those schools weekly to do presentations and to be a presence to promote pursuing higher education. They also are on their respective campuses to assist students coming from GEAR UP schools as freshman to transition from high school to college and to provide academic and emotional support.

Education Specialists John Morrow and Jake Heister joined the meeting to give an overview of what their work day involved. They visit their assigned schools on a weekly basis to help form a working relationship with the staff and students whether it be assisting with the development of the newly implemented PLCs , assisting with the school's budget and implementation plans, to calling in students to help with incomplete applications for Oklahoma's Promise. Each one attends their school's advisory board meetings and is sometimes utilized as an extra hand for administration.

Jolynn ended the meeting by giving a brief federal update. GEAR UP is not part of the SEC/ED ACT so the recent budget cuts will not affect our program. Jolynn said she had recently received word that the Higher Ed Act will get a \$21 million increase for 2016 and we continue to have strong congressional support led by Senator Tom Cole. This means there will be a new GEAR UP grant announcement in the future but at this time we will not know the objectives and parameters until the RFP is announced. We do plan to write for the new grant so that we can continue to serve the students of Oklahoma.

Jolynn thanked the board for their time and encouraged all to send in ideas.
Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.