

SUMMER/FALL 2021

Oklahoma GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a federally funded program administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, partners with 10 school districts and five regional colleges across the state to provide college preparation services and information to 7th-12th grade students, college freshmen, and their families.

The program is designed to prepare middle and high school students for college success through direct student support services, effective educator professional development and leadership opportunities, and parent and family outreach activities and events. Coaches provide college freshmen who graduated from GEAR UP high schools with assistance in acclimating to college life.

01

Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.

02

Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.

03

Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

GEAR UP Objectives

FALL 2021 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- STUDENT CONNECT**
46 students participated in GEAR UP's Student Connect mentoring program
- COLLEGE COUNSELING**
1,616 students received individual counseling about college
- ROOKIE CAMP**
1,501 students attended rookie camp
- CAMPUS VISITS**
1,119 students visited a college campus
- CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS**
3,020 students attended a college-going classroom presentation

**CONCURRENT FEES PAID
FOR 392 STUDENTS**

\$141,525

Fall 2021 Semester

College App Week

977 students completed 1,427 college applications with the help of on-site assistance during college app campaign.

COLLEGE COACHES

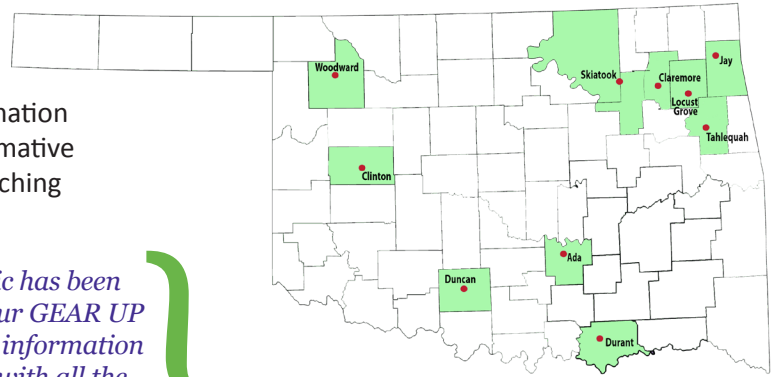
89% of first-year college students assigned to a GEAR UP college coach persisted to the end of the fall 2021 semester.

46% OF GEAR UP SENIORS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

Fall 2020 (National Student Clearinghouse)

Parent Outreach

This fall GEAR UP education coordinators revamped the Parent Leadership Academy to reach more parents with college information and resources. Through in-person and virtual workshops, informative videos, and social media and electronic platforms, they are reaching parents with a different college-going theme each month.



“Reaching our parents and families during the pandemic has been difficult but more important than ever. The creativity of our GEAR UP partners in finding ways to connect and provide valuable information has been a saving grace to our school community. Even with all the obstacles, our families are being served in great numbers and pressing forward with post secondary transitions. We are so thankful for these efforts and appreciate our GEAR Up partners.”

~ Jenny McElyea, Skiatook High School Principal

OKGEARUP.ORG

(Jan. 1 - Dec. 1, 2021)



- 12,815 visitors
- 23,775 page views
- Average of three pages per session

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

(Jan. 1 - Dec. 1, 2021)



1,000,517 impressions



502,543 impressions



91,854 impressions

WHY COLLEGE?

Higher education leads to...

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Increased tax revenues
- Greater productivity
- Increased consumption
- Decreased unemployment and poverty
- Increased workforce flexibility
- Decreased reliance on government financial support



INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

- Higher salaries and benefits
- Greater employment opportunities
- Higher savings levels
- Improved working conditions
- Improved health/life expectancy
- Improved quality of life for children



SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Reduced crime and incarceration rates
- Increased charitable giving/community service
- Increased civic engagement
- More social cohesion and appreciation of diversity



For more information about the impacts Oklahoma GEAR UP continues to make, please visit okgearup.org/impact.shtml.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Oklahoma with a state GEAR UP grant totaling \$20.5 million in 1999. The grant was supplemented with a one-year extension of \$4.4 million in 2004. Oklahoma received additional GEAR UP grants totaling \$20.6 million in 2005 and \$34.9 million in 2011. In September 2017, the State Regents were awarded a fourth, consecutive GEAR UP grant in the amount of \$24 million over the next seven years.

