

## SUMMER/FALL 2023

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 seven regional colleges across the state to provide college preparation services and information to 7th-12th grade students, college freshmen, and their families. Our partnering school districts include: Ada, Claremore, Clinton, Duncan, Durant, Jay, Locust Grove, Skiatook, Tahlequah and Woodward.

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 2023 STUDENT SERVICES

- COLLEGE VISITS**  
**3,746** students visited a college campus
- STUDENT CONNECT**  
**55** students participated in GEAR UP's Student Connect mentoring program
- ACADEMIC & CAREER COUNSELING**  
**5,393** students received academic and career counseling
- FINANCIAL AID**  
**3,984** students received financial aid counseling

### COLLEGE COACHES

# 187

One hundred eighty-seven college freshmen, who graduated from a OK GEAR UP high school, met at least once with a GEAR UP college coach this fall.

### COLLEGE ORIENTATION REGISTRATION FEES

GEAR UP paid orientation registration fees for **118 STUDENTS**, totaling **\$4,852**

### CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT FALL 2023

## 2,193

**CONCURRENT HOURS** completed by GEAR UP students

## 645

**NUMBER** of GEAR UP students who took concurrent classes this fall

## \$188,652

**TOTAL FEES** GEAR UP paid for concurrent enrollment

### OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE COMPLETIONS

(as of Dec. 11, 2023)

## 8TH

17 eighth graders have completed an application.

## 9TH

85 ninth graders have completed an application.

## 10TH

135 sophomores have completed an application.

## 11TH

231 juniors have completed an application.

## 12TH

367 seniors have completed an application.

## COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

GEAR UP set a goal this fall that 65% of all seniors would complete a college application during college app week, Sept. 25-29. We surpassed that goal by 5% ... 70% of seniors (1,241 students) in our 10 school districts completed a college application.

In addition, GEAR UP paid

**\$28,800**

in college application fees for **821 STUDENTS**.  
(students had the opportunity to apply to more than one college).



70% OF SENIORS  
COMPLETED  
A COLLEGE APP

## STUDENT CONNECT

This fall GEAR UP surveyed participants of their Student Connect mentoring program. Here is an example of the very positive responses from students:

*I feel as though my mentor helps me very much. I learn something new every time we talk. She has helped me so much with the college process.*

## WHY COLLEGE?

The effects of post-secondary educational attainment in Oklahoma

### ANNUAL STATE GDP

For each additional post-secondary graduate, the annual GDP of Oklahoma will increase by approximately

**\$114,239** ▲

### LIFETIME STATE GDP IMPACT PER GRADUATE

The average increase in the Oklahoma state GDP over the lifetime of the graduate will exceed

**\$1.3 million**

in present value dollars.

### OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE



**96%**

More than 96% of Oklahoma's Promise graduates earning an associate or bachelor's degree are employed in the state one year after graduation, and over 91% are still employed five years later.

**4.7  
JOBS**



For each additional post-secondary graduate, an additional 4.7 support jobs will be generated throughout the Oklahoma economy.

**\$88,151** HIGHER HOME VALUES

In addition, household incomes and expenditures will change as more individuals graduate from post-secondary schools. Home values of the graduate are expected to be \$88,151 higher, on average, than for those with a high school diploma.

### BROADER TAX BASE



Each post-secondary graduate will expand the tax base by an average of \$4,002 annually, paying back the state portion of post-secondary expenses within **6.5 working years**, thus reducing the pressure on tax rate increases.


**\$4,002**

REDUCED PRESSURE ON TAX  
RATE INCREASES EACH YEAR ▼

Sources: National College Attainment Network and Recon Insight Group, LLC  
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education: 2022 Employment Outcomes

For more information Oklahoma GEAR UP, please visit [okgearup.org](http://okgearup.org).

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.

**OKLAHOMA**  
Grant   
**GEAR UP**  
PREPARING OKLAHOMA  
STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE