

PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM



CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES



NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference
July 15-18, 2018 • Washington, DC





SUNDAY • JULY 15 MONDAY • JULY 16 TUESDAY • JULY 17 WEDNESDAY • JULY 18



Join us in Washington, DC for the NCCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference from July 15-18, 2018!

For additional information regarding the conference, visit NCCCEP's website at www.edpartnerships.org.

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Conference Registration & Information Booth Open

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT: Summit on the GEAR UP 7th Year

7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Conference Registration & Information Booth Open

7:30 am - 8:45 am
Networking Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:15 am
OPENING CEREMONY AND ROLL CALL OF THE GEAR UP STATES

10:15 am - 10:45 am
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall

10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

10:45 am - 5:15 pm
Parent Leadership Institute

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Networking Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
LUNCHEON PLENARY

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Concurrent Sessions

7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Conference Registration & Information Booth Open

7:30 am - 8:45 am
Networking Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:15 am
MORNING PLENARY

10:15 am - 10:45 am
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall

10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

10:45 am - 5:00 pm
Parent Leadership Institute

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Networking Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
LUNCHEON PLENARY

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
Concurrent Sessions

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
GEAR UP Directors' Meeting

7:00 am - 1:00 pm
Conference Registration & Information Booth Open

7:30 am - 8:45 am
Networking Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:30 am
MORNING PLENARY Youth Leadership Summit Presentation

10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Parent Leadership Institute

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Closing Lunch and Adjournment

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
POST-CONFERENCE SESSIONS: Data, Research & Evaluation Institutes 101, 201, and 301

Sunday | July 15

- 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Conference Registration and Information Booth Open**
Terrace Foyer East
- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm **GEAR UP Summit on the 7th Year (Pre-registration required)**
Jefferson

Monday | July 16

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Conference Registration and Information Booth Open**
Terrace Foyer East
- 7:30 am – 8:45 am **Networking Breakfast (Meal Ticket Required)**
International Ballroom
- 9:00 am – 10:15 am **Opening Ceremony and Roll Call of the GEAR UP States**
International Ballroom

Sponsored by: Student Success Agency

Morning Plenary Session: “The Power of Love”

Welcome Remarks:

Aaron Thompson, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Ranjit Sidhu, President & CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Keynote Speaker:

Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK-4)

Special Remarks:

Adam Kissel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education

Roll Call of the GEAR UP States:

Robert Dais, Statewide Director, GEAR UP Massachusetts

Wendy Stack, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Access, Innovation and Research & Executive Director, Chicago GEAR UP Alliance & Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University

Special Guests:

Austin and Terance Perine, Real Life Superheroes

10:15 am – 10:45 am

Network Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia Hall

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Monday Morning Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #1

The Art of Storytelling Through Data Utilization

Jefferson East

GEAR UP programming should be useful and purposeful, and this can only be accomplished through effective data utilization. In this interactive session, we will explore effective data management tips and strategies, and how to use data to guide program initiatives. We will also discuss ways to share your GEAR UP story with stakeholders, and develop action plans to help market your program and highlight your successes.

Dalton Allen, Site Coordinator, University of Kansas GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS; **Meghan Ecker-Lyster**, Ph.D., Director, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; **Tonya Waller**, Ed.D., Director, University of Kansas GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS

SESSION #2

Access and Equity: Providing GEAR UP Students Comprehensive and Adaptive Enrichment

Lincoln East

This interactive session will describe the vision, planning, implementation, and networking necessary to successfully execute GEAR UP enrichment programming for GEAR UP students during the school day. Participants will learn best practices to engage key district and site-level stakeholders, as well as brainstorm their own school-wide interventions. Presenters will discuss challenges and share specific lessons learned from successful 11th and 12th grade English and math enrichments that allow GEAR UP students to receive services during the school day. Attendees will leave this session with their own plans to provide equity and access to all GEAR UP students.

Jack Friedman, Founder, Study Smart Tutors Inc., Los Angeles, CA; **Julie Johnson**, Director, MiraCosta GEAR UP Partnership, MiraCosta College, Oceanside, CA

SESSION #3

We are Family! Transforming Students into a Family Focused on Educational Success

Jefferson West

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family. In this session, we will explore how New York GEAR UP was able to take students from across the state and transform them into a family with educational success for all of its members as their goal. In this fun, interactive workshop, participants will engage in active discussions about the importance of creating a "family" culture within their students and discover techniques and activities that they can use to cultivate individual and collective purpose, resiliency, and leadership in their students.

Brea Adams, Student, NY State GEAR UP, Albany, NY; **Shaina Anthony**, Director, NY GEAR UP at The Urban League of Rochester, Rochester, NY; **Theresa Bonito**, Coordinator, NY GEAR UP at SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, NY; **Nona Donovan**, NY GEAR UP State Director, NY GEAR UP, Albany, NY; **Chane'I Giddens**, Student, NY State GEAR UP, Albany, NY; **Carlos Ojeda**, President & CEO, CoolSpeak, Pottstown, PA

SESSION #4

FAFSA Events A to Z: A Complete Guide to Recruit and Train On-site Teams

Oak Lawn

In this interactive session, participants will be guided through the hands-on FAFSA training developed and implemented by the University of Oklahoma's K20 Center. We will review the recruitment process, demonstrate strategies and activities used in the training, and review the steps needed to plan a successful FAFSA event. Creating a site-based team who is effectively trained in the FAFSA process can be key to increasing completion rates and providing financial aid understanding for students. All participants will be provided with access to a digital binder that houses everything needed to create your own FAFSA team.

Lacy Pennington, Parent & Community Coordinator, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

SESSION #5

Connecting Your Network to Your GEAR UP Goals: Outreach and Family Engagement Strategies

Holmead

In this session, the Texas GEAR UP State Grant will share seven years' worth of knowledge and learned lessons through the lens of our outreach and family engagement programming. This presentation will showcase how our strategic partnerships and programming events created excitement within our communities. The presentation will explain how these strategies can make a positive impact on the data collected and the outcomes desired, as well as help broadcast GEAR UP and its mission to new audiences eager to help and support.

Janice Johnson, Family Engagement Senior Trainer, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Austin, TX; **Michael King**, Senior Outreach and TXGU Camp Director, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Austin, TX

SESSION #6

Designing Surveys to Get Results

Morgan

Have you designed surveys and not gotten the desired results? Are you looking for ways to improve your surveys? Would you like to know more about surveys? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this interactive workshop is for you. We will discuss reasons to develop a purpose statement and you will get a chance to develop one of your own. You will also have an opportunity to develop four types of survey questions and identify common survey pitfalls. We will finish the workshop by discussing ways to improve survey response rates.

Christy King, Data Coordinator, PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), Harrisburg, PA

SESSION #7

Now Showing: “The LOSFA F.L.Y. Tour: Financial Literacy for You”

Kalorama

In this session, participants will experience the sights and sounds of some of Louisiana GEAR UP's very own staff as they sing, dance, and act their way through communicating the importance of financial literacy and college and career readiness. Allow Louisiana GEAR UP to share this creative and engaging performance to connect with students across the program. Participants in this session will learn to create, develop, and implement an effective F.L.Y Tour through partnerships with postsecondary institutions and relevant information tailored to fit the needs of your program.

Khristopher Hobbs, Regional Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Kyleigh Quiroga**, Regional Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Timenee Thomas**, Youth Advocacy Specialist, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA

SESSION #8

Exploring How State GEAR UP Grants Are Shaping Statewide Access and Success Policies

Fairchild

The legislative intent of State GEAR UP grants is twofold: grantees are required to implement sustainable and scalable college access and success programs, and grantees should drive statewide policies that enhance college access and success of all of its citizens. Unfortunately, too often the legislative policy focus of State Grants is overshadowed by the programmatic intent. Through a panel discussion and facilitated conversation, State Directors from Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia will explore the policy shaping power that State GEAR UP Grants may have on equalizing the opportunity for all students to achieve an education or training beyond high school.

Troy Grant, Associate Executive Director for College Access and Success, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN; **Adam Green**, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, Charleston, WV; **Paula Fisher Robinson**, Assistant Director of College Access and PK-12 Outreach, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Richmond, VA

SESSION #9

Building College, Career, and Life Readiness Through Work-Based Learning

Georgetown West

While our educational system has made great strides in supporting students' college readiness, it is critical that students make informed choices about college with a career in mind, as well as develop the skills necessary to achieve career and life success once they finish college. During this workshop, participants will identify and discuss strategies for developing a sustainable work-based learning program to support the career readiness of their students, including business outreach, career event planning, and implementing internships. Participants will leave with example agendas for career mentoring events, students and business partner recruitment letters, an example internship agreement, and more.

Manuel Colon, Chief Academic Officer, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Maryjo Cooke**, AIME Program Director, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Michael Matsuda**,

Superintendent, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Scott Reindl**, Career Readiness Specialist, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Evelyn Soqui**, Interim Project Director, California State University Fullerton GEAR UP, Fullerton, CA

SESSION #10

Planning and Executing the Senior Year Successfully

Rock Creek

The senior year is categorically different from other years of high school. We are no longer just talking about the FAFSA and going to college. Senior year students and parents must complete the FAFSA, submit college applications, consider financial aid packages, select a postsecondary institution, and ultimately enroll. In this engaging presentation, participants will learn how Arizona GEAR UP planned for and implemented a "very different" senior year with partner high schools to achieve project goals around FAFSA completion, high school graduation, and college admission and enrollment. Participants will receive a comprehensive, yet concise, notebook of senior-year information that includes planning documents and senior counseling guides.

Whitney Gilmore, Site Support Specialist/Former Site Coordinator, Arizona GEAR UP - Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ; **Andrea Gonzalez Sotelo**, Site & Project Support Specialist, Arizona GEAR UP - Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ; **Teena Olszewski**, Executive Director, Arizona GEAR UP - Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ; **Barbara Soby**, Associate Director, Arizona GEAR UP - Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ

SESSION #11

Taking the Plunge: Tangible Strategies and Activities for the Transition to High School and Beyond

Cardozo

Attendees will learn about best practices for an intensive 8th to 9th summer program that engages students to explore their vision for future academic success and social/emotional satisfaction in high school and beyond. Presenters will highlight on-track rates, algebra passing rates, behavior, attendance, and grades; showcase relevant curriculum in literacy, math, and counseling; and integrate parent programs into this transition year. Attendees will experience community building activities, using growth mindsets that foster students' sense of belonging and academic mastery. Attendees will leave ready to replicate proven strategies from this interactive session.

Jeremy Babcock, Experiential Education Program Manager, Center for College Access and Success and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Antonio Benavides**, College Access Facilitator, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Langston Maynor**, Experiential Learning Specialist, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Aniseto Rangel**, Senior Program Manager, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Rhonda Thomas**, Senior Program Manager, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

SESSION #12

Sustaining Academic Efforts into the 7th Year and Beyond

Georgetown East

How will I sustain GEAR UP efforts after the cohort students matriculate to college so that future generations receive similar technology-rich instruction in their classrooms? Come attend this presentation to learn how to collaborate and forge a strong partnership that translates into a wonderful learning environment to produce college and career ready students. Region One GEAR UP teamed up with Texas Instruments to develop a professional development opportunity for teachers. In addition, follow up visits at the campuses were scheduled and personalized to the needs of each teacher by the Texas Instrument consultant that delivered the original professional development.

Claudia Gutierrez, STEM Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College! Partnership, Edinburg, TX; **Kristopher McKinney**, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, TX

SESSION #13

Incorporating STEM using 3D Computer-Aided Design

Embassy

This course will highlight the significance of creativity in the sciences by opening students' eyes to a world of patterns, shapes, and 3D Computer-Aided Design (CAD) modeling. Examples of 3D design will highlight how spatial thinking underpins the foundation of many disciplines and helps assist in the exploration of a career choice. In effect, this session is a collision of art, science, nature, technology, engineering, and math, where art becomes the "on-ramp" to the study of STEM. This approach will help students develop their artistic abilities into a marketable skill set by applying art in real and practical situations.

Melia Balls, Project Coordinator, USU Stars GEAR UP, Logan, UT; **John Devitry**, Research Fellow, Utah State University - Center for Space Engineering, Logan, UT

SESSION #14

College Access from Day 1: The Nevada GEAR UP Ambassador Program

Jay

This panel introduces GEAR UP Nevada's Ambassador Program. Ambassadors, one per public institution of higher learning in Nevada, provide a range of services coordinated by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) in conjunction with school-level Student-Parent Involvement Facilitators and other district personnel from the 7th grade through graduation and transition to college. Presenters include Nevada GEAR UP staff and several college Ambassadors, who outline the structure, successes, challenges, and future of the Ambassador Program. Attendees are invited to engage in activities designed to address their specific collaboration challenges, assisted by the combined experience of the panelists.

Emily Crawford, GEAR UP Ambassador, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV; **Nicholas Mathews**, GEAR UP Ambassador, Nevada State College, Henderson, NV; **Alex Porter**, GEAR UP Ambassador, Great Basin College, Elko, NV; **Janet Stake**, GEAR UP Mentoring/Outreach Coordinator, Nevada System of Higher Education, Reno, NV; **Daniel Villanueva**, GEAR UP Ambassador Coordinator, Nevada System of Higher Education, Reno, NV

SESSION #15

Teacher Preparedness Equals Student Readiness!

Piscataway

All too often, student academic readiness for college is not addressed intentionally nor systemically in the classroom. In this interactive presentation and through facilitated dialogue, participants will be provided essential steps for implementing quality professional development and mentoring sessions for secondary teachers. The instructional specialist team of our GEAR UP grant will discuss strategies to address barriers to substantive change in teacher practice. Now in the last year of our grant, we share lessons learned and a comprehensive online database of lessons and online modules of our teacher professional development workshops that any GEAR UP grant can access.

Danny Mattox, Instructional Specialist, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, Norman, OK; **Susan McHale**, Instructional Specialist, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, Norman, OK; **Kristen Sublett**, Instructional Specialist, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, Norman, OK; **Cacey Wells**, Instructional Specialist, University of Oklahoma K20 Center, Norman, OK

SESSION #16

Supporting Postsecondary Planning for Special Populations

Du Pont

Do you work with students who are experiencing homelessness, in foster care, and/or have a disability? Do you have students whose gender identity or residency status impact their postsecondary planning process? In this interactive session, you will learn about a variety of special populations and their unique postsecondary planning needs. Explore the college application and financial aid processes, as well as ways to help students successfully transition after high school. This session will be a mixture of presentation, group discussion, participant inventory, and assessment. Attendees will gain access to replicable activities and resources, including toolkits, a family transition guide, and more.

Beth Kelly, Assistant Director, Washington Student Achievement Council, Olympia, WA; **Christina Winstead**, Program Associate, Washington Student Achievement Council, Olympia, WA

SESSION #17

Storytelling to Engage, Persuade, Empower: The Role of Student Voice in the GEAR UP Movement

Lincoln West

How do we mobilize the biggest untapped resource in the GEAR UP community? By unlocking students' potential to be agents of change and increasing their confidence through a storytelling culture. Explore tools created by the PLUS ME project to develop strong personal narratives, and walk away with an outline to build a powerful storytelling culture at your school. Learn the strategies used by our grant that inspired students to understand how strong personal narratives are the best way to advocate for the college access movement. When students find their voice, it is something that can never be taken away from them.

Janicia Centeno-Castillo, Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA, Los Angeles, CA; **Richard Reyes**, Executive Director, PLUS ME Project, Los Angeles, CA

SESSION #18

We're Rollin' into 7th Year Roles and Responsibilities

Gunston

Did you know *what* or *when* or *how* you would capture 7th year data, and communicate it to graduates, parents, and colleges many years ago when you wrote your grant? In this session, participants will receive a timeline of our grant's changing roles and responsibilities from the end of year 6 through year 7 as we monitored and adjusted data processes, facilitated staff turnover, assumed responsibility for graduates from one of our partners, and more. We will share revised job descriptions, forms, activities, data collection tools, as well as home/college and worksite visits.

Cynthia Aguayo, College Readiness Coach, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Gustavo Cordova**, Facilitator, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Amalia Salas**, College Readiness Coach, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

Networking Lunch

International Ballroom

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Monday Luncheon Plenary: "The Power of a Promise"

International Ballroom

Sponsored by: iTutor

Presentation of the GEAR UP Professional of the Year Award

Ranjit Sidhu, President & CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Keynote Speaker:

Alex Sheen, Founder, Because I Said I Would

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Monday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #19

Producing Statewide College and Career Readiness Events for Families and Practitioners

Lincoln East

The Vermont State GEAR UP program utilizes statewide events as part of our strategy to engage and inform families, practitioners, and community partners about college and career readiness. In this session, we will share best practices, lessons learned, concrete examples of content and structure from our two largest statewide events, and a toolkit for how to produce your own events. Attendees will be given time to brainstorm and collaborate with peers on ideas for their own events, and will walk away with a case study, a toolkit, and an idea for a new event they want to pursue.

Cathy Printon, Vermont State GEAR UP School Coordinator, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Winooski, VT; **Anna Telensky**, Special Events Coordinator, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, Winooski, VT

SESSION #20

The Ball is in Your Court: Empowering Opportunities for Student-Athletes

Cardozo

One of the most underserved and often overlooked populations of students are student-athletes. Student-athletes are faced with a unique set of circumstances that may prevent them from realizing their dreams of continuing their education and athletic careers at the collegiate level. This engaging workshop by GEAR UP Philadelphia will teach you how to identify and best serve your student-athletes, help you become a NCAA eligibility expert, and how to advocate for the needs of your student-athletes. Lastly, you will leave this interactive session with a framework for college and career readiness workshops to implement in order to foster self-advocacy among student-athletes and maximize their opportunities.

April Alcaraz, Program Manager, The School District of Philadelphia - Office of College and Career Readiness, Philadelphia, PA; **Devon Johnson**, Program Manager, The School District of Philadelphia - Office of College and Career Readiness, Philadelphia, PA; **Matthew King**, College and Career Coordinator, The School District of Philadelphia - Office of College and Career Readiness, Philadelphia, PA

SESSION #21

Preparing Your Data for the APR and Evaluation Reports

Jefferson West

Have you been ready to submit data for the Annual Performance Report (APR) or an evaluation report and realized that there is missing data or data that does not make sense? Is this a common nightmare for you? If yes, then this session may help you have sweet dreams. In this interactive session, we will discuss common steps in data cleaning and strategies for reviewing demographic and service data in preparation for the APR and evaluation reports, from the perspectives of grant staff and external evaluators. Best practices will be shared, along with time to assess your data cycle.

Pamela Carter, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, FHI 360, Washington, DC; **David Jochelson**, Project Director, FHI 360, Washington, DC; **Christy King**, Data Coordinator, PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), Harrisburg, PA

SESSION #22

Utilizing AmeriCorps Service Programs to Drive College Access and Success

Oak Lawn

For the last six years, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education has utilized full-time AmeriCorps State and VISTA volunteers to help increase student enrollment in the Indiana 21st Century Scholarship program and completion of scholarship requirements. AmeriCorps members also serve to help students access college, be more successful when they arrive, be retained throughout their tenure, and complete at higher rates than their peers. This session will discuss ways that the Indiana Commission for Higher Education utilizes service program members and how GEAR UP programs can create, apply for, and benefit from using national service programs.

Greg Harrell, Manager, School and Community Outreach, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN; **Brittany Collins**, Manager, Postsecondary Outreach and Career Transitions, Indiana

Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN; **Jarod Wilson**, Director, Postsecondary Outreach and Career Transitions, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN

SESSION #23

Building an Evidence-Based Practices Culture

Holmead

What is *evidence-based practice* and how do you build a culture around it? This session will explore everyday strategies to create an atmosphere where you and your colleagues, staff, educators, or stakeholders approach decisions by asking more questions. Participants will engage in interactive activities designed to break down data concepts to make them accessible for everyone, and identify easy strategies to begin building a culture of evidence-based practices.

Shawn Bergman, Ph.D., Senior Faculty Fellow, Appalachian State University; Director of Research and Analytics, Vela Institute, Boone, NC; **Jennifer Wilson-Kearse**, Executive Director, Vela Institute, Boone, NC

SESSION #24

GEAR UP and Finish Strong in 7!

Morgan

In this session, participants will receive a template to compile their data story. Participants will watch our student data story from beginning to end and witness the power when backed by testimonials, photos, videos, and artifacts. Get ready to dig into your mental and physical archives! Start outlining your timeline of college ready benchmarks, GEAR UP actions taken to support them, and outcomes. Don't wait until year 7 to create and tell everyone about your journey.

Gus Cordova, Facilitator, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Eva Lopes**, College Readiness Coach, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Roxanne Rosales**, GEAR UP Director, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX

SESSION #25

Using GEAR UP to Engage Latinx Students Across Your State

Kalorama

In this interactive lecture, GEAR UP Virginia will explore strategies in reaching out to the Latinx students/families who are not concentrated within the same geographical region. The Virginia GEAR UP state grant covers 24 high schools throughout the state, including urban and rural areas and various diverse populations. The presentation will look at statewide and school-specific outreach and programming methods to ensure that Latinx students, a minority in their school populations, are engaged. Participants will also have a space to discuss and explore successes within their communities.

Melissa Benavidez, GEAR UP Virginia Regional Manager, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Richmond, VA; **Erin McGrath**, GEAR UP Virginia Program Director, State Council of Higher Education Virginia, Richmond, VA

SESSION #26

Innovative Strategies in the 7th Year: Insights from Chicago GEAR UP

Lincoln West

In this interactive session, we will identify and discuss challenges that GEAR UP students face during the transition to and throughout the first year of college. We will use preliminary data of our first 7th year cohort to engage session participants in discussion surrounding best practices. Finally, we will share lessons learned from working with Chicago GEAR UP students and how we used these lessons to revisit our staff training and service plan implementation both in the first year and in the senior year of high school.

Cheryl Chrismon, College Transition Facilitator, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Irma Ortiz**, College Transition Senior Manager, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Rene Lopez**, College Transition Facilitator, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Wendy Stack**, Associate Vice President, Access, Innovation and Research and Executive Director, Chicago GEAR UP Alliance & Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

SESSION #27

Empowering Parents Through the Reflective Learning Walks Process

Georgetown West

Presenters will share information on how to build capacity in parents to positively affect schoolwide change through the Parent Reflective Learning Walks process. This process takes small groups of parents into classrooms to observe instruction. A trained facilitator engages the parents in a reflective conversation so they gain a deeper understanding of classroom instruction and feel empowered to support and advocate for their students. Participants will experience a virtual learning walk.

Araceli Chavez, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Jaron Fried**, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Diana Fujimoto**, English Learner Services Curriculum Specialist, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Gabriel Mendoza**, Academic Coordinator, California State University Fullerton GEAR UP, Fullerton, CA

SESSION #28

Spice Up Your Math Education!

Rock Creek

Are your students bored in their math class? If so, it's time to spice it up! This session will provide exciting content for math teachers and instructional/curriculum specialists that aligns with the current math curriculum and standards. Attendees will participate in an interactive session that will bring math to life for their students and illustrate the connection to STEM careers. Each attendee will leave with the information they need to effectively use the content in their class.

Traci Aucoin, GEAR UP Project Director, Lafayette Parish GEAR UP, Lafayette, LA; **Chris Carroll**, Assistant Professor, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO

SESSION #29

Rural is Trending. Now What?

Jefferson East

What happens when hundreds of college access and success practitioners from rural communities across the country share their ideas, practices, and vision for the future? You open a conversation about what works in rural America, how rural communities can support each other and how these diverse communities can lift each other up. This session will provide insights from a rural summit held in May 2018 and provide steps rural practitioners can take to increase the efficacy of college access and success programs, build alliances with national partners, and shape a policy agenda to meet the needs of rural communities.

Dreama Gentry, Executive Director of Partners for Education, Berea College, Berea, KY; **J. Morgan**, Director of Communications at Partners for Education, Berea College, Berea, KY

SESSION #30

Impact of Early College Exposure: MiraCosta GEAR UP College Summer Program

Embassy

MiraCosta GEAR UP embarked on an ambitious task of creating a program aimed at working with high school students unlikely to attend college by having them successfully complete a four-week summer college course at their local community college. The program, now in its fourth year, has 100% student success rate. The presentation will cover in detail the long-term data of how this short-term program for GEAR UP students positively influenced student success as freshmen in postsecondary education. Details of the program specifics will be shared to assist attendees in designing a similar program.

Julie Johnson, Director, MiraCosta GEAR UP Partnership, MiraCosta College, Oceanside, CA; **Wendy Stewart**, Dean, Counseling and Student Development, MiraCosta College, Oceanside, CA; **Alketa Wojcik**, Vice President, Student Services, MiraCosta College, Oceanside, CA

SESSION #31

Supporting GEAR UP Students Through Summer Melt

Georgetown East

Navigating summer melt requires strategic and intentional planning by GEAR UP professionals. While the barriers to postsecondary education have been thoroughly researched, designing interventions that are proven to be effective is complex and time-consuming. The presenters will outline practical and tactical strategies and tools that produced substantial enrollment results for the East Texas GEAR UP for Success Project. In this session, participants will identify and define barriers to postsecondary education and share possible interventions to mediate the effect of summer melt on their students. Attendees will receive tools that are applicable to their respective GEAR UP programs.

