



EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

2020 Capacity-Building Workshop

Orlando, FL • February 23 - 26



Join Us for the CBW!
Orlando, Florida
February 23–26, 2020



NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

SUNDAY / FEB. 23

The 2020 Capacity-Building Workshop is coordinated by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP), the national association of the GEAR UP program.

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
CBW Registration & Information Booth Open

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Connecting to the Big Picture: An Orientation to GEAR UP

MONDAY / FEB. 24

7:00 am - 4:00 pm
CBW Registration & Information Booth Open

7:00 am - 7:45 am
Networking Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am
WELCOME REMARKS & BURST SESSION

9:15 am - 10:30 am
Workshops

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Corridor

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Workshops (cont.)

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm
Networking Lunch

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
GEAR UP Skill-Building Seminars

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

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
GEAR UP Affinity Groups

TUESDAY / FEB. 25

7:00 am - 4:00 pm
CBW Registration & Information Booth Open

7:00 am - 7:45 am
Networking Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am
BURST SESSION

9:15 am - 10:30 am
Workshops

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Corridor

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Workshops (cont.)

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm
Networking Lunch

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
GEAR UP Skill-Building Seminars

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

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
GEAR UP Team Debrief

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
GEAR UP Directors' Meeting

WEDNESDAY / FEB. 26

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

7:00 am - 7:45 am
Networking Breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am
BURST SESSION

9:15 am - 10:30 am
Workshops & Learning Labs

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Networking Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Workshops & Learning Labs (cont.)

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm
Closing Lunch & Adjournment

Sunday | February 23

- 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Registration and Information Booth Open**
North Foyer (Lobby)
- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm **Connecting to the Big Picture: An Orientation to GEAR UP**
Salon XI & XII

Monday | February 24

- 7:00 am – 4:00 pm **Registration and Information Booth Open**
North Foyer (Lobby)
- 7:00 am – 7:45 am **Networking Breakfast**
Floridian Ballroom
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am **WELCOME REMARKS AND BURST SESSION**
Floridian Ballroom

Speakers:

Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Aaron Thompson, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Chris McCaghren, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education



Pamela Talbert
Assistant Principal, Istrouma Middle School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

From janitor to assistant principal, Pamela Talbert is an inspiration for each of the students she serves. Now an assistant principal at a middle school, Talbert started working in a school as a janitor and was a bus driver. When her children were in school, she discovered that her reading was at a third-grade level and took the opportunity to learn how to read from her children. She went on to earn her bachelor's and master's from Southern University, then spent several years teaching.

Now an assistant principal, Talbert instills in students the same message she told herself for years – to continue to drive forward. Her mission is to serve students and ensure that they do not face the same barriers she did – that every student can succeed. One of her next goals is to return to school with her eldest son and, together, earn their PhDs.

- 9:15 am – 10:30 am **WORKSHOPS**
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am **Networking Break and Raffle in Exhibit Corridor**
North Foyer



EXCEL WORKSHOP E1: Preparing New GEAR UP Leaders for Success, Part 1: Compliance and Administration

Salon I & II

Speakers: **Lois Bramwell**, Director, GEAR UP 4 LA, Los Angeles Unified School District
Marcie Mills Sample, Associate Director for College Access & Support, Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State GEAR UP

Overview: Do you have administrative responsibilities for your GEAR UP grant at the program or site level? Come hear from experienced GEAR UP leaders about the fundamentals of managing your GEAR UP program, key compliance issues related to the legislation and regulations, and join a forum to discuss solutions to challenges you may be facing. This workshop will be packed with opportunities to take a deep dive into key issues related to grant management. Attendees will have a chance to reflect on their own practices, discuss practices with others, and leave with ideas to enhance their grant management practices. While this session is ideal for those who are new to GEAR UP, it can be a great refresher for seasoned professionals, too. This workshop is the first part of a two-part series to help new GEAR UP leaders succeed; part two will be during an afternoon seminar on Tuesday.

Objectives:

- Learn about key compliance issues in GEAR UP.
- Discuss key issues and solutions with peers.
- Complete exercises intended to help plan for enhancing grant management practices.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E2: Redefining College Readiness Using Developmental Principles

Salon IV & V

Speaker: **Mandy Savitz-Romer**, Ph.D., Senior Education Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Overview: Most GEAR UP staff and partners know that an understanding of youth development is essential to their work, but few are able to bridge this knowledge to everyday implementation and practice. During this workshop, Dr. Mandy Savitz-Romer will explain how an understanding of adolescent development informs specific strategies and practices for supporting first-generation college-bound students and other students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Participants will learn why traditional college readiness strategies may not reach all students and how they can modify their college-readiness practices to support students' access to and through postsecondary education. Using activities designed to build on existing practices, attendees will leave the session with new ideas and innovative strategies to incorporate into their programming. This workshop is suited for anyone responsible for implementing direct student programming.

Objectives:

- Gain knowledge about how adolescent development influences college going aspirations, beliefs, and behaviors.
- Increase your understanding of how to promote your students' multicultural college-going identities.

- Share and learn strategies for supporting students' college-going identities and motivations.
- Gain practical strategies for incorporating developmental principles into your everyday practices.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E3: Nurturing a College-Going Culture that Ignites Engagement, Involvement, and Buy-In

Salon X & XI

Speakers: **April Bell**, Director of Constituent Relations, NCCEP
Nona Donovan, New York State GEAR UP Director, NYGEAR UP, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation
Pamela Davis, Ed.D., GEAR UP Project Director, Duval County Public Schools
Traci M. Zamor, School Counseling Specialist, GEAR UP, Duval County Public Schools

Overview: When you walk through the doors of your middle and high schools, do you immediately get the sense that you have entered a school that is deliberately developing and sustaining a college-going culture? Beyond college banners and bulletin boards, is there a clear sign that the students, teachers, counselors, and administrators are collectively embracing and executing the mission that supports college and career readiness for all students? Join this workshop, as an individual or a team, to participate in a highly-interactive, working-group style session, where we will dissect and reconstruct the college-going culture of a school community. Participants will review, discuss, and analyze the research-based non-negotiables deemed essential for ensuring that all students experience a school environment that inspires, nurtures, and supports their college and career-readiness goals and aspirations.

Objectives:

- Define a shared understanding of a college-going culture within the GEAR UP community.
- Establish a framework for understanding how to affect culture.
- Assess our progress towards common GEAR UP strategies.
- Complete an action-planning process for the academic school year and summer programs.



PROVE WORKSHOP P1: Communicating Impactful Data Stories Utilizing Data Visualization Best Practices

Salon VII & VIII

Speaker: **Jennifer Nulty**, Founder & Designer, Pivot Data Design

Overview: Today, data is everywhere. Nonprofits often have access to massive amounts of data about client participation and program effectiveness. Extracting useful takeaway messages and next steps can be challenging. Traditionally, data is communicated using dry reports, stuck in boring tables and charts. We have the power and opportunity to transform data reporting into deliverables that engage our clients, funders, and community partners. Harnessing the power of our data by using effective storytelling and visualization techniques gives evaluators and program staff the potential to better communicate need, inequality, and program outcomes. In an effort to grow awareness of responsible data reporting practices, this workshop will cover ways to equitably represent data stories highlighting the experiences of populations served. Intentional data visualization can be a powerful tool for social change. Grounded in visual processing theory, the principles discussed in this lecture style workshop will enhance attendees' ability to communicate more effectively with peers, colleagues, and clients with a

focus on the proper use of color, layout, visuals, and strategic text. You will walk away knowing the anatomy of a good visualization and will have more tools to better design your PowerPoint presentations, reports, fact sheets, dashboards, and conference posters.

Objectives:

- Be able to apply graphic design best practices to enhance data visualizations with simple, implementable steps.
- Be better equipped to present data that tells a story, leading to increased audience engagement and data-driven decision making.
- Better understand equitable data storytelling practices.



PROVE WORKSHOP P2: HotDiggity Data: An Applicable Way for Coordinators to Use Data

Salon III

Speaker: **Christina Welch**, Counselor, Mabel School, Watauga County Schools

Overview: Why? Why do we do what we do, and does it actually work? This workshop will focus on how to look at simple data to drive your programming. And, we will make it fun! We will identify what pieces of easily-accessible data will be the most helpful, look at current programming and how it relates to your current data, and start to develop a plan for the next school year. Programming ideas will also be given to help with your brainstorming. Learn from a seasoned counselor who implements college-going programming into every aspect of the school culture. The first half is lecture-based with the last twenty minutes dedicated to participants making a programming plan. Intended audience(s) include GEAR UP coordinators, counselors, advisors, or anyone with a passion to bridge programming and data.

Objectives:

- Learn to identify data points to help drive your programming.
- Evaluate your current programming.
- Leave with the beginnings of a programming plan for the upcoming school year.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M1: Culture, Identity, and Experience: Building an Effective GEAR UP Brand

Citrus, Collier, Columbia

Speakers: **Praveen Vajpeyi**, Creative Director, Mastery Transcript Consortium
Kim Drummond, Executive Director, GEAR UP Kentucky

Overview: Your brand is more than a logo or a social media account—it is the mental and emotional perception people have of your organization, product, or service. A brand builds awareness, recognition, trust, and an emotional bond with your community as they interact with you across all channels and touchpoints. GEAR UP does amazing work which, on occasion, does not translate to brand halo. Join this interactive workshop—suited for any individual or team who is looking to strengthen their brand effectiveness for an activity or GEAR UP program—to learn how to apply the art and science of branding to your work.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the underlying principles of branding.
- Learn principles to express your identity, stand out, and deepen relationships.
- Learn about practical approaches for developing, testing, and communicating your brand.

- Participate in hands-on exercises to begin developing your brand.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M2: Tactics, Tools & Time: Building a Social Media Strategy from the Ground Up
Salon XII

Speakers: **Meghan Ecker-Lyster**, Ph.D., Director, Research, Evaluation & Dissemination
University of Kansas Center for Educational Opportunity Programs
Laura Kingston, Communications Coordinator, University of Kansas Center for
Educational Opportunity Programs
Tonya Waller, Ed.D., Director, University of Kansas GEAR UP Topeka

Overview: You know that social media is a necessary tool to effectively promote your program and connect with your GEAR UP community, but what next? Because each GEAR UP program is different, how your program leverages social media should be, too.

This interactive work session will dive deep into the most effective social media tactic—your GEAR UP story. Personal stories are at the center of the best social media strategies because they resonate with your GEAR UP community, but can also improve participation, engage stakeholders, and create a college-going mindset.

While exploring social media tactics, participants will learn how to save time managing program social media platforms and explore tools to ensure your posts have a powerful impact. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice promoting a GEAR UP activity to a targeted audience, effectively collect GEAR UP stories, and receive a toolkit to successfully plan a long-term social media strategy.

This session is designed for program directors, site coordinators, and communication specialists at all levels of social media expertise.

Objectives:

- Explore strategies of how social media can engage a GEAR UP community.
- Identify key social media tactics, tools, and insights to drive a time-effective digital marketing strategy.
- Practice promoting a GEAR UP story to a targeted audience through an interactive group activity.

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Networking Lunch
Floridian Ballroom

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

GEAR UP SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS



SEMINAR #1: Preparing Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education & Employment
Salon I & II

Speakers: **Julie Johnson**, Director, GEAR UP Partnership, MiraCosta College, Moderator
Angeleah Browdy, Ph.D., Director of Office of Academic Support, UF PROMISE and TRiO
Student Support Services Programs, University of Florida

Tadarrayl Starke, Ed.D., Director, Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement,
Florida State University

Samantha Vega, Associate Director, Center for Inclusion and Campus Involvement,
Rollins College

Overview: Join a panel of higher education experts as they share recommendations and best practices for providing comprehensive programming to support students' successful transitions from secondary to postsecondary success. In collaborative discussion groups, participants will review recommended action steps that aim to enhance student advising practices and analyze the key transition benchmarks that align with GEAR UP programming goals. Participants will also gain strategies on how to maximize their school community resources to enhance student access to college and career resources and support services. This seminar is ideally suited for coordinators, advisors, counselors, and GEAR UP leaders.



SEMINAR #2: What GEAR UP Parents Have to Say

Citrus, Collier, Columbia

Speakers: **Sandra Gil**, GEAR UP Parent, Region One GEAR UP
Herman Lumzy, GEAR UP Parent, Birmingham City Schools GEAR UP
Marva Rucker, GEAR UP Parent, East St. Louis GEAR UP
Natividad Vasquez, GEAR UP CSU Fullerton
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, NCCEP

Overview: Family engagement is a shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities, and is an essential ingredient in the success of GEAR UP students. Yet, with so many variables influencing the participation of families, establishing authentic, co-created family engagement is not an easy endeavor. Join us for an interactive conversation with parent leaders about what motivates them to show up and support their students, learn how their GEAR UP grants engage parents and guardians as assets, and get tips on how best to address parent recruitment. This seminar is ideally suited for family engagement specialists, coordinators, advisors, GEAR UP leaders, and anyone helping to engage families.



SEMINAR #3: Planning for the GEAR UP “Seventh Year”

Salon IV & V

Speakers: **Mary Freeman**, Scholar Coach Manager, GEAR UP Maine
Karen Pugh, GEAR UP Research Specialist, Nevada System of Higher Education

Overview: Serving students beyond high school and into the first year of postsecondary education is a recent phenomenon in GEAR UP, and one in which we continue to explore best practices, refine services, and strive for continuous improvement. During this interactive seminar, attendees will become grounded in research about fostering successful student retention in the first year of postsecondary education; hear lessons learned from GEAR UP professionals who have powered through seventh-year programming; and discuss opportunities, barriers, and potential solutions with peers. Using a common framework, GEAR UP professionals responsible for planning the seventh year (regardless

of grant year or students' grade levels) will leave with tools and ideas that can be implemented to help students succeed in their first year of postsecondary education.

 **SEMINAR #4: Identifying and Enhancing Supports for Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation**
Salon VII & VIII

Speaker: **Nicole Pyle**, Associate Professor, Utah State University

Overview: The most recent adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for public high school students in the U.S. is 85%. Educators need to understand which practices have been shown to keep students in school, progress in school, and eventually graduate high school. Participants will learn which school and student performance indicators are associated with risk for dropping out. Participants will be able to identify supports available to engage students within and across ecological domains (student, family, peer, school, community, and policy). Educators will consider their student and school performance data to determine both targeted and schoolwide approaches to offer support to all students while providing more intensive interventions for those who need it.

 **SEMINAR #5: The Importance of Literacy in a College-Going Culture**
Salon IX

Speakers: **Cathy Moak**, Ph.D., Project Manager, The University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Public School Initiatives
Tricia Pérez, Educator Outreach Coach, The University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Public School Initiatives
Candy Vera, Educator Outreach Coach, The University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Public School Initiatives

Overview: Across the nation, there is an increasing awareness of a major deficit in the literacy achievement of the country's secondary students. This session will help participants understand the importance of creating a campus-wide literacy culture to advance adolescent literacy. Learn the literacy characteristics successful learners need to possess for college readiness. Leave with a way to evaluate and create a plan of action to support literacy success across your campus. This seminar is ideally suited for teachers, coordinators, advisors, counselors, and GEAR UP leaders.

 **SEMINAR #6: Fostering Career Exploration Through Human Connection**
Salon III

Speaker: **Tim Hogan**, Head of New Partnerships, Roadtrip Nation


Overview: Are you looking for ways to help your students explore career options in a meaningful way grounded in connection? Join us in this interactive seminar to dive into new tools and resources that Roadtrip Nation provides (for free!) to support students in their quest to find and connect with authentic career role models. Explore engaging full-length films, video segments, a career exploration assessment, and career pathway stories that highlight the human side of career journeys—celebrating both challenges

and successes. Find out how to incorporate an interview project module to help students increase soft skills around interviewing and networking that will also help them expand their social capital. Be ready to also share your own career pathway story that can make a real impact for students seeking inspiration and advice!

 **SEMINAR #7: Roundtable: Serving Rural Students Effectively**
Salon VI

Speakers: **Chrissy Tillery**, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, NCEP
Nikki Liles, Director, GEAR UP North Carolina
Teena Olszewski, Executive Director, Arizona GEAR UP
Sara White, Director of Programs, Partners for Education at Berea College

Overview: Serving students in rural communities has its own set of challenges, many unique to the community itself. Rural communities face many issues including: less access to qualified teachers, which impacts rigorous course offerings; transportation issues, which impact after school activities; seclusion from college campuses; a lack of cultural enrichment; and a lack of a variety of job opportunities. Data also indicates that rural students have some of the lowest college enrollment rates. Even with all of these barriers, leaders across the country work tirelessly to provide proven strategies for students in rural communities. Join a group of well-seasoned and experienced GEAR UP folks for a roundtable discussion on how to effectively serve students in rural communities.

 **SEMINAR #8: SEL Reconceptualized: Relationships + Reflection = Relevance**
Salon XII

Speaker: **Jennifer Murphy**, Ph.D., Director, Arizona State University GEAR UP

Overview: We teach methods for improving a student's critical thinking, rhetorical analysis, creative thinking, comprehension, and problem-solving skills; but how often do we teach the art of self-reflection? Cultivating this metacognitive skill can increase academic, interpersonal, and emotional resiliency, and lead to student success. As educators, we must navigate our own experiences with self-reflection in order to build relationships with students by asking the right questions and providing the necessary feedback to elicit trust, foster change, and reinforce relevancy in learning. This interactive seminar will offer a unique perspective to cultivate student self-reflection, investigate the quality of relationships we cultivate, address how to engage in collaborative conversations, and explore how to provide change-based feedback. Key topics to be addressed include Johari's Window in relation to exploring social-emotional content, metacognition, and motivational interviewing. Session participants will walk away with research-based practical activities for use with students in the classroom and/or workshop setting.

 **SEMINAR #9: Strategies for Serving Special Populations: Homeless and Foster Care Youth**
Hamilton & Indian River

Speakers: **Marcy Stidum**, Principle Investigator and Director of CARE Services for Kennesaw State University, GEAR UP Georgia Priority Model

Katherine Tatnall-Arias, Program Coordinator, Kennesaw State University, GEAR UP Georgia Priority Model

Torisha Shorte', College Access Advisor, Wichita State University, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP

Jim Fryer, College Access Advisor, Wichita State University, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP

Overview: When reinforced by strong, evidence-based practices, positive school experiences can offset the negative effects of neglect, separation, and lack of permanency experienced by youth that are homeless or in foster care. By allowing students to reach their full potential, the provision of a high-quality education represents perhaps the single greatest possibility for the expansion of opportunity. This seminar will offer GEAR UP practitioners and partners a national overview of the needs of this student population and highlight the promising programs and interventions underway by GEAR UP grant recipients. Their innovative efforts to address a wide range of factors influencing the disparities in education outcomes will be discussed.



SEMINAR #10: Empowering Boys and Young Men of Color (BYMOC)

Salon X & XI

Speakers: **Riccardo Harris**, Executive Director, Wichita GEAR UP-Wichita State University
Alonso Arredondo, Site Coordinator, Southwest Wichita GEAR UP-Wichita State University

Khristopher Hobbs, Founder, Program Administrator, Aspire to Inspire Mentoring Program, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Darius Spurlock, Regional Coordinator and Aspire to Inspire Mentor, Aspire to Inspire Mentoring Program, LA GEAR UP, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Overview: To continue our advancements in improving the educational outcomes of boys and young men of color, we aim our collective efforts toward providing innovative programming and support services tailored for this population of students and their families. Join a team of GEAR UP educators to learn how to effectively translate pioneering ideas and research-based recommendations into school community practices that serve and support boys and young men of color. Participants will share their insight and inspiration, discuss trusted resources, and collaborate on crafting action steps to enhance and sustain their specialized programming. This seminar is ideally suited for coordinators, advisors, counselors, and GEAR UP leaders.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Networking Break & Raffle in Exhibit Corridor

North Foyer

Quad Squad 105: Quad Space Administrators Training (By Invitation)

Lake

Monday, February 24 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

This blended-learning training session will provide Quad Space Administrators with the information and online resources needed to manage and sustain your GEAR UP team’s private Quad space. Join fellow Quad Squad members as we engage in hands-on activities, learn best practices, and share techniques while collectively building our foundational understanding of the Quad. Also, gain strategies on how to effectively author, upload, customize and manage content on the Quad with tips on how to write blog posts, contribute to forums, and share GEAR UP news with the national Quad community.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

GEAR UP AFFINITY GROUPS

Affinity Groups provide the unique opportunity to connect with like-minded colleagues who share your interests, curiosities, and challenges. With each group facilitated by seasoned education leaders, it’s the perfect time to come together to share ideas, insight, and recommendations on educational and institutional best practices and strategies.

1. Special Student Populations

Salon IX

Facilitators: **Rodolfo Acosta**, Ph.D, GEAR UP Director, University of California, Irvine
Katherine Tatnall-Arias, Program Coordinator, Kennesaw State University, GEAR UP Georgia Priority Model

Overview: Join this group to share recommendations for working with various student populations, to include students who may be homeless, undocumented, or in need of specialized support services.

2. Middle Grades Planning and Advising

Salon XII

Facilitators: **Vivian Irrgang**, GEAR UP Program Director, GEAR UP Massachusetts, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Overview: Connect with colleagues to share the various approaches to advising students in your GEAR UP middle school. You will have the opportunity to discuss jumpstarting your program, GEAR UP implementation in the early years, and academic and social support, with ample time to share tips on career exploration.

3. Postsecondary Planning and Advising

Salon VI

Facilitators: **Mary Freeman**, Scholar Coach Manager, GEAR UP Maine
Mari Jimenez Ortiz, GEAR UP Ambassador, Nevada GEAR UP, Truckee Meadows Community College

Overview: Connect with colleagues to share the various approaches to advising students through the postsecondary planning processes. You will have the opportunity to discuss college search, match, and fit, with ample time to share tips on career exploration techniques.

4. Financial Aid Planning and Programs

Salon VII & VIII

Facilitators: **Dianne Griggs**, GEAR UP Director, Vermont GEAR UP, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Cathy Printon, GEAR UP School and Family Partnership Coordinator, Vermont GEAR UP, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Overview: Do you have an interest in college affordability planning, financial literacy, and financial aid opportunities? Join this group of individuals who, like you, want to meet and discuss financial aid planning and programs.

5. Family Outreach, Engagement, and Initiatives

Salon I & II

Facilitators: **Cristina Castillo**, Assistant Director, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley GEAR UP College in ACTION

Evangelina Blanco, Academic Content Coach, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley GEAR UP College in ACTION

Overview: Meet with colleagues to share practices and approaches on innovative ways to outreach, engage, and empower families, mentors, and members of student support networks.

6. Best Practices in Diversity and Inclusion

Salon X & XI

Facilitator: **Alana Simmons**, Ph.D, GEAR UP Director, GEAR UP Dougherty, Dougherty County School System

Overview: Come to share practices and approaches on innovative ways to engage and empower students, families, and community partners in diversity and inclusion practices.

7. Marketing and Communications Planning and Implementation

Salon IV & V

Facilitators: **Meghan Cave**, Director of College Pathways and Communications, Colorado GEAR UP
Anetra Miller, Marketing Coordinator, Wichita GEAR UP, Wichita State University

Overview: Do you have an interest or role in marketing and communications for your GEAR UP program? Join this group of individuals who, like you, want to meet and discuss practices related to planning and implementing marketing and communications efforts.

Tuesday | February 25

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration and Information Booth Open

North Foyer (Lobby)

7:00 am – 7:45 am

Networking Breakfast

Floridian Ballroom

8:00 am – 9:00 am

BURST SESSION

Floridian Ballroom

Speakers:

Chrissy Tillery, Ed.D. Vice President of Research and Evaluation,
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships



Anthony Jack, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Education, Harvard University

In his new book, *The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges are Failing Disadvantaged Students*, Anthony Jack reframes the conversation surrounding poverty and higher education. “It’s one thing to graduate with a degree from an elite institution, and another thing to graduate with the social capital to activate that degree,” Jack explains. Jack argues that to challenge these deeply ingrained social, cultural, and economic disparities on campus, we must first begin to question what we take for granted. Jack reveals how organizations—from

administrators and association organizers, to educators and student activists—can ask the right questions and bridge the gap.

