

Thank you for attending the session *GEAR UP Programs in Rural Areas: Shared Solutions to Common Issues* at the 2015 NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference. Below are the notes taken from the posters around the room.

Fostering a college-going culture

- Camp experience – (residential/onsite)
- Teachers share their college experiences
- Exposure to arts, creativity, and perspectives.
- A community effort to celebrate progress, etc.
- Collaboration schools, colleges, communities, parents
- Career Shadowing
- Internships
- Recruit student teachers
- College = Post-secondary / any training past high school
- Celebrations where you are going to school
- Field trips
- Advising Council
- College App Week
- Honoring seniors who graduate and go into a post-secondary program
- Rotate teacher chaperones for college visits so that relationships are built
- Parents on campus visits what would you million \$
- Scale and implement yearly activities and repeat them yearly
- Create a good website
- Build community buy in
- Advisory counselors
- Exposure
- Start early
- Involve community
- College access teams

Lessons learned

- Seniors – find ways to pay for their transportation to job shadowing and internships
- Pay attention to the students and be there if they need it
- Don't assume
- Be passive and learn from students
- Be supportive and aware
- You can always benefit from knowing who your partners are!

- Be cautious of complacency with funding always innovate never become stagnant
- Build relationships
- Building trust
- Get admin on your side
- Build connections
- Host events (days that work)
- Offer incentives
- Student leader
- Team up with “talent search”, TRIO, Upward Bound
- Parent involvement – food doesn’t always work, schedules sometimes conflict
- Take assessment of resources: What is free? Who can help?
- Skype – good tool to expose
- Transportation – must find external resources as well
- Kids have to help family with work. What can you do with that?

Building buy-in in a rural community

- Meet out of the school, safe environment
- Incentivize
- Buy-in from local leaders
- Food at events
- Career exploration tours – involve sports related careers
- Marketing – advertisements
- Exposure – College visits with students and parents
- Give Hope to students
- Scholarship lottery
- Public acknowledgment of success
- Media attention
- TN Promise
- Free college opportunities
- Chip away at parent concerns – address concerns as they come up
- Student leadership groups
- Families to be on board
- Partnering with local colleges
- Get kids excited about college
- Teachers and staff to promote/have students come back and mentor
- Figure governing parts of school