Dr. Betty Alford, Project Evaluator, GEAR UP, Pomona, CA; **Barbara Davis**, Project Director, East Texas GEAR UP for Success Project, Nacogdoches, TX; **Vickie Evans**, GEAR UP Coordinator, East Texas GEAR UP for Success Project, Nacogdoches, TX; **Olegario Madera**, Outreach Coordinator, East Texas GEAR UP for Success Project, Nacogdoches, TX

SESSION #32

Experimenting with Your Summer Programming: Helping Students Find Their Brilliance in STEM

Jay

After a long school year, summertime can't get here fast enough. But once it is here, how do you develop summer programming that prevents the "summer slide," but is not monotonous or redundant? Come experiment, experience, and learn how to create a STEM-related summer experience that is highly engaging and features collaborative teamwork, scientific inquiry, and postsecondary skill development. In this fun, interactive session, participants will discuss the challenges and opportunities involved in creating immersive summer experiences, all while actively participating in STEM-related activities you can use with your students to help them realize their academic potential.

Nicholas Bell, Co-Founder of BRAIN STEM, BRAIN Education, Inc., Philadelphia, PA; **Brandon Brown**, Co-Founder of BRAIN STEM, BRAIN Education, Inc., Philadelphia, PA; **Tonya Waller**, Ed.D., Director, University of Kansas GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS

SESSION #33

College Access Across the K-12 Continuum

Fairchild

In 2017, school participation in Tennessee's statewide college access initiative, Path to College Events (College Application and Exploration Week, College Planning Night, TN FAFSA Frenzy, and College Signing Day), grew by over 100%. In this facilitated discussion, we will share our three-pronged strategy for increasing participation: proactive outreach, collaboration, and innovative acknowledgement. We will explore Tennessee's new Path to College resources for elementary, middle, and high schools. The group will brainstorm ways that our three-pronged engagement strategy and Path to College resources can be used to increase participation in college and career activities within your school context.

Mary Nelle Hall, Statewide Services Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN; **Courtney Rogers**, Coordinator, College Access and Success Outreach, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN

SESSION #34

Using Strong School Leaders and Near-Peer Mentors to Transform Students' Futures

Du Pont

In this presentation participants will be able to identify practical strategies for aligning GEAR UP activities within existing school academic pathways and departments. Additionally, we will share how near-peer mentors can be used in their schools as key project personnel to implement GEAR UP activities related to building leadership skills in students, tutoring in key academic subjects, designing and conducting unique academic enrichment programs, and creating and delivering college and career readiness curriculum. Finally, we will share how to align GEAR UP college preparedness objectives with specific school endeavors, such as early college, STEM enrichment, and integrating business and community partnerships.

Keith Hayashi, Principal, Waipahu High School, Waipahu, HI; **Erwin Legaspi**, Director, UH Manoa GEAR UP Waipahu, Waipahu, HI

SESSION #35

Student Voice = Student Success: Teacher Learning and the Practice of Building Growth Mindset

Piscataway

Understanding connections between teachers' growth mindset and students' experiences is crucial to transforming school culture! Roll up your sleeves and learn how a small group of urban teachers challenged themselves to examine the impact of instruction on student engagement. Come experience an authentic student survey, measuring responses to classroom instruction. After analyzing results, you will explore solutions and strategies to support students' growth mindset and increase their sense of belonging. Participants will gain tools to implement this free resource and hear lessons learned from coaches about scaling the survey to positively impact classrooms, departments, school sites, and school partnerships.

Sian Eddington, A-G Advisor, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA; **Rachel Petruzzi**, A-G Advisor, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA; **Rocio Piña**, Program Coordinator, GEAR UP 4 LA, Los Angeles, CA

SESSION #36

GEAR UP Iowa Students Beat the Odds: Students Enter College Above Grade Level

Gunston

Key college decision-makers have identified deficiencies of students not graduating college, and even with the aid of efforts specifically designed to cope with cognitive skill deficits, low math and reading mastery and low resiliency among students persists. In this session, attendees will break into small groups for a facilitated discussion on how GEAR UP Iowa accelerates college and career readiness learning so incoming college freshman exceed college level benchmarks on ACT (or SAT) test day, avoid costly remediation, and increase college graduation rates. Participants take home a four-part plan to accelerate learning and achievement including the selection of resources for teacher-led instruction.

Darcie Sprouse, GEAR Iowa Coordinator, Iowa College Aid, Des Moines, IA; **David Waldherr**, President, Cambridge Grant Award Program, Des Plaines, IL

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Networking Break and Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia Hall

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Monday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #37

Effective Social Media Strategies to Engage Your GEAR UP Community

Lincoln East

In this interactive session, presenters will discuss how social media is a necessary tool to effectively promote your program and connect with your GEAR UP community. We will also discuss the theory behind the use of social media as a tool to build social capital for first-generation and low-income students. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice promoting a GEAR UP activity to a targeted audience and receive a toolkit to successfully plan long-term social media strategies.

Dalton Allen, Site Coordinator, GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS; **Laura Kingston**, Communications Specialist, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs - University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; **Tonya Waller**, Ed.D., Director, GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS

SESSION #38

Enrolling the Unenrolled

Jefferson East

Even though we expect 100% of our graduates to enter college immediately following graduation, the reality is that life gets in the way for some of them and they have to take a detour to the workforce or unemployment. In this session, you will learn about a partnership we created with our local community colleges to enroll graduates who wanted to go to college and needed a one-to-one intervention plan. Participants will learn about targeted outreach strategies and receive copies of documents created for graduates and staff to implement the enrollment plan so they were ready to GO!

Wanita Mercer, College Readiness Coach, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Joseph Montano**, College Readiness Coach, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX; **Roxanne Rosales**, Director, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio, TX

SESSION #39

Explore, Plan, and Engage the ACT Test

Oak Lawn

Explore with Lafayette GEAR UP and ACT test experts as we challenge your knowledge on this standardized test. Plan to have fun as you engage with community and postsecondary partners and learn what your students are up against in the world of college acceptance. This interactive session will leave you more confident in your choices for the best preparation for your students and offer ideas for getting the whole community in on their success!

Traci Aucoin, Project Director, Lafayette GEAR UP, Lafayette, LA; **Chris Carroll**, Assistant Professor Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology Department of Civil Engineering, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO; **Julie Dronet**, Market Vice President - Acadiana, Cox Communications, Lafayette, LA; **Craig Gehring**, Founder, MasteryPrep, Baton Rouge, LA; **Brian Hebert**, Director of Middle and Secondary Schools Lafayette Parish School System, Lafayette Parish School System, Lafayette, LA

SESSION #40

From 8 Track to Emoji: Bridging the Generational Gap

Jefferson West

GEAR UP professionals are tightly knit with Millennials and Gen Z, as both colleagues and service providers. How we work with younger generations is not the question, but rather how do we integrate their ideas and values into our culture? In this session, we will discuss the three major trends we see with Millennials and Gen Z, and the questions associated with those. We will also discuss practical strategies on creating environments in which they thrive both as students and as fellow staff members.

Jerrod Murr, Co-Founder, Paradigm Shift, Muskogee, OK

SESSION #41

Steps2College: Professional Resources to Support Students Through the College-Going Process

Georgetown West

ACT's Center for Equity in Learning, American College Application Campaign, National College Access Network, Better Make Room, and the Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success have partnered to develop a national repository of resources, Steps2College. This initiative is designed to support students in navigating the senior year college-going steps: college application, FAFSA completion, making a decision, and transitioning to postsecondary education. Attendees will learn about the Steps2College resources and strategies available to implement programming around these campaigns, how to connect with state-led efforts, and will be encouraged to share strategies they have implemented locally.

Melissa Caperton, Director, American College Application Campaign, American Council on Education, Washington, DC; **Laura Owen**, Director, Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success, American University, Washington, DC; **Eric Waldo**, Executive Vice President for Education, Civic Nation, Washington, DC; **Don Yu**, Director, Better Make Room Campaign, Civic Nation, Washington, DC

SESSION #42

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor: Fulfilling the Promise of GEAR UP in the 7th Year

Morgan

The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor GEAR UP will present to the GEAR UP community a first-year college experience model that is tailored to the specific needs and voices of its first-year college students. GEAR UP professionals will learn and demonstrate knowledge of the importance of programming that is focused on the holistic development of students for maximum impact beyond their first year of college. Programming strategies that are inclusive of student voice and leadership will be shared to demonstrate the value of engaging students in the planning and execution of the programming they receive.

Alyssa Hall, GEAR UP Scholar, University of Michigan Ann Arbor GEAR UP, Ann Arbor, MI; **KyJuanna Taylor**, GEAR UP Scholar, University of Michigan Ann Arbor GEAR UP, Ann Arbor, MI; **Gregory Thomas**, GEAR UP Program Coordinator, University of Michigan Ann Arbor GEAR UP, Ann Arbor, MI; **Courtney Vanderbilt**, GEAR UP Program Director, University of Michigan Ann Arbor GEAR UP, Ann Arbor, MI

SESSION #43

The Best Week Ever: How to Engage Middle Schoolers in a Summer College Camp

Kalorama

Welcome to Middle School Summer Camp: the triumphs, the tragedies, and so much more! We will share with you lessons we have learned to run a successful 5-day college camp for 6th–8th grade students. We visit five different college campuses, and so much more. Each year we learn something new. We will provide information regarding: (1) how to create excitement about summer camp; (2) activities that are fun and have purpose; (3) share ideas about building collaborations on each campus; (4) share ideas on how to find funding; and (5) of course, parent engagement. Don't miss out on the fun!

Heather Ericson, Program Coordinator, USU Stars GEAR UP, Salt Lake City, UT; **Angela Fanjul**, Executive Director, Dual Immersion Academy Partnership Grant with USU STARS GEAR UP, Salt Lake City, UT; **Travis**

Steed, Middle School Teacher and Academic Coordinator, Dual Immersion Academy Partnership Grant with USU STARS GEAR UP, Salt Lake City, UT

SESSION #44

How Desoto GEAR UP Made Data Collection and Analysis Easy...and Improved Student Success!

Rock Creek

In this panel, learn how a GEAR UP director drastically reduced the time requirements for analysis in a school district. Also, learn how the data-collection framework was envisioned, developed, and presented for district adoption. The panel will share benefits and challenges of merging data into a single system, including: (1) student benchmark data; (2) student assessment data; (3) teacher weekly lesson plans; (4) principal walk-throughs; and (5) student absences and behavior incidents. The panel will share experiences of extracting difficult to capture data, even in PDF format, so staff can spend more time working directly with students.

Douglas Loyo, VP for Technology, EdSight Technology, Austin, TX; **Roy Nieto**, VP for Sales & Marketing, EdSight Technology, Austin, TX; **Andrae Rhyne**, Director, GEAR UP Desoto ISD, Desoto, TX

SESSION #45

Urgent Tutoring Care: Healing Your Program's Tutoring Pain Points

Holmead

"I would be lost without this service!" said an 8th grader about the Homework Help program. After nearly 3 years of sustained partnership between Appalachian State University and The Princeton Review's Homework Help program, this is a sneak peek into the extensive feedback we have received from our students. This partnership presentation will provide a brief overview of the program that makes 24/7 on-demand, one-to-one tutoring available to nearly 15,000 students. In the sharing of key findings obtained from the three-year evaluation of this program, participants will understand the transformative effects this easily implementable service can have on GEAR UP students.

Dan Howarth, Executive Director, Educational Partnerships, The Princeton Review, Raleigh, NC; **Corinne Smith**, Senior Associate Director, GEAR UP, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

SESSION #46

Fostering College and Career Readiness with the Scholar Success Program

Embassy

In this presentation, we will provide a brief history of college student access through the 21st Century Scholars program and its expanded purpose to include student success through the Scholar Success Program. We will share specific information about the Scholar Success Program activities and discuss how these activities are being incorporated into GEAR UP programming. We will include best practices and ways that these activities can be used by other GEAR UP programs.

Barbie Martin, Director of School and Community Outreach, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN; **Jarod Wilson**, Director of Postsecondary Outreach and Career Transitions, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN

SESSION #47

Does this College Fit? Strategies to Overcome Undermatching and Find an Optimal Fit

Cardozo

This interactive session will introduce the concept of undermatching, examine the myriad factors that go into the college fit decision, and engage participants in hands-on activities to explore and combat undermatching. We will explore the phenomena of undermatching as well as data showing negative outcomes associated with attending a less rigorous institution. Participants will participate in activities designed to challenge students' concept of fit and engage them in activities to raise their expectations for postsecondary education.

Wade Leuwerke, Research and Training Director, GEAR UP Iowa, Des Moines, IA

SESSION #48

Tennessee's FAFSA Frenzy: Data, Communications, and Research to Support Student Success

Georgetown East

In Tennessee, the FAFSA is the key to unlocking postsecondary opportunities. To ensure as many students as possible can access financial aid, GEAR UP TN partnered with a variety of nonprofit, state agency, and K-12 stakeholders to launch TN FAFSA Frenzy. A cohesive blend of data transparency, ample communications resources, and statewide partnership, TN FAFSA Frenzy has helped Tennessee continue to lead the nation in FAFSA submission. This facilitated dialogue will detail the resources and structures that were put into place for FAFSA, including a comprehensive toolkit, a robust communications campaign, and an online data dashboard for schools and families.

Mary Nelle Hall, Statewide Services Coordinator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP TN, Nashville, TN; **Courtney Rogers**, Coordinator, College Access and Success Outreach, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, GEAR UP TN, Nashville, TN

SESSION #49

The Rules of Engagement: Finding and Reaching Your Audiences in Meaningful Ways

Lincoln West

Fact: GEAR UP efforts are most effective when educators, students, and parents all actively participate in the process. However, as the adage goes, "getting the horse to drink is the tricky part." A follow-up to our previous session "From Zero to 60," this workshop will further explore Texas GEAR UP's process strategies for building our brand, finding our voice, differentiating between audiences, and how we've reached our target groups. Working in groups, we'll identify and prioritize audience segments, creating SMART goals for each. We'll also discuss the differences between audiences, create a voice/persona for each, and explore targeted outreach strategies.

Robyn Beck, Creative Operations Manager, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX; **Jennifer Gritti**, Marketing Manager, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX; **Ryann Malone**, Managing Director, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX

SESSION #50

Building Effective Data Management Structures into your GEAR UP Grant

Jay

As GEAR UP grantees, we all know we need to collect data to prove our programs' effectiveness. We also know timely data utilization is critical to our programs' continuous improvement. But, exactly what data is needed? And, how do we collect these data? Frequently, we do not answer these questions until it is too late. This expert panel of evaluators will work with attendees to clearly define program objectives, identify data needed to measure program progress, and discuss common data-related pitfalls and remedies. This panel will focus on sharing best practices for effective data management throughout your GEAR UP grant.

Lauren Coleman-Tempel, Research Associate, The University of Kansas Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Lawrence, KS; **Meghan Ecker-Lyster**, Ph.D., Director of Research & Evaluation, The University of Kansas Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Lawrence, KS; **Nadzeya Kardash**, Research Associate, The University of Kansas Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Lawrence, KS; **Kristina Tirol-Carmody**, Senior Research Assistant, The University of Kansas Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Lawrence, KS

SESSION #51

Social and Emotional School Improvement for College-Career Success

Fairchild

Learn new strategies from San Bernardino Pacific High's schoolwide initiative to grow Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in students and staff. This GEAR UP partnership, along with the nonprofit EduGuide and Cal State San Bernardino used an evidence-based model to improve academic behaviors, narrow equity gaps, and build relationships to help all students succeed in class today and in college and careers tomorrow. Participants will walk away with key insights, a planning tool to replicate Pacific's program at the middle or high school level, and free activities they can start using right away with their students.

Natalie Raymundo, Principal, Pacific High School, San Bernardino School District, San Bernardino, CA; **Summer Steele**, Director GEAR UP, California State University, San Bernardino Office of Pre-College Programs, San Bernardino, CA; **Bryan Taylor**, President, EduGuide, Lansing, MI

SESSION #52

Creating and Sustaining Productive Partnerships

Du Pont

In this session, we will provide GEAR UP professionals and partners strategies to create and sustain successful partnerships throughout the stages of the grant. We will begin to develop a mini elevator speech that should include the 3 C's: Confidence, Clarity, and Commitment for use when presenting your GEAR UP program's needs and expectations with your partners. The session is to empower GEAR UP professionals from all levels to maintain and create new partnerships to constantly improve the quality of services provided to your participants.

Kimberly Cruz, GEAR UP First Year Experience Academic Coordinator, California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA; **Miguel Duenas**, Associate Dean of Student Services Division, East Los Angeles Community

College, Monterey Park, CA; **Linda Franco-Bustamante**, Director, GEAR UP 7th Year, California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA

SESSION #53

Empowering Teachers with College Readiness

Piscataway

Teachers are trusted individuals that are charged with guiding students on the path of their postsecondary journey. GEAR UP To College and Beyond has created a micro-credential certification for teachers, focusing on the knowledge and skills to assist students in determining course and endorsement selections, college admissions and applications, and financial aid. In this facilitated dialogue, presenters will explain the course certification for educators and identify the steps to implement certification for teachers. Participants will create a plan for implementation in their schools.

Cathy Moak, Professional Development Manager, University of Texas, Institute of Public School Initiatives, Austin, TX; **Kelli Taylor**, Educator Outreach Coach, University of Texas, Institute of Public School Initiatives, Austin, TX

SESSION #54

Real World STEM Applications for Students

Gunston

What if your students had the opportunity to not only tour colleges/universities with STEM-focused instruction, but to also see technology in action at a professional's workstation? How valuable is it to hear and see opportunities and learn about possible internships in STEM- related fields? For the past two years, the Eastern Oklahoma State College GEAR UP has partnered with Explore Colleges and Texas Instruments to do just that! Students toured engineering-based universities and manufacturing facilities. Students experienced technology careers firsthand and in turn, became excited about a future in STEM-based technology. Join us as we show our experiences and work with you planning a STEM journey your students won't forget!

Kathie Boozer, Founder, Explore Colleges, Hunt Valley, MD; **John Spiegel**, Professional Development Coordinator, Eastern Oklahoma State College GEAR UP, Wilburton, OK

Tuesday | July 17

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Conference Registration and Information Booth Open
Terrace Foyer East

7:30 am – 8:45 am

Networking Breakfast (Meal Ticket Required)
International Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Tuesday Morning Plenary: “The Power of Choice”
International Ballroom

Sponsored by: Xcalibur

Presentation of the Community Partner of the Year Award

Ranjit Sidhu, President & CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

James 'Ikie' Brooks, West Virginia GEAR UP Alumni

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)
GEAR UP Champion of Student Success Awardee

Keynote Speaker:
Brian Banks, Activist and Former Football Player

10:15 am – 10:45 am

Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia Hall

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday Morning Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #55

GEAR UP is all About U: Mobilizing and Empowering Through Film

Oak Lawn

This session will feature a short film screening and facilitated dialogue about how students can be empowered as storytellers to mobilize support for the success and sustainability of GEAR UP in their communities. We will share how GEAR UP New Mexico undertook a project in partnership with a local nonprofit film organization to document the life-changing impact of GEAR UP in six unique communities across the state. Participants will learn how to understand and draw upon their own program's challenges and successes to strategize for effective advocacy, while providing students with valuable hands-on experience.

Chris Jonas, Executive Director, Littlelobe, Inc., Santa Fe, NM; **Stephanie Montoya**, Public Relations & Outreach Coordinator, GEAR UP New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM

SESSION #56

If I Knew Then What I Know Now

Jay

Presenters will summarize techniques and findings of a longitudinal evaluation of our first cohort of college students, conducted to understand a student's entire path while receiving GEAR UP services. We will examine the evaluation questions and key findings obtained, to date, and discuss related results for two types of comparison cohorts. Participants will discuss both the expected and the more surprising findings, and determine how they can use this information in their own program implementation.

Lois Bramwell, GEAR UP Director, GEAR UP 4 LA, Los Angeles, CA; **Keren Brooks**, Chief Research Analyst, CoBro Consulting, San Diego, CA

SESSION #57

Preventing the Repeat: Innovative Partnerships to Reduce Remediation

Jefferson West

Every year, over 40% of incoming college students must enroll in remedial courses. Students in these programs are less likely to finish their degrees, and instead drop out of college. This session provides participants with an applicable model of the partnership process, including feedback from teachers, GEAR UP staff, and school district and higher education administrators. At the session's conclusion, participants will have the information and tools to: (1) Recognize best practices in reducing remedial education needs; (2) Understand roadblocks to partnerships with higher education institutions (3) Identify and discuss with peers strategies to effectively address remediation needs in the community.

Matthew Goodman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Lancaster Campus, Harrisburg Area Community College, Lancaster, PA; **Meghan Oakley-Henning**, GEAR UP Coordinator, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA; **Jeremy Raff**, Coordinator of College and Career Services, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA; **Kim Walls**, Communication Arts Teacher, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA

SESSION #58

How to Effectively Implement New Ideas and Programs in your GEAR UP Communities

Lincoln East

The national GEAR UP conference always leaves us with a ton of new program ideas! The challenge is implementing those ideas once we arrive back in our communities. This session gives you a front row seat to challenges, insights, and advice from the state directors, program coordinators, and regional managers who are responsible for successful rollouts of innovative programs within their districts. A lot of change happens during the seven-year cycle of our grants, and this session will help you meet the needs of your students in this fast and ever-changing world.

Melia Balls, Project Coordinator, USU Stars GEAR UP, Logan, UT; **EJ Carrion**, CEO & Co-Founder, Student Success Agency, Fairview, TX; **Melissa Mendonca**, Regional Coordinator, GEAR UP New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM; **Reshaud Rich**, GEAR UP Southeast Regional Manager, GEAR UP Virginia, Richmond, VA; **Kisha Tolbert Simmons**, Project Director, GEAR UP Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

SESSION #59

Assessing the Impact of Mentoring: Lessons Learned from a Research Study in West Virginia Public Schools

Holmead

In this presentation, we will share information about a randomized controlled trial (RCT) study of a student mentoring program. In addition to learning about the impact of mentoring upon students' behavioral engagement, academic achievement, and non-cognitive skill outcomes, attendees will learn best practices for designing and implementing a RCT in a school setting, and discover useful strategies to overcome common evaluation challenges such as attaining reasonable statistical power, accounting for no-shows and crossovers, and measuring and accounting for student attrition. Respondents will leave better equipped to gather high quality causal evidence about their own program services.

Zornitsa Georgieva, Ph.D., Research and Policy Analyst, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Charleston, WV; **Samantha Spinney**, Ph.D., Manager, Child Welfare & Education, ICF, Fairfax, VA

SESSION #60

NCCEP's Career & College Clubs' User Group

Morgan

Does your GEAR UP currently use NCCEP's Career & College Clubs program? Are you starting, or considering starting, in 2018? Or, do you just want to learn more about the program? If any of the above are true, this workshop is for you! The session is your opportunity to meet other GEAR UP users and share experiences. Through a combination of panel discussion and guided small group discussions, participants will guide their learning by focusing on topics of specific interest to them. Coaches, coordinators, directors, and other staff involved with Career & College Clubs are encouraged to attend.

Dalton Allen, Site Coordinator, GEAR UP Topeka, Lawrence, KS; **Eva Luc**, GEAR UP Director, Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, Los Angeles, CA; **Erin McGrath**, GEAR UP Virginia Program Director, State Council of Higher Education Virginia, Richmond, VA

SESSION #61

Unlocking Your Future: Providing Students with the Keys to Navigate Their Journey to Career Success!

Kalorama

In this session, we will explore match and fit using the Unlock My Future portal where attendees will have the opportunity to complete the activities in the role of the student. The activities include a brief career assessment, where they will identify their skills and interests. Attendees will use worksheets to identify their top career matches and have an opportunity to learn more about their career matches through informative videos in the portal. The presenters will provide "keys", which are links to resources that students can utilize in their career exploration journeys, which are aligned to the 5-point match concept.

Summer Clark, Regional Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Mary Cobb-Marshall**, Regional Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Juterh Nmah**, Regional Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA

SESSION #62

Coaching 101: A Beginners Guide to Creating a Culture of Instructional Coaching

Lincoln West

Instructional coaching is an important approach to helping teachers improve their practice, but it is often misunderstood. It is more than telling teachers how to teach better; it is not founded on a deficit model. Coaches will learn how to develop a positive relationship with faculty to enhance the culture and effectiveness of coaching. Instructional leaders and administrators will determine how to best utilize coaches in the school. Participants will discover what coaching levels of intensity can be effective with a variety of teachers. Each participant will leave with a toolkit of strategies to begin building capacity.

Amber Gentile, Academic Coach, Norristown School District, Norristown, PA; **Evelyn Wassel**, Academic Coach, Harrisburg School District, Harrisburg, PA

SESSION #63

Give Your Seniors a Toolkit for College and Career Success

Georgetown West

What are the key skills seniors need to be successful in their next step after high school graduation? The College and Career 101 Conference is a one-day event designed to provide graduating seniors with those unwritten rules that can make or break them in college or a career. Join us for our "Make and Take" session to learn about the program, experience some of the interactive activities, plan for your own program, and receive a toolkit to help you replicate the program in your community.

Monica Lee, Executive Director, Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation, Forest City, NC; **Sarah McKinney**, Operations Manager, Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation, Forest City, NC; **Neil VanDyke**, Postsecondary Success Coordinator, Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation, Forest City, NC

SESSION #64

The 5 Big Transitions GEAR UP Grads Face in College and How to Prepare Them

Rock Creek

Getting GEAR UP students into college is the first priority. Keeping them in college and teaching them the life skills needed to graduate and thrive beyond college is the ultimate goal. This interactive session introduces the 5 major areas of transition and how GEAR UP professionals can help students prepare, plan, and navigate transition. The session introduces a transition framework, strategies, results, and activities to help students thrive inside and outside the classroom. This interactive discussion provides GEAR UP professionals with action steps, activities, and a framework that can be implemented to support transition throughout a students' education and beyond.

Harlan Cohen, Author/Researcher, Best First Year, Northbrook, IL; **Tenya Moravec**, Associate Director University of Washington GEAR UP Program, University of Washington GEAR UP Program, Toppenish, WA

SESSION #65

Year 7: The Journey Continues

Georgetown East

Year 7 of the GEAR UP journey is one of excitement, navigating the unknown, and a year of new discoveries. Join Region One GEAR UP as they share best practices and lessons learned throughout the students' first year of college. Participants will learn strategies on how to form a strong partnership with local institutions of higher education to ensure a successful first year and beyond. They will also have an opportunity to engage in dialogue with their peers on how to plan for the unexpected, tailor services as needed, and how to seek out additional supports for cohort students.

Lupita Cantu, GEAR UP Facilitator, Roma ISD, Roma, TX; **Melissa Lopez**, Director, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, TX; **Sylvia Vargas**, GEAR UP Facilitator, Hidalgo ISD, Hidalgo, TX

SESSION #66

From High School to College: The Truckee Meadows Community College and GEAR UP Summer Partnership

Jefferson East

In this lecture, we will provide information on best practices on how to support GEAR UP students taking summer college courses. We will share tools on how to successfully build partnerships with your local community colleges and universities to better support GEAR UP students taking college courses. The presenters will use this interactive session to introduce and discuss implementation of summer programming, retention, and mentoring. This workshop is ideal for staff who work directly with GEAR UP students.

Mari Jimenez-Ortiz, GEAR UP Ambassador, Nevada State GEAR UP, Reno, NV

SESSION #67

Building Professional Learning Communities to Keep Students on Track

Fairchild

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn how Highline Public Schools has created Professional Learning Communities across roles and schools to increase collaboration, communication, and coordination. Through this collaboration, GEAR UP Student Success Deans and Student Success Coaches have built a strong Early Warning Indicator System used across the district to identify students at risk of falling off track and ensure that all students receive immediate, differentiated supports to keep them on a path towards graduation and college access. Participants will learn key strategies, hear about successes and challenges, and participate in interactive activities to reflect on their own practices.

Evan Barbour, Student Success Dean, Tyee High School, Burien, WA; **Roslyn Kagy**, GEAR UP Director, Highline Public Schools, Burien, WA

SESSION #68

GEAR UP as the Connector: Linking Business, Community, and Government to Provide Valuable Educational Experiences

Piscataway

Great partnerships can create synergy, innovation, and growth. The partners we choose to engage, the relationships that we build, and how we connect partners to each other can empower stakeholders to take ownership in the future of education and work together to make it better. GEAR UP must function as the connector, linking education entities with community organizations, businesses, and government officials to combine resources and ideas in a way that brings synergy to our educational processes. Participants will see a successful partnership model and learn how to create a partnership plan that works for their grant.

Andrew David, Press Secretary, Office of Representative Clay Higgins (LA-03), Washington, DC; **William LaBar**, Vice President, Consulting Services, CGI Technologies and Solutions, Lafayette, LA; **Dana McIntyre**, College & Career Coach, Lafayette GEAR UP, Lafayette, LA; **Kim Prejean**, College & Career Coach, Lafayette GEAR UP, Lafayette, LA; **Anne Swanson**, U.S. Education & Workforce Development Coordinator, CGI Technologies and Solutions, Lafayette, LA

SESSION #69

¿Qué Pasa? Engaging Latino Students Through Collaboration and Community Connections

Gunston

Latino students face many obstacles to academic success, including language and cultural barriers. As program administrators, you are uniquely positioned to facilitate collaborations and connections to help at-risk students. In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of strategies and resources designed to engage and support Latino students. We will meet leaders on the forefront of developing these strategies and resources, and learn how we can apply them in our program setting. We will also walk away with a resource guide to connect our programs with national resources.

Jenee Chizick-Agüero, Founder/Publisher, *Motivos Bilingual Magazine*, Philadelphia, PA; **Mary Pelicano**, High School Librarian, Tuscarora High School, Leesburg, VA

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

Networking Lunch
International Ballroom

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Tuesday Luncheon Plenary: “The Power of Creativity”
International Ballroom

Sponsored by: The Princeton Review

Presentation of the GEAR UP Family Leader of the Year Award

Ranjit Sidhu, President & CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Keynote Speaker:

Gabby Rivera, Writer, Speaker, and Storyteller

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Tuesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #70

Using and Evaluating Data to Improve College Application and FAFSA Initiatives

Lincoln East

Join GEAR UP Hawai‘i for a discussion on how to evaluate your schools' college access initiatives to improve student achievement. In this session, participants will learn about strategies on how to collect data from college application and FAFSA completion programs to improve college readiness efforts. Participants will learn about the various reports and receive templates that can be provided to schools to communicate results. In addition, participants will learn from counselors how to use data to improve student outcomes and college enrollment rates on their campuses.

Melody Nietfeld, College and Career Counselor, Kohala High School, Kapaau, HI; **Daniel Rempala**, Evaluation Specialist, GEAR UP Hawai‘i, Honolulu, HI; **Lesli Yogi**, Business and Community Outreach Specialist, GEAR UP Hawai‘i, Honolulu, HI

SESSION #71

Strategies, Suggestions, and Samples for a Successful 7th Year

Jefferson East

Successfully serving students entering, and during, the first-year of postsecondary education calls for critical thought and strategic preparations. In this session, Arizona GEAR UP will describe their strategic approach to planning "Year 7" and their collaborative approach to partnering with higher education institutions and community partners, and will share samples of the documents and forms created to successfully execute their strategy. As co-presenters, College Success Arizona, a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to increasing postsecondary attainment for underserved students in Arizona, will provide their perspective on partnering with GEAR UP to meet shared goals.

Stephen Hart, Ed.D., Director - Fiscal Operations, Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ; **Rich Nickel**, President and CEO, College Success Arizona, Phoenix, AZ; **Teena Olszewski**, Executive Director, Arizona GEAR UP - Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ; **Barbara Soby**, Associate Director, Northern Arizona University, Phoenix, AZ

SESSION #72

Closing the Gap: Leveraging Technology and Certified Teachers to Achieve College Readiness

Kalorama

In this session, attendees will engage with colleagues in a candid conversation about barriers to college readiness, and experience iTutor's online learning system first-hand. Based on research validated by the Johns Hopkins School of Education, iTutor provides online instructional services delivered by certified teachers that is breaking the mold of traditional tutoring. This innovative use of technology has proven effective in helping students become college ready. GEAR UP coordinators will discuss their use of iTutor with diverse learners, spotlight impacts in algebra, writing and AP subjects, and highlight lessons learned in their collaboration with school officials.

Julian Castillo, Site Coordinator, Dual Immersion Academy Charter, Salt Lake City, UT; **Steve Pines**, Chief Operating Officer, iTutor, Jericho, NY; **Kristin Seay**, Director- Midlands GEAR UP, Midlands GEAR UP, Columbia, SC

SESSION #73

Know Your Story to Shape Your Story: Engaging Multiple Stakeholders in Evaluation

Oak Lawn

This workshop is for directors, evaluators, coordinators, and others who are interested in inclusive evaluation practices that demonstrate impact and drive improvement. In evaluation, we face some common challenges of limited resources; challenges of trust among evaluators, practitioner staff, and participants; and weak commitment to evaluation protocols. The presenters will engage participants in a facilitated dialogue that highlights strategies on sustainable practices to engage and empower multiple stakeholders. In this workshop, participants will analyze stakeholders' participation in evaluation and share resources that develop norms to cultivate a culture of stakeholder-based evaluation to improve future programming.

Lumas Helaire, Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; **Jiixin Wu**, Research Associate, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

SESSION #74

Understanding and Using Postsecondary Enrollment Data from the National Student Clearinghouse

Holmead

Do you ever struggle to understand a National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) student detail file? Or wonder "what am I supposed to do with this?" Presenters will share insights on how postsecondary enrollment information can be used to impact GEAR UP student programming while putting forth suggestions for communicating enrollment data to GEAR UP stakeholders. A free visualization tool for transforming NSC data to consumable information will also be shared, along with a brief report on a study that determined a margin of error for NSC enrollment rates.

Todd Nolt, Director of Data and Evaluation, The Vela Institute, Boone, NC; **Shawn Bergman**, Ph.D., Senior Faculty Fellow, Appalachian State University; Director of Research and Analytics, The Vela Institute, Boone, NC

SESSION #75

"Early is on Time": High School Interventions Using First-Year College Experience Courses and Programs

Morgan

In this presentation, you will learn more about First Year Experience (FYE) Coursework and Programs and how they can benefit your GEAR UP Students. We will share our Early FYE Programming for high school juniors and seniors. Our students have taken a three-credit FYE college course that prepares them for college, well before their actual first year. The presentation will include a history of FYE, the powerful impact FYE can have on postsecondary retention and persistence, along with best practices on various FYE formats. This interactive presentation will send you home inspired and energized!

Joanna White, GEAR UP Director-East Hartford, Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT

SESSION #76

Implementation 101: Creating a Grant Management Structure

Jefferson West

Can GEAR UP grant managers effectively oversee multiple districts or schools serving thousands or even tens of thousands of students annually? Yes! They can with the help of established annual work plans and a comprehensive management structure. This presentation will share resources and best practices in grant oversight from the annual work plan process to grant monitoring policies that ensure accurate data collection, implementation of required services, and timely approval of upcoming services and/or budget requests. Attendees will leave with resources to streamline direct-service site management and oversight.

Leigh Ann Bodie, Associate Director for College Access Initiatives, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN; **Troy Grant**, Associate Executive Director for College Access and Success, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN

SESSION #77

Texting to Make an Impact: Signal Vine and GEAR UP

Lincoln West

In this session, panelists from Utah Valley University, San Antonio Independent School District, Berea College, and the School District of Lancaster will share their strategies and best practices for planning, implementing, and executing effective text messaging campaigns in their GEAR UP programs. Through an interactive discussion, participants will become equipped with the tools and skills they need to effectively and efficiently reach their students and nudge them to college success through text messages.

John Acedo, Technology & Summer Program Director, Phoenix, AZ; **Gus Cordova**, GEAR UP Facilitator, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio, TX; **Kristen Dahl**, GEAR UP Coordinator, Berea College, Berea, KY; **Arianna Hartmann**, Director of Customer Success, Signal Vine, Alexandria, VA; **Tiegan Hatch**, Program Coordinator - GEAR UP First Year Services, Utah Valley University, Orem, UT

SESSION #78

Hidden Figures: The Story of Transforming Parents into STEM Advocates

Georgetown West

In this session, presenters will showcase how best practices in family engagement lead to students' increased interest in the STEM fields. Attendees will explore resources for planning successful family STEM events. We will highlight popular activities as well as tools and strategies so attendees can replicate these innovative family engagement initiatives.

Steven Bonomo III, GEAR UP Math Coordinator, Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Syreeta Brown**, GEAR UP Science Coordinator, Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Rene Diaz**, GEAR UP Parent Resource Coordinator, Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Esperanza Valle**, GEAR UP Parent Advocate, Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

SESSION #79

Improve Career and College Readiness Through Career Pathways and Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Fairchild

In this session, hear about the journey Greeley-Evans District 6 Schools embarked upon to engage students in career and college planning, including guest speakers, a robust internship program, and expansion to apprenticeship opportunities for students. Learn how the district partnered with business and community leaders to provide meaningful internships. Experience the development of concurrent enrollment classes with postsecondary institutions. Hear how District 6 supported students graduating with industry certifications and postsecondary certificates.

Rhonda Haniford, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Greeley, CO; **Carolyn Renaud**, Business Community Partnership Administrator, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Greeley, CO; **Jennie Schilling**, Assistant Director of Student Support and CTE, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Greeley, CO

SESSION #80

Writing Meets Culture: An Education Enrichment Partnership Model to Prepare College and Career Ready Writers

Jay

This interactive session will explore how writing and culture converge to help develop college and career ready writers. The strategies shared have been field tested through a program developed in partnership between Lafayette Parish School System GEAR UP, the National Writing Project of Acadiana, and Vermilionville, a local living history museum that interprets the generally underexplored cultural experiences of Cajuns, Creoles, and Native Americans. Although this workshop focuses on creative writing, the techniques shared can improve writing for multiple purposes in developing college and career readiness. Participants will also identify key strategies to develop successful local education enrichment partnerships.

Josh Capps, Senior Instructor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA; **Toby Daspit**, Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA; **Dawn Derouen**, College and Career Coach, Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) GEAR UP, Lafayette, LA; **Melanie Harrington**, Education Coordinator, Vermilionville Living History Museum, Lafayette, LA; **Leigh Tolley**, Assistant Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA

SESSION #81

Mobilize! Helping First-Generation Youth Develop Growth Mindset!

Georgetown East

One of the greatest challenges faced by anyone doing something the first time is – can I do it? Is it possible for me to go to college and pursue a degree? For many first-generation youth, their experiences in life have shaped their thinking. This workshop will provide GEAR-UP stakeholders with key strategies, using insights from Dr. Carol Dweck’s book, *Mindset-The New Psychology of Success*, to help first-generation college youth develop a “success” mindset. Participants will work in teams to create strategies for their students based upon the information shared on the workshop.

Darrell Andrews, Education Consultant/Motivator, Darrell Andrews Enterprises, Bear, DE

SESSION #82

Implementing GEAR UP Teacher Teams in Rural Middle and High Schools

Rock Creek

This facilitated dialogue will present research based GEAR UP Teacher Team model to the audience. Presenters will include GEAR UP staff and a superintendent who is a graduate of NCCEP’s District Leadership Institute (DLI). This presentation will outline the vision, value, and process for implementing teacher teams as well as discuss the desired outcomes of this model. Presenters will engage attendees in facilitating participant ideation and creativity in thinking of ways to implement similar support systems within their own GEAR UP schools to create change among the culture and beliefs of the school and surrounding community.

Laura Hickson, Superintendent, Florence County School District Three, Lake City, SC; **Michael Jackson**, Program Manager, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, Columbia, SC

SESSION #83

Breaking Academic Barriers: How Tutoring Creates a Pathway to Success

Piscataway

In this session, we will dive into some tools and strategies to help build and maintain an effective tutoring program focused on breaking academic barriers and ensuring students excel academically. Participants in this session will hear GEAR UP programmatic, school administrator, and tutor perspectives of how tutoring has positively impacted the students at some of Louisiana GEAR UP's persistently struggling schools. We will share resources on how to hand-select tutors and implement a highly structured tutoring program that empowers students to reach their potential.

Felicia Armand, Math Professional Development Specialist, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Jenny Moran**, ELA Professional Development Specialist, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), Baton Rouge, LA; **Katrina Roberson**, Assistant Principal, Carroll Junior High School, Monroe, LA; **Frank Sparks**, Interventionist/OSSC, Park Forest Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA

SESSION #84

Building Up the Middle: Whole Child Strategies to Reach Rigorous Results Grades 6-12

Gunston

How can teachers and GEAR UP coordinators effectively collaborate to equip students with the academic behaviors, attendance, and resiliency to tackle rigorous college- and career-ready standards? See how it's done in this rural middle school using brief activities based on research that can be conducted in English, advisory, or other classes in grades 6-12. Participants will have a chance to try an activity from this GEAR UP partnership with Washington State University and the nonprofit EduGuide, who created the curriculum, and to take away lessons learned and free activities that they can use with their own students.

Bryan Taylor, President, EduGuide, Lansing, MI; **Chuck Hallsted**, Director, Washington State University GEAR UP, Richland, WA

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Networking Break and Raffle in Exhibit Hall
Columbia Hall

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Tuesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

SESSION #85

Using Teacher Professional Development to Sustain College and Career Readiness Practices

Lincoln East

In this session, participants will learn about how Indiana GEAR UP is working with school partners to transform the educational experience and sustain research-based instructional practices through teacher

professional development. Indiana GEAR UP staff work closely with school administrators and teachers to identify objectives for the professional development sessions that will lead to school improvement. Participants will learn about the Indiana GEAR UP professional development model, strategies for partnering with schools to provide professional development, challenges with providing teacher professional development, using formative assessment strategies for ongoing improvement, and outcomes from professional development completed in 2017.

Jeremy Eltz, Associate Director, Indiana GEAR UP, West Lafayette, IN; **William Walker**, Associate Director, Indiana GEAR UP, West Lafayette, IN

SESSION #86

Shifting Access to Success: Cultivating Student Ready Colleges and Universities

Jefferson East

AVID cultivates active learning environments through leveraging student-centered pedagogy by increasing collaboration between GEAR UP, academic support, and student affairs to garner an intentional and measurable pathway to student success. AVID achieves this by providing direct, preemptive academic support that creates a common language for student success and model's growth mindset, culturally responsive social integration, positive student peer groups, and faculty/staff mentoring relationships. This session shares effective teaching and learning practices embedded in personal validation, self-efficacy/grit, active engagement, reflection, social integration, and self-awareness and identifies ways to assess the impact on student success and persistence through the first year of college.

Jonathan Grant Brown, Program Manager, AVID for Higher Education, Dallas, TX; **Yvonne Ortiz**, Program Manager, AVID for Higher Education, Dallas, TX

SESSION #87

Strengthening and Sustaining: Transferring Structures for Student Success

Jefferson West

Not another sit and get! In this interactive session, attendees will observe a "Mini-PD" to analyze elements of engaging instruction that supports a college-going-culture, student success, and adult learning experiences. We will share our train-the-trainer model and review data summarizing teachers' perceptions and ease of use regarding presented strategies from the pilot and implementation years. Then, we will provide attendees with tools, resources, and research to design engaging and impactful activities for multiple stakeholders. We will also reflect on your insights and potential obstacles. Come have fun and learn how you can design impactful experiences too!

Lindsay Hawkins, Professional Development Writer and Editor, University of Oklahoma -K20 Center, Norman, OK; **Lindsay Williams**, Professional Development Coordinator, University of Oklahoma- K20 Center, Norman, OK

SESSION #88

Quad Squad 102: Enhancing Your NCEP Digital Workspace (For Quad Space Administrators Only)

Oak Lawn

Calling all Quad Space Administrators! For this invitation-only session, join your fellow Quad Squad members in a hands-on online training session, where you will learn everything you need to know to successfully enhance your GEAR UP team's private space in the Quad. In this interactive walkthrough, we will highlight innovative solutions to your communication and engagement challenges. Learn how to increase your GEAR UP team's programming productivity with Quad solutions such as project management, resource libraries, and calendar tools. Also, we will exchange tips on how to drive engagement and create ways to keep our GEAR UP team members coming back the Quad. Required: Please bring your laptop to participate fully.

April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnership, Washington, DC; **Diana May**, Customer Success Director, Vancouver, Canada; **Danielle McCormack**, Manager, Igloo, Vancouver, Canada

SESSION #89

Engaging GEAR UP Stakeholders in Strategic and Meaningful Data Practices

Holmead

This session will focus on innovative strategies to engage program staff, educators, students, and parents in using and sharing data to drive change. Presenters will provide examples of easily replicable, scalable, and customizable tools, approaches, and practices used by Oregon GEAR UP schools. Hear how they have addressed common data-related needs and encourage data literacy among stakeholders. Through guided activities, participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences, strategies, and challenges around data use and sharing.

Julia Alemany, M.S., Senior Associate, Metis Associates, New York, NY; **Jennica Vincent**, M.Ed., Research and Evaluation Specialist, Oregon GEAR UP, Corvallis, OR

SESSION #90

Credit 4 Life: A Hands-On Financial Literacy Experience

Lincoln West

Students throughout our country struggle with financial literacy; our students are no different. The importance of learning how to manage finances is a skill our students can experience in a fun, interactive, and tangible way through the Credit 4 Life program. Attendees will participate in a Credit 4 Life event first hand to understand the program design. Attendees will leave this workshop with the knowledge and ability to host a Credit 4 Life program of their own.

Jean Adams, GEAR UP Advisor, Valley Opportunity Council, Springfield, MA; **Jennifer Baymon**, GEAR UP Advisor, Valley Opportunity Council, Springfield, MA; **Hillisa Byer**, Regional Program Coordinator, Valley Opportunity Council, Chicopee, MA; **Mary Colon**, GEAR UP Advisor, Valley Opportunity Council, Holyoke, MA; **Erica Greene**, GEAR UP Advisor, Valley Opportunity Council, Springfield, MA; **Kristen Wing**, Director of College and Career Readiness, Valley Opportunity Council, Chicopee, MA

SESSION #91

Gearing Students Up to Become Future Proof Through Mindful, Intentional, Strategic Action

Kalorama

This data-driven, interactive session will take an in-depth look at using data tools—including noncognitive assessments, ACT Benchmarks, and how to effectively incorporate the data produced by these tools—to build meaningful college and career experiences addressing students' needs and interests. Presenters will showcase how to use these tools and data to build programs that will best prepare students who go on to earn postsecondary education degrees. Participants will obtain knowledge through facilitated dialogue simulating conversations that occur within our data team.

Wade Leuwerke, GEAR UP Iowa, Research and Training Director, Iowa College Aid, Des Moines, IA; **Amalia Riordan**, GEAR UP Iowa Coach, GEAR UP Iowa, Des Moines, IA; **Nate Svare**, GEAR UP Iowa Facilitator, Iowa College Aid, Des Moines, IA

SESSION #92

Providing Opportunities for All Students to Achieve Success Through College, Career, and Community Partnerships

Gunston

In this session, presenters will share how a team of high school, college, career, and community partners can organize, systematize, and maximize resources to support the college and career dreams of all students. Participants will engage in an interactive goal-setting process and learn how to align and carry out these goals with their team through a monthly collaborative. Program leaders will also see the benefit of formalizing these partnerships to sustain these efforts and maximize program impact on a district level through the Anaheim Union Educational Pledge.

Adriana Badillo, Interim Director, Educational Partnerships, CSU Fullerton, Fullerton, CA; **Karina Bradford**, Counselor, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Katrina Callaway**, Principal, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Manuel Colon**, Chief Academic Officer, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA; **Carlos Hernandez**, Director of Guidance and Student Services, Anaheim Union High School District, Anaheim, CA

SESSION #93

Emotional Intelligence: A Superpower for Educators!

Georgetown West

Emotional intelligence is the ability to recognize your own emotions and how they impact those around you. It also involves the capacity to understand, and in turn influence, the emotions of others. In this activity-based workshop, you will learn the five emotional intelligence competencies and how emotional intelligence, paired with intellectual intelligence, improves problem-solving, collaboration, relationship management, and the ability to be in tune with your students. You will also be charged with tapping into your emotional intelligence through a group project that you can also execute in your school or organization.

Tamekia Flowers-Ball, CEO, Epiphany Blue, Brooklyn, NY; **Simone Waugh**, Coordinator, Programs and Events, Epiphany Blue, Brooklyn, NY

SESSION #94

Money Matters: Inject "Cha-Ching!" Into Financial Literacy Curriculum

Rock Creek

Perhaps the most critical area of college prep for students? Money! Financial education is integral for first-generation, low-income students to have an equal footing at college and in life. With a topic this important, curriculum needs to have a little "cha-ching!" to be effective, interesting, and educational for students of all ages. This interactive session covers how to creatively broach the topic of financial literacy from middle school through college-level students. Discover best practices for providing substantive curriculum, conducting assessments, and increasing student engagement. Attendees will walk away with financial curriculum materials and activities ready to present to students!

Aimee Gutowski, Founder & Owner, DreamCatcher Curriculum, Fayetteville, AR; **Whitney Srsen**, Founder & Owner, DreamCatcher Curriculum, Fayetteville, AR

SESSION #95

Writing Strategies for Students to Create Powerful Essays for Scholarship Applications and College Admission

Morgan

One of the scariest parts of the college admission process for students is writing the dreaded college essay. In this interactive workshop, you'll learn five tips for teaching students how to write their best scholarship or college entrance essay. With our tested methods in your toolbox, writer's block, poorly structured essays, and unsubstantiated claims will be a thing of the past! You'll take home templates to help your students put their best foot forward every time they set pen to paper.

Jenee Chizick-Agüero, Founder/Publisher, Motivos Bilingual Magazine, Philadelphia, PA

SESSION #96

Begin with the Win in Mind: Nurturing Competitive Students for College Success

Jay

Research has shown that students enrolled in college persistence programs graduate at higher rates. In this session, Chicago GEAR UP will share best practices used to increase the number of students who apply and are accepted into selective programs with partner organizations that focus on college persistence. The presenters will share the steps and tools used to create strategic programming aimed at preparing students for these competitive opportunities as well as strategies used to increase parents' knowledge and engagement in the process. Participants will discuss best practices and challenges while interacting with tools used to prepare staff, students, and parents.

Xavier Diaz, College Access Facilitator, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Khadeejah Lasuc Lewis**, Senior Program Manager, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Tricia Rosado**, Assistant Director, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; **Anali Vargas**, Community Education Facilitator, Center for College Access and Success/Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

SESSION #97

Building a College Going Culture: A Case Study in Lubbock, Texas

Fairchild

Creating a college-going culture is one of the most effective strategies your GEAR UP grant can implement to increase student success rates. But it's hard to get students to change from old ways of thinking, while getting professional staff, parents, and even the community to buy in and get on the same page. Estacado High School has implemented a college-going, rigorous curriculum geared toward addressing GEAR UP stakeholders and has experienced great success. Learn how they implemented this effective programming and how you can as well. Learn how to get students excited about college.

Nichole Gonzalez, Unit Coordinator, Lubbock, TX GEAR UP, Lubbock, TX; **Angelica Wilbanks**, M.ED., Principal, Estacado High School, Lubbock, TX; **La'Ryon Witherspoon**, Prep-Advisor, Lubbock, TX GEAR UP, Lubbock, TX

SESSION #98

Removing Barriers: ACT Academy Launches!

Piscataway

In March 2018, ACT launched the student experience of ACT Academy. ACT Academy is a free online learning tool and test practice program that helps students improve their college and career readiness by providing them with video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, educational games and other materials targeted to their academic needs. Each student receives their own personalized study plan based on their scores from the ACT® test, PreACT®, official ACT practice tests, or diagnostics within ACT Academy. In August 2018, ACT will be launching the teacher, parent and administrator experience. Using ACT Academy, teachers will have access to a personalized repository of resources and a ready to use digital curriculum that is mapped to key standards. Teachers and administrators will also have access to dynamic reporting that provides meaningful data that can be used to effectively inform instruction. This no-cost solution will combine meaningful formative assessments and aligned resources that seamlessly integrate with a variety of learning management systems, tools, and apps. Join this session to learn more about ACT Academy and how ACT continues to work towards fulfilling its mission, to help people achieve education and workplace success.

Mary Fluharty, Senior Product Manager, Curriculum, ACT, Inc., Alexandria, VA

SPECIAL SESSION

Defining the Future of GEAR UP: Unpacking the Reauthorization Process

Georgetown East

With the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act underway, what does the future hold for GEAR UP? As a once-in-a-decade process, the reauthorization is our best opportunity to advance major priorities for the GEAR UP community. Yet, the process is fraught with tactical and political challenges. Come join this session to learn more about our priorities are faring in the House and Senate, gain a deeper understanding of the underlying dynamics on the Hill, and learn how you can help educate your members. Please note that while all are welcome, this session is intended for senior GEAR UP and institutional leaders who are at least somewhat familiar with the GEAR UP for Success Act.

Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, Washington, DC

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm **GEAR UP Directors' Meeting**
International Ballroom (East)

Wednesday | July 18

7:00 am – 1:00 pm **Conference Registration and Information Booth Open**
Terrace Foyer East

7:30 am – 8:45 am **Networking Breakfast** *(Meal Ticket Required)*
International Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Wednesday Morning Plenary: “The Power (and Promise) of the Future”**
International Ballroom

Sponsored by: ACT

Presentation of the Youth of the Year Award

Ranjit Sidhu, President & CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

2018 Youth Leadership Summit Presentation

10:45 am – 12:00 pm **Wednesday Morning Concurrent Sessions**

SESSION #99

U.S. Department of Education Meeting with GEAR UP Project Directors

Jefferson

GEAR UP Project Directors are invited to join leaders from the GEAR UP program office at the U.S. Department of Education in a private meeting to receive updates and technical assistance, and engage in a dialogue on GEAR UP-related issues. Please note that to keep the dialogue manageable, this meeting is limited to GEAR UP Directors and one guest of their choice.

Karmon Simms-Coates, Lead Program Officer, GEAR UP, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

SESSION #100

Student Reading, Achievement, and Leadership: A Pathway to Postsecondary Preparedness

Lincoln East

The presentation will be an interactive dialogue about the Student Reading Achievement and Leadership Program (SRALP). The directors will provide an overview of the program as well as the process of building quality partnerships with GEAR UP directors, parents, university, and community stakeholders. In addition, you will hear from student leaders in the program who will share their stories and experiences along the "pathway" leading to early preparation for post-secondary education. This special SRALP presentation will be an interactive exchange of ideas about our summer program, academic/enrichment programs, campus tours, character and leadership programs, and educational field trips along with other activities, in partnership with GEAR UP Birmingham, to increase student awareness and preparation for post-secondary education.

Tarsha Bluiett, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Samford University, Birmingham, AL; **Monique Gardner-Witherspoon**, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Samford University, Birmingham, AL

SESSION #101

Making the Most of National GEAR UP Week

Lincoln West

With tightening federal, state and local budgets, it's never been more important to let the world know the great work GEAR UP is doing. With National GEAR UP Week (September 23–29, 2018) approaching, are you wondering about what you're going to do? Do you have some ideas you'd like to expand upon? Worry not! Attend this session to get up to speed and have your site ready to go for National GEAR UP Week. The session will feature practical ideas, strategies, and examples of activities you can organize with just a little bit of advance planning. We'll feature some planning tools and materials to help you along the way, too. Attendees will also self-select into small groups to share ideas across a range of activities, from the school house to the state house.

Meghan Cave, Director of College Pathways and Communications, Colorado GEAR UP, Denver, CO; **Alex Chough**, Vice President for Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, Washington, DC; **Nicole Saenz**, Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP, Edinburg, TX; **Lesli Yogi**, Business & Community Outreach Specialist, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, Honolulu, HI

SESSION #102

The 7th Year: What Institutes of Higher Education Want You to Know

Columbia 7

Join Region One ESC GEAR UP to explore how to effectively plan the 7th year in partnership with an institute of higher education (IHE). Participants will gain an understanding of the organizational structure of an IHE, and the planning necessary to be prepared to roll out a comprehensive plan of support on day one of the 7th year of the grant. Region One ESC, Texas Southmost College, and Texas State Technical College will detail lessons learned, and participants will take away a sample timeline that can be utilized for proactive planning of GEAR UP student services in college.

Angela Delamar, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, TX; **Robert Foshie**, Assistant Director, Advisement Center, Texas State Technical College, Harlingen, TX; **Angelica Fuentes**, Associate Vice President of Academic Success, Texas Southmost College, Brownsville, TX; **Kristopher McKinney**, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, Edinburg, TX

SESSION #103

The Truth About College: Parents Speak!

Columbia 10

Ever wonder what happens to parents when their kids go to college? Well, ask a parent! Parents play an important role in their children's education as they go through public school, but what happens when college begins? They become lost in the shuffle trying to navigate the institutional processes. They still want to be involved and engaged, but they don't know how to. Join us as we hear from first year college parents and they share their concerns, fears, and frustrations in dealing with the postsecondary experience as well as their ideas for parent support at the college level.

Ricardo Lopez, Education Specialist, Region One ESC Ready, Set, College! Partnership, Edinburg, TX

SESSION #104

You Can Get There from Here: An Evaluation Study of Postsecondary Persistence in Rural Maine

Morgan

Tune in on how GEAR UP Maine turned high school seniors into postsecondary scholars. Presenters will provide an overview of three evaluation studies being conducted in Maine to improve: postsecondary retention rates; learning opportunities to help students connect to their passions; and postsecondary aspirations and habits. Attendees will plunge into the Aroostook Scholars Project, a postsecondary persistence and retention evaluation study. Our first wave of participants finished their first year in the program and described the mentoring experiences that had the most impact. Join us as we dive deeply into focus group results using a qualitative data analysis protocol.

Sally Beaulieu, Evaluation Study Coordinator, GEAR UP Maine/Syntiro, Readfield, ME; **Tricia Brainard**, Ed.D., Director of Evaluation and Research, Xcalibur, Las Cruces, NM; **Julie Jaramillo**, Director of Data Quality, Xcalibur, Rio Rancho, NM

SESSION #105

Implementing a Holistic Growth Mindset Framework for GEAR UP Grants

Fairchild

In this workshop, attendees will be presented with a case study of a successfully implemented growth mindset framework through a partnership with California State University Monterey Bay GEAR UP and Study Smart Tutors using a holistic approach involving all key stakeholders. This workshop will highlight the most practical methods of promoting growth mindset interventions to students, such as process praise and celebrating effective effort. Workshop attendees will collaborate with their peers to develop an effective strategy specific to their grant to deliver a successful growth mindset program to the families, staff, and parents that they serve.

Christian Smith, Interim Associate Director, California State University Monterey Bay GEAR UP, Seaside, CA; **Kevin Snyder**, Program Director, Study Smart Tutors, San Francisco, CA

SESSION #106

Learn More Indiana Magazines: Student Guides to College and Career Success

Monroe

Come learn how one state is promoting a college-going culture through student success magazines. In this session, we will provide the tools and strategies to create a series of K-12 student magazines focused on college and career readiness. Join us to discuss the process of creating publications, how you can replicate and integrate them in your own program, and ideas for partnerships to help fund and promote them. Attendees will walk away with sample magazines and ideas for grade-specific content and activities about three topics: college, career, and cost.

Shannon Elward, Assistant Director of Communications, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN; **Barbie Martin**, Director of School and Community Outreach, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN

SESSION #107

From Zero to 60: How Texas GEAR UP Has Engaged 60% of the State

Columbia 1

Combining a long-term vision, research, and imagination, TXGU has grown from a big idea to an even bigger reality. Though we've reached over 600 Texas Independent School Districts (ISDs), TXGU's footprint wasn't always so expansive. As we look toward the 7th year, it's time to reflect and share the lessons we've learned along the way. We will walk attendees through our approach to creating the TXGU brand; its engaging (and free!) tools for educators, students, and parents; and the outreach methodology that has resulted in TXGU resources being accessed by almost two-thirds of the state's school districts, both GEAR UP and non-GEAR UP schools alike.

Ryann Malone, Managing Director, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX; **Robyn Beck**, Creative Operations Manager, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX; **Jennifer Gritti**, Marketing Manager, AMS Public Interest, Austin, TX

SESSION #108

Best Practices in College Access and Success Program Implementation for GEAR UP Site Coordinators

Columbia 2

Using an interactive discussion format, this session will first provide attendees with a list of the most common barriers and challenges that frequently prevent effective implementation of GEAR UP programming. The workshop will then supply attendees with templates, best practices, strategies, techniques, and approaches that have been used to successfully overcome these common barriers which provide each school and student the greatest opportunity to thrive. The target audience for this session is GEAR UP site coordinators and others who are responsible for planning and implementing GEAR UP services within a school context.

Duane Gregg, Regional Coordinator – East, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN; **Shayla Guy Kolheim**, Regional Coordinator – West, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Nashville, TN

SESSION #109

Collecting, Organizing, and Analyzing Data: Lessons Learned from Evaluating a State GEAR UP Grant

Columbia 5

In this session, presenters will discuss lessons learned in evaluating a state program in three sections: data collection, organization, and analysis. First, the presenters will discuss readily available tools that can collect current and historical data and create live dashboards. Second, the presenters will discuss how to construct a relational database when unique identifiers are incomplete. Finally, during the analysis section, the presenters will explore how to construct a comparison group using propensity matching techniques. While the primary audience for this session is evaluators, evaluation is a collaborative endeavor and all GEAR UP stakeholders are invited to attend.

Sarah Beu, Evaluation Specialist, University of Michigan School of Education Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research (CEDER), Ann Arbor, MI; **Joy Johnson**, Data Analysis Team Lead, University of Michigan School of Education Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research (CEDER), Ann Arbor, MI; **Lauren Tighe**, Assistant Research Analyst, University of Michigan School of Education Center for Education Design, Evaluation and Research (CEDER), Ann Arbor, MI

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

Closing Lunch and Adjournment
International Ballroom

ABOUT THE PLENARY SPEAKERS

Monday Morning Plenary



Aaron Thompson

Aaron Thompson is the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary

Education. He is also a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. He was the former Interim President of Kentucky State University.

Dr. Thompson has a Ph.D. in Sociology in areas of Organizational Behaviour and Race and Gender relations. He has over 27 years of leadership experience in higher education and business. In addition, he has spent numerous years serving on non-profit boards in leadership roles. Thompson has researched, taught and/or consulted in areas of diversity, leadership, ethics, multicultural families, race and ethnic relations, student success, first-year students, retention, cultural competence and organizational design throughout his personal career. He has over 30 publications and numerous research and peer reviewed presentations.

Thompson has travelled over the U.S. and has given more than 800 workshops, seminars and invited lectures in areas of race and gender diversity, living an unbiased life, overcoming obstacles to gain success, creating a school environment for academic success, cultural competence, workplace interaction, leadership, organizational goal setting, building relationships, the first-year seminar, and a variety of other topics. He has been or is a consultant to educational institutions (elementary, secondary and postsecondary), corporations, non-profit organizations, police departments, and other governmental agencies. His latest authored or co-authored books are: *Changing Student Culture from the Ground Up*, *The Sociological Outlook*, *Infusing Diversity and Cultural Competence into Teacher Education*, *Peer to Peer Leadership*:

Changing Student Culture from the Ground Up. He also co-authored *Thriving in College and Beyond: Research-Based Strategies for Academic Success*, *Thriving in the Community College and Beyond: Research-Based Strategies for Academic Success and Personal Development*, *Diversity and the College Experience*, *Focus on Success and Black Men and Divorce*.



Ranjit Sidhu

Ranjit was appointed President & CEO of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCPEP) in

2015. He has a long history of service to NCCPEP and its primary constituency, GEAR UP, having served on NCCPEP's Board of Directors, and years prior as a member of the staff executive team.

Prior to assuming this role, Ranjit served as senior vice president for strategy and new product development at the College Board. There he was responsible for the development and integration of the organization's comprehensive strategy, working across the organization to determine how all current and future work can achieve significant and positive social impact.

Ranjit's previous roles include serving as senior vice president for strategic initiatives at ACT, where he played a significant role in developing the education division's strategic plan and future product development efforts and led national efforts focused on policy development, advocacy, and partnerships in the education and workforce development arenas. Ranjit also previously served as executive vice president at NCCPEP, and as executive vice president & COO at the National Association of Partners in Education. Early in his career he was a high school social studies teacher in the Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County, Maryland, public school districts.



Congressman Tom Cole

Currently serving in his eighth term, Tom Cole was elected to Congress in 2002. He was identified as “one of the sharpest minds in the

House,” by Time Magazine and “the hardest working Member of Congress,” by Newsmax. In 2017, Cole was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

In Congress, Cole is recognized as an advocate for taxpayers and small business, a proponent for a strong national defense and a leader in promoting biomedical research. He is considered the [foremost] expert in the House on issues dealing with Native Americans and tribal governments. The National Congress of the American Indian has cited Cole for distinguished service on three different occasions (2007, 2011 and 2017), more than any other Member of Congress in the history of the organization.

Since 2009, Cole has served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he chairs the subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. He also serves on the subcommittee for Defense and Interior appropriations. Cole represents the Appropriations Committee on the House Budget Committee, serving as the senior Appropriator on the panel. In 2012, Cole was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the House Committee on Rules. In 2017, he was named Vice Chairman of the committee. Cole also serves as a Deputy Whip for the Republican Conference.

Tom Cole has a significant background of service to his home state of Oklahoma. He has served as the State Chairman of the Oklahoma Republican Party, District Director to former Congressman Mickey Edwards, a member of the Oklahoma State Senate and as Oklahoma’s Secretary of State. In this capacity, he served as former Governor Frank Keating’s chief legislative strategist and liaison to the state’s federal delegation. Keating tapped Cole to lead Oklahoma’s successful effort to secure federal funds to assist in the rebuilding of Oklahoma City

in the wake of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murray Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

A former college instructor in history and politics, Cole holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, a M.A. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Cole has been a Thomas Watson Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of London. Tom has also received honorary degrees from Randall University, Oklahoma City University and Grinnell College. He serves on the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents and the national board of the Fulbright Association. He is also a member of the Congressional Advisory Board to the Aspen Institute.

Tom and his wife, Ellen, have one son, Mason, and reside in Moore, Oklahoma.



Adam Kissel

Adam Kissel is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs in the Office of Postsecondary Education.

He most recently was Senior Program Officer at the Charles Koch Foundation, responsible for major higher education grants. Prior to that he was Vice President of Programs for the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, directing the program that defended fundamental rights of students and faculty members across the country. He holds degrees from Harvard University and the University of Chicago.



Austin and Terance Perine

Real Life Superheroes

Monday Luncheon Plenary



Alex Sheen

Alex Sheen is the founder of because I said I would, a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to bettering humanity

through promises made and kept. Sparked by the loss of his father, Alex and his organization send “promise cards” to anyone anywhere in the world at no cost. Alex is someone who truly honors commitment. He once walked over 240 miles across the entire state of Ohio in 10 days to fulfill a promise. Since his father’s passing on September 4, 2012, because I said I would has sent over 4.47 million promise cards to over 150 countries. The promises written on these cards have made headlines around the world. His charitable projects and awareness campaigns have been featured on ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, CBS Nightly News, Fox News, CNN, The Today Show, Good Morning America, NPR, The Los Angeles Times, and many other programs. He has also been featured on the cover of Spirit Magazine, honored as a Steve Harvey “Harvey’s Hero” and was the closing TED speaker at TEDxUtica and TEDxYouth@Austin. Alex’s efforts in social media were featured in BuzzFeed’s “Most Important Viral Videos of 2013” and have made the #1 spot on the front page of Reddit.com over 10 times.

Tuesday Morning Plenary



Senator Joe Manchin

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was sworn into the United States Senate on November 15, 2010 to fill the seat left vacant by the late Senator Robert C.

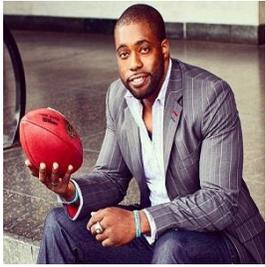
Byrd. For Senator Manchin, serving as West Virginia’s Senator is truly an honor and a privilege.

Born and raised in the small coal mining town of Farmington, W.Va., Sen. Manchin grew up learning the values that all West Virginians share – family, common sense, fairness and hard work. As a small businessman, he learned firsthand from his grandfather, Papa Joe, who was an Italian immigrant and the town grocer, the importance of serving the public. As a young man, his beloved grandmother, Mama Kay, inspired Senator Manchin’s belief in public service through her unflagging compassion and desire to help those less fortunate. More than anything, it is his family and the values he learned growing up among the hardworking men and women of West Virginia that define who Senator Manchin is and the public servant he strives to be.

He began his tenure as West Virginia’s 34th governor in January 2005. Then-Governor Manchin approved millions of dollars in tax relief for West Virginia’s citizens and businesses, fixed the state’s workers’ compensation system, established the first comprehensive teacher pay package in more than 15 years and dramatically decreased the state’s debt. In six years, more than \$13 billion in business investments were made, and West Virginia was often cited nationally for its strong fiscal management.

As a Senator, Joe Manchin is committed to bringing this same spirit of bipartisanship to Washington. As he has done throughout his entire life, he remains committed to working with Republicans and Democrats to find commonsense solutions to the problems our country faces and is working hard to usher in a new bipartisan spirit in the Senate and Congress.

Senator Manchin currently serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs - four critical committees that tackle the important work of addressing our nation’s energy needs, standing up for our veterans, and overseeing discretionary spending and intelligence activities.



Brian Banks

One of the country's most prominent exonerees, this former football star inspires with his unforgettable, life-affirming story of

resiliency, redemption and triumph over adversity and injustice.

A high school football star with his sights set on the NFL and a full-ride scholarship offer to pave his way, Brian's dreams were shattered when he was falsely accused and convicted of kidnap and rape. Ultimately exonerated after serving more than five years in prison and another five as a registered sex offender, he regained his reputation and now serves as a prominent and powerful activist against wrongful convictions.

Motivated by his motto, "the power of choice," Brian offers a deeply personal perspective on every individual's capacity to choose how hardship and adversity affect their future. He leaves audiences with a renewed sense of optimism, as well as takeaways on the resilience of the human spirit and purposeful choices you can make to move your life in a positive direction.

Tuesday Luncheon Plenary



Gabby Rivera

Gabby Rivera is a young, charming speaker dedicated to empowering women and improving our marginalized communities. She's

currently making major waves for her new Marvel series starring America Chavez: a queer, Latinx superhero who's been written and designed, crucially, by a queer Latinx. And while the series is "definitely going to tackle America's ancestry and ethnicity," Rivera tells The Washington Post, it's also a comic book aimed at

wide appeal: committed to snappy one-liners, blowing stuff up, and beating up the bad guys, naturally.

Rivera is also the author of *Juliet Takes a Breath*, a YA novel listed by Mic as one of the 25 essential books to read for women's history month. It's a critically acclaimed coming-of-age story starring a queer puertorriqueña who leaves her native Bronx behind to intern, over one transformative summer, with one of her literary heroes: the feminist author Harlow Brisbane. "I strongly encourage you to read *Juliet Takes a Breath*," writes Roxane Gay. "It's quite dazzling, funny as hell, poignant, all the things." Witty, authentic, and humming with the full complexities of modern life and radical politics, the book was called the "dopest LGBTQ YA book ever" by Latina magazine.

As an activist, Rivera also gives back. She's the Youth Programs Manager at GLSEN (pronounced "glisten"): a leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe and affirming schools for LGBTQ students. That means fewer incidents of bullying and harassment, and more students treated with respect. She's also worked with Autostraddle.com for over five years as the QTPOC Speakeasy editor and A-Camp staff. As a film and multi-media teaching artist, she's worked with social justice organizations like DreamYard Project, Inc. And she's appeared as a featured panelist and counselor at the annual Autostraddle Queer Women's Conference, and has presented at the Allied Media and Digital Media and Learning Conferences.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

DIAMOND

ACT, Inc.

www.act.org

ACT is a nonprofit organization providing a continuum of integrated assessment solutions that align with our mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success.



Xcalibur

www.xcalibur.com

Xcalibur has the tools, resources, and experience that enable you to collect, manage, and analyze student information using a Framework for Accelerating Insight.



PLATINUM

The College Board

www.collegeboard.org

The College Board is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity.



Student Success Agency

www.studentsuccess.co

Student Success Agency provides effective in-kind mentoring programs and software, allowing GEAR UP staffs to track students' paths through college and submit data seamlessly.



Texas Instruments

www.ti.com

For more than 30 years, TI has been an active member of classrooms around the world, empowering teachers and inspiring students to success in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).



SILVER

CoBro Consulting

www.cobroconsulting.com

CoBro Consulting specializes in development and support of large-scale data management systems and comprehensive program evaluation, including survey services, data analysis, and professional results reporting.



Seeds Training

www.seedstraining.com

Seeds Training designs and delivers training programs that build life, leadership, and learning skills in students, teachers, and parents around the world.



BRONZE

All Aboard Tours & Travel

www.allaboardtours.com

All Aboard Tours & Travel has made a commitment to make our college tour program the single most important resource for GEAR UP educations.



GOLD

Igloo Software

www.igloosoftware.com

Igloo enables organizations to move beyond a traditional intranet, to a digital destination that brings people and resources together, to solve critical business challenges.



iTutor.com, Inc.

www.itutor.com

iTutor partners with college access programs, providing best-in-class online instruction and iMentoring using state certified educators. Students prefer this hi-touch/hi-tech service. Administrators appreciate our generous match.



Nellie Mae Education Foundation

www.nmefoundation.org

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is the largest philanthropy in New England dedicated exclusively to education.



The Princeton Review

www.princetonreview.com

The Princeton Review has been partnering with GEAR UP for 17+ years. Together we created better futures through Better Grades, Better Scores, and Better Applications.



MasteryPrep

www.masteryprep.com

MasteryPrep is the nation's leading ACT® prep innovator. Come learn how we have decoded the ACT for under-served students.



CONTRIBUTOR

Conference Direct

www.conferencedirect.com

For more than 15 years, Conference Direct has helped clients save time and money by securing the best hotel accommodations, meeting spaces, conference venues, and hospitality services available.



Career & College Clubs

www.edpartnerships.org/cc

NCCEP's Career & College Clubs is a research-based, career and college readiness program for grades 7 - 12. Career & College Clubs is ideal for GEAR UP programs seeking content proven to have an impact.



Washington Hilton

www.washingtonhilton.com

For more than 15 years, Conference Direct has helped clients save time and money by securing the best hotel accommodations, meeting spaces, conference venues, and hospitality services available.





**National Council for Community
and Education Partnerships**

1331 H Street, NW | Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
(202)-530-1135 tel
(202)-530-0809 fax
edpartnerships.org

NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference

Washington, DC

July 15-18, 2018