Anthony Jack is a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and assistant professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Recently, he wrote a feature for *The New York Times Magazine’s* Education Issue and his research has been cited by *The New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Atlantic*, *The Huffington Post*, *The National Review*, *The Washington Post*, American RadioWorks, WBUR, and MPR. His book *The Privileged Poor*, was named the 2018 recipient of the Thomas J. Wilson Memorial Prize by Harvard University Press.

9:15 am – 10:30 am

WORKSHOPS

10: 30 am – 11:00 am

Networking Break and Raffle in Exhibit Corridor

North Foyer

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

WORKSHOPS (cont.)



EXCEL WORKSHOP E4: Parents Matter to GEAR UP!

Salon I & II

Speakers: **Rene Díaz**, Parent Resource Coordinator, Chicago GEAR UP, Center for College Access & Success, Northeastern Illinois University
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, NCCEP
Rhonda Thomas, Program Manager, Chicago GEAR UP, Center for College Access & Success, Northeastern Illinois University (retired); Education Consultant
Wendy Stack, Ph.D., Executive Director, Chicago GEAR UP, Center for College Access & Success, Northeastern Illinois University

Overview: Parents matter to GEAR UP, and GEAR UP knows that practitioners have a challenging but rewarding task ahead: developing culturally-sensitive practices and engaging strategies to involve parents in their children’s educational journey. In this interactive workshop, participants will gain a

variety of resources to explore best practices for effective parent engagement that lead to successful academic outcomes in middle and high school and to realistic college plans for students. There will be ample opportunities to network with other parent practitioners, and all will leave the session with replicable parent activities that maximize parent involvement and are adaptable to any program. Note that this might be a review for seasoned practitioners, but we highly encourage you to join and share your knowledge. Regardless of experience level, you will walk away with new and varied resources for your parent program.

Objectives:

- Develop family-friendly and culturally-sensitive strategies that improve communication between GEAR UP teams, families, and schools.
- Enhance the participation of parents/families in postsecondary education through a multi-faceted recruitment plan.
- Review the research and data points that support family engagement and its relationship to student achievement.
- Leave the session with replicable activities that can be adapted to any GEAR UP parent program.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E5: GEAR UP Action Planning for All

Citrus, Collier, Columbia

Speakers: **Stephanie Carnahan**, Project Director, Oregon GEAR UP
Susie Snelling, School Liaison, Oregon GEAR UP
Jennica Vincent, Research and Evaluation Specialist, Oregon GEAR UP

Overview: Using data to inform practice sounds easy enough, but is it? Every year, we learn more about strategies that help students succeed; but what works in one GEAR UP program does not necessarily work in another. How can being intentional and using data in planning help us be more successful? Oregon GEAR UP has been refining their process for the past decade and has designed an interactive workshop to share their research-based model for change and planning, along with tools that can be easily adapted by any GEAR UP program. This annual process is relevant to both GEAR UP programs and individual GEAR UP schools. Whether you have a plan in place or need help getting started, this workshop will help you improve the quality of your GEAR UP planning.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the five principles that comprise the Oregon GEAR UP model and process.
- Explore the effective use of data when planning GEAR UP activities.
- Participate in hands-on activities to begin developing a plan for your program.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E6: Fostering Learning Mindsets: Strategies for Promoting Academic Engagement

Salon X & XI

Speaker: **Jacque Beaubien**, Motivation & Mindset Consultant

Overview: Why does academic engagement decline through middle and high school, particularly for students from marginalized communities? And what can we do to help ALL students stay engaged? In this session, you will gain an experiential and research-based understanding of what fuels human motivation and learn simple strategies for creating inclusive and motivating environments, that: (1) help

students believe they can succeed (growth mindset); (2) trust that they belong and are valued in academic settings; and (3) see that their education can help them reach personally meaningful goals (sense of purpose). Often referred to as Learning Mindsets, participants will have time to explore how to apply the shared recommendations to their context. Information on additional free online evidence-based recommendations and resources will also be provided.

Objectives:

- Gain a research-informed understanding of factors that influence mindsets, motivation, and academic engagement.
- Learn simple strategies for creating more inclusive, motivating learning conditions that foster students' sense of belonging, a growth mindset, and a sense of purpose for succeeding in school.
- Know how to access free, evidence-based resources for additional strategies on how to support students' motivation and mindsets.



PROVE WORKSHOP P3: Utilizing College Advising Data to Support Students on Their Education Journey
Salon VII & VIII

Speaker: Erin Grogan, Ph.D., Senior Director of Research & Evaluation, College Advising Corps

Overview: To serve your students best as a GEAR UP coordinator, counselor, or adviser, you need to be able to make decisions based on good data. To have good data, you need to know your students. In our work, being “data-driven” is equivalent to being “student-centered.” This session—a combination of lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities—will introduce you to a data debrief protocol that can be applied to most reports and data sources, as well as tools and strategies to maximize the information you draw on to better understand your students' aspirations, barriers, and progress towards key college application milestones. Participants in this session will: (1) become familiar with a data protocol by applying its steps to college access data; and (2) work within small groups to review example data collection tools and identify options for incorporating similar tools at their school(s) or program. The primary audience for this session is GEAR UP coordinators, counselors, or advisers, but other individuals responsible for planning or implementing program evaluations and delivery may also benefit from this content.

Objectives:

- Be able to utilize a data protocol to understand the impact of college advising and plan for data-driven next steps.
- Learn about data collection on how students experience college advising in order to effectively meet student needs.



PROVE WORKSHOP P4: The Foundation: GEAR UP Data, Evaluation, and Federal Reporting
Salon IV & V

Speakers: Chrissy Tillery, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP
Darlene Cole, CEO/Director of Research, CoBro Consulting

Overview: A core part of GEAR UP is the successful completion of the Annual Performance Report (APR). There have been recent changes from the U.S. Department of Education pertaining to the APR. Understanding the federal requirements and changes, coupled with the core foundational aspects of

GEAR UP research and evaluation, is essential for effectively running a GEAR UP grant. Join two longstanding GEAR UP researchers for an introductory overview of GEAR UP federal reporting, data management, and evaluation practices that will include hands-on materials you can use as a toolkit for your program. This foundational workshop will help you get your evaluation efforts underway or refresh them—whichever is your need. Participants will leave with knowledge of strategies that will strengthen every aspect of your federal reporting, data management, and evaluation efforts.

Objectives:

- Learn from recognized research and evaluation leaders in the field.
- Review the GEAR UP Annual Performance Report (APR), including recent changes.
- Have an opportunity for Q&A related to the APR.
- Learn optimal methods to collect data for the GEAR UP program.
- Expand your understanding of GEAR UP research and evaluation.
- Understand the legal processes and protocols that need to be put in place for collecting and using data.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M3: No More Secrets: Getting the Right GEAR UP Message Out!

Salon XII

Speakers: **Jeanine L’Ecuyer**, Founder & President, L’Ecuyer Communications
Meghan Cave, Director of College Pathways and Communications, Colorado GEAR UP

Overview: How often have you heard a colleague (or yourself) say something like, “GEAR UP is the best kept secret in our community?” We know that building awareness among our stakeholders and the public is important for our work; yet, it is hard to get the word out when media—even social media—is not always paying attention. Compounding the problem, few of us have a full-time communications specialist on staff, nor enough hours in the day. So, what are we to do? By learning how to create memorable messages and activating all your networks in a smart and strategic way, you can create a cadre of brand ambassadors who will help you achieve the right kind of attention focused on the goals that matter most to your team. This workshop is suited to any GEAR UP professional or partner wanting to expand the reach, awareness, or appreciation of your GEAR UP activities or overall program.

Objectives:

- Experience a mapping process to help you identify and refine key messages.
- Uncover the ‘why’ that will drive those messages and link them to your goals.
- Learn effective practices for disseminating those messages to important audience groups.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M4: Breaking Through: Securing Buy-In Through Effective Advocacy

Salon IX

Speakers: **Alex Chough**, Vice President for Government Relations, NCCEP
Emily Jeffries, Associate Director for Government Relations, NCCEP

Overview: From the school house to the state house, we need leaders and decision-makers to support our work if we’re going to advance the GEAR UP college readiness agenda. A jarring reality is that simply doing great work is not enough, as our success is highly dependent on our ability to persuade others to buy-in to our vision, our programs, and creating the conditions for change. While securing buy-in can be slightly daunting and often frustrating, this workshop will explore how each of us can maximize our

innate advocacy skills with a little knowledge and some simple tools. This working session is well suited for individuals or teams, and you will leave with a strategic plan to implement over the next twelve months tailored to your unique goals. Please note this is a revamped workshop, so even if you have attended in years past, there is ample opportunity to learn and improve. This workshop is suited for anyone who wants to be a better advocate for their activity, program, or GEAR UP as a whole.

Objectives:

- Better understand the principles that support decision making and effective advocacy.
- Participate in hands-on exercises that will help you identify your strengths, weaknesses, and weave effective strategies into project or program.
- Apply your knowledge to develop a one-year advocacy strategic plan.

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Networking Lunch

Floridian Ballroom

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

GEAR UP SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS



SEMINAR #11: Preparing New GEAR UP Leaders for Success, Part 2: Foundational Issues in GEAR UP Implementation

Citrus, Collier, Columbia

Speakers: **Lois Bramwell**, Director, GEAR UP 4 LA, Los Angeles Unified School District
Marcie Mills Sample, Associate Director for College Access and Support, Washington Student Achievement Council, Washington State GEAR UP

Overview: The second session focuses on helping new GEAR UP leaders and will highlight overcoming the challenges that every GEAR UP leader is faced with when implementing a high-quality program. Whether you are a new GEAR UP director, central staff administrator, or site coordinator, your ability to navigate a complex set of relationships, requirements, and issues related to GEAR UP implementation will substantially influence your grant's overall success. Come join experienced GEAR UP leaders in an interactive seminar to learn, explore, and discuss important lessons learned over many years of GEAR UP. This is the second part of a two-part series to help leaders succeed.



SEMINAR #12: Defining and Increasing Student Engagement

Salon IV & V

Speakers: **Amy Colton**, Senior Consultant, Learning Forward
Lindsay Williams, Lead Professional Development Coordinator, GEAR UP for the FUTURE, University of Oklahoma, K20 Center

Overview: In this seminar, attendees will explore the basic components of student engagement according to research and create definitions of student engagement that fit within a local context. Student engagement has different meanings across groups, including what components make up engagement, how it should be measured, and how it can be increased. Through guided discussions based on readings and research, attendees will craft a definition of student engagement that fits their local GEAR UP context and

consider how their definition lines up with the school(s) with whom they work. If you are a college access professional working directly with students, come ready to think creatively as you consider why engagement matters and how it can be increased by understanding its core components. The information provided in this seminar was developed as part of the NCCEP's Study Lab, an online learning portal for GEAR UP professionals.



SEMINAR #13: All Things FAFSA: 2020-21 Updates and Announcements from FSA

Salon VII & VIII

Speakers: **Maisha K. Challenger**, Awareness & Outreach Specialist, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid

Overview: Students' completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is positively associated with the college admissions process and considered an early indicator of students' college enrollment, persistence, and completion. This session will cover FAFSA® updates for the 2020–21 application cycle, including IRS tax form changes, online enhancements, and hot topics to create better user experiences for your students and families. Join an FSA representative to engage in activities that cover strategies for supporting students with special circumstances and how to maximize schoolwide engagement through the FAFSA Completion Challenge Initiative. This seminar is ideally suited for coordinators, advisors, counselors, and GEAR UP leaders.



SEMINAR #14: Social Media 2.0: Actionable Strategies and Tools to Level-Up Your Social Media Impact

Salon VI

Speakers: **Amber Miller**, GEAR UP Coach, GEAR UP Iowa
Kaci Foster, Communications Specialist, West Virginia GEAR UP
Megan Mossman, GEAR UP Coordinator, University of Texas at Austin GEAR UP

Overview: Social media is the most efficient and effective marketing tool of our time. In order for GEAR UP grants to market themselves effectively to a wide audience of students, community members, and stakeholders, a strategic approach to this tool is key. It is critical that the GEAR UP voice is amplified, and programs can use social media to do that in innovative and efficient ways. Join us as we explore actionable techniques and strategies that programs can implement today. This interactive session will explore strategies to leverage social media to market GEAR UP programs, to create content that is interesting, fun, and engaging, and to increase program visibility among communities and stakeholders. This session is ideal for communications specialists, grant directors, site coordinators, and other GEAR UP educators implementing GEAR UP media initiatives within their communities.



SEMINAR #15: Roundtable: APR Peer-led Q&A

Salon X & XI

Speakers: **Chrissy Tillery**, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP
Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations, NCCEP

Overview: Join this NCCEP facilitated, peer-led roundtable on the GEAR UP Annual Performance Report (APR). Do you still have questions about the changes to the APR? Do you need to better understand specific questions or strategies for pre-preparing for your federal reporting? Join us as we collectively and informally discuss the new report, implications, what's next, and details to help you prepare.



SEMINAR #16: Connection: Using Peer and Social Network Theory and Practices to Improve College-Going Culture

Salon IX

Speakers: **Tom Bartholomay**, Evaluation Director, Get Ready/GEAR UP Minnesota Program, Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Overview: The science of education is largely focused on empowering individuals to learn. Yet culture—a set of learned and shared values and behaviors within a group—strongly defines the parameters of each individual's and group's performance. Student performance is positively or negatively affected by who and what students are engaged with—whether it be peers, staff, parents, or other resources. Furthermore, these network groupings tend to repopulate themselves, reinforcing similar group norms that contributed to previous year outcomes.

It is possible to systematically redesign a school's culture to improve student outcomes. Using social network theory and practices, teachers and administrators can recognize social structures that favor the performance of one group over another and identify connectivity patterns that inhibit or enhance performance across a school. Specific practices also exist for rewiring networks to improve learning opportunity. The Minnesota GEAR UP program will share what they have learned with this approach.



SEMINAR #17: Enhancing Local STEM Ecosystems Through GEAR UP Partnerships

Hamilton & Indian River

Speakers: **Virginia Bolshakova**, Ph.D., Med., Executive Director, Indiana GEAR UP, Research Assistant Professor, Purdue University

Jarod Wilson, Director of Postsecondary Outreach and Career Transitions, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Tabitha Cinowski, Assistant Director, Indiana GEAR UP, Purdue University

Barbie Martin, Director of School and Community Outreach, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Brittany Collins, Postsecondary Outreach and Career Transitions Manager, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Jean Trusedell, Mentoring & Community Partnerships, Science Specialist, Indiana GEAR UP, Purdue University

Bill Reed, Regional Director & Math Specialist, Indiana GEAR UP, Purdue University

Overview: STEM and higher education faculty and staff led by Purdue University and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education have collaborated with teachers and administrators in nine public school districts across Indiana to increase local STEM access and capacity for

all learners. Join us as we chart a course for success in developing and building dynamic STEM Learning Ecosystems. Learn how to provide support for cross-sector learning that offers all young people access to STEM-rich learning environments so they can develop important skills and engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math. The presenters will incorporate and share research-based and data-driven strategies used by Indiana GEAR UP and move through the Scientific Inquiry and Engineering Design Process with the audience to begin exploring, designing, and building context-specific STEM Learning Ecosystems for your own programs. This seminar welcomes all stakeholders!



SEMINAR #18: Smooth Transitions: Making the Move from Middle to High School

Salon I & II

Speakers: **Mindy López**, Site Coordinator, University of Washington GEAR UP
Molly Fahlenkamp, Site Coordinator, University of Washington GEAR UP
Karmon Long, Program Coordinator, Iowa GEAR UP

Overview: The road from middle school to high school can be bumpy, often filled with obstacles and potholes that can impact student persistence. This critical juncture in a GEAR UP grant's life cycle should be intentional and thought through in advance, with strategies and practices that help students succeed. Join us in this seminar to learn more about strategies that have worked in the field, discuss obstacles and opportunities with peers, and brainstorm how you can support your students at this important point of their education journey. With roundtable discussions, activities, and more, this seminar is sure to help you prepare to navigate this transition.



SEMINAR #19: UndocuALLY: Supporting Undocumented Students

Salon XII

Speakers: **Heide Castañeda**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of South Florida
Stacy Pippen, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of South Florida
Laurie-Ann Spencer, Ph.D., Interim-Program Specialist, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of South Florida

Overview: When reinforced by strong practices, positive school experiences can offset the negative effects of lack of permanency experienced by youth that are undocumented. By allowing students to reach their full potential, the provision of a high-quality education represents perhaps the single greatest possibility for the expansion of opportunity. Yet each year, over 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school, only 5 to 10 percent will continue their education. Modeled after UndocuALLY training at other institutions of higher education, this University of South Florida training was created to educate the community on the history, relevant legislation, and current realities of the undocumented community. This training strives to cultivate a more supportive environment for undocumented students in higher education. While this seminar is ideally suited for coordinators and advisors, directors and other GEAR UP leaders would benefit.



SEMINAR #20: The Best of Both Worlds: College Board & ACT College Planning Tools You Can Use
Orange

Speakers: **Melissa Caperton**, Director, American College Application Campaign, ACT’s Center for Equity in Learning
Andrew Jopling, Director, State Partnerships, ACT State & Federal Programs, ACT
Jennifer Mulhern, Vice President, Mission Implementation, College Board
Aaron Lemon Strauss, Vice President, College and Career Access, College Board

Overview: ACT and the College Board have each developed free online college and career-planning tools designed to provide students and families with tailored information and tools that inspire and engage students through the college and career-planning processes. Join this session to hear from ACT and College Board representatives, as they provide strategies for utilizing their free online platforms. Participants will learn how to maximize the online educator resource centers and gain tips on how to incorporate step-by-step grade-level checklists, college search tools, in-school college-going programming, and career exploration guides into their middle, high school, and college-level GEAR UP programming.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Networking Break & Raffle
North Foyer

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

GEAR UP TEAM DEBRIEF

Join your team during this time to discuss what you have learned, ideas you want to implement in your program, and other topics that will impact the work you do locally.

AL, AK, AR, AZ, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI	<i>Salon I & II</i>
CA	<i>Salon III</i>
IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME	<i>Salon IV & V</i>
MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, NE	<i>Salon VI</i>
NH, NJ, NM, NY, NV, OH, OK	<i>Salon VII & VIII</i>
OR, PA, RI, SC	<i>Salon IX</i>
TN	<i>Hamilton & Indian River</i>
TX	<i>Citrus, Collier, Columbia</i>
UT, VA, VT, WV	<i>Salon X & XI</i>
WY, WI	<i>Orange</i>
WA	<i>Jackson</i>

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

GEAR UP DIRECTORS’ MEETING

Salon VII & VIII

Due to space constraints, this meeting is exclusively for GEAR UP directors and/or principal investigators along with one guest at the director's discretion. This special meeting is designed to create a forum for GEAR UP directors to network, learn, and discuss a range of issues related to GEAR UP advocacy, public policy, and NCEP initiatives.

Wednesday | February 26

7:00 am – 1:00 pm **Registration and Information Booth Open**
North Foyer (Lobby)

7:00 am – 7:45 am **Networking Breakfast**
Floridian Ballroom

8:00 am – 9:00 am **BURST SESSION**
Floridian Ballroom

Speakers: **Betty Paugh Ortiz**, Vice President of Programs, National Council for
Community and Education Partnerships



Dan Lerner
Faculty, New York University

Can success and happiness coexist? According to Lerner, a positive psychologist, we can all accomplish our career goals *and* live well. Drawing from his “Science of Happiness” course and his cutting-edge research into high-performance professionals, Lerner shows us how to create a life of well-being and excellence, at work and at home. A psychology professor, strengths-based performance coach, and expert on all things positivity, Lerner studies the ways happiness influences our success. Lerner co-authored the book *U Thrive: How to Succeed in*

College and in Life alongside his teaching partner Dr. Alan Schlechter.

Lerner consults for companies like Deutsche Bank, Oppenheimer Funds, UBS Switzerland, and Jet.com, where he works with staff to optimize opportunities for them as individuals and for the firm. Following a decade at International Creative Management and at 21C Media Group, Lerner studied closely with renowned sports psychologist Dr. Nathaniel Zinsser—a Director of The Center for Enhanced Performance at the United States Military Academy at West Point—focusing on coaching and performance enhancement techniques. He holds a master’s from and is on the teaching staff for the graduate program in Applied Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.

9:15 am – 10:30 am **WORKSHOPS & LEARNING LABS**

10: 30 am – 11:00 am **Networking Break**
North Foyer

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **WORKSHOPS & LEARNING LABS (cont.)**



EXCEL WORKSHOP E7: GEAR UP as a Tool for Equity Leaders
Salon I & II

Speakers: **John Barker**, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, NCCEP
Alan Ingram, Ed.D., Senior Advisor, NCCEP

Overview: The concept of educational equity is long-overdue in our collective consciousness. Until and unless programs like GEAR UP realize their full potential to provide essential opportunities for low-income students, disparity gaps of all kinds will continue to persist in schools and throughout society. Veteran educators and GEAR UP practitioners, Drs. Alan Ingram and John Barker, have explored their ideas about equity as co-leaders of the NCCEP District Leadership Institute and in this session, offer a full-length interactive workshop on the topic. This workshop incorporates ideas drawn from a wide array of college and career-readiness experiences and introduces participants to a systematic process for examining bias, privilege, and the power of diversity. Video vignettes and recent data reports are used to synthesize a clear picture of the demoralizing effects of racism and other forms of discrimination that permeate our educational systems.

Objectives:

- Increase participants' self-awareness of how their various social identities related to race, class, gender, language, etc. shaped their own educational experiences and shape their definitions of success.
- Introduce participants to the concept of educational inequities that exist across the United States, with particular focus on inequities in the GEAR UP community.
- Explore data, identify root causes, and develop strategies for ensuring that all students have access to college and career opportunities.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M5: Igniting Imagination: Harnessing Story, Play and Design to Create Transformative Learning
Salon IV & V

Speaker: Lance Weiler, Founding Director, Columbia University School of the Arts' Digital Storytelling Lab

Overview: Who says collaboration and learning cannot be imaginative and productive? Learn from a nationally-recognized expert as he pulls back the curtain on methods that can be harnessed to ignite the imagination of students, engage stakeholders, and foster collaboration among coworkers. Join in hands-on activities that demonstrate how storytelling, play, and human-centric design can establish safe and transformative learning experiences. Step into an interactive session that mixes theory and practice in a fun and inspiring way that is designed to give you tools that you can directly apply to your work. This workshop is suited for any individual wanting to create more impactful learning and collaboration experiences. Back by popular demand this session will be introducing new methods and case studies focused on how to harness technology for transformative learning.

Objectives:

- Appreciate the value of embracing ambiguity.
- Learn how to design "with" and "for" your audience.
- Develop a shared language for productive collaboration.
- Learn how to craft shared narratives of learning and transformation.
- Learn how to evaluate existing and emergent technologies.



LEARNING LAB LL1: Coordinators
Salon X & XI

Facilitators: Timenee Thomas, Youth Advocacy Specialist, Louisiana GEAR UP

Christopher Mutshnick, Assistant Director, GEAR UP & EAOP at UC Santa Cruz
Roderick Figgs, Assistant Director, GEAR UP at California State University San Bernardino
Olinda Matos, Director of Admissions and Family Engagement, The College Crusade of Rhode Island
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Programs, NCCEP

Overview: Join us in this newly-designed opportunity to network and discuss critical issues GEAR UP coordinators face in their day-to-day work. During this learning lab, GEAR UP professionals from across the country will share short anecdotes about the shared challenges GEAR UP coordinators face, potential practices and solutions to serve students more effectively, and encouraging stories that ground us in our work. After each short anecdote, attendees will have the opportunity to engage in group discussions and brainstorm the ways in which a topic impacts their work, how they can address each topic locally, and what practices they can take back to their schools to implement. The purpose of the learning lab is to provide a space in which coordinators can connect, network, and share ideas with peers from across the country. Come ready to engage in thoughtful discussions, share what you currently practice, and figure out how coordinators from different places can come together to affect change.



LEARNING LAB LL2: Evaluators

Salon XII

Facilitators: **Chrissy Tillery**, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, NCCEP
Todd Nolt, Director of Evaluation and Analytics, Vela Institute
Thomas Cech, Data Analyst, NCCEP

Overview: Join us in this newly-designed opportunity to network and discuss critical issues GEAR UP evaluators face each day. During this learning lab, a handful of seasoned GEAR UP researchers and evaluators will facilitate discussions around the shared challenges, best practices, and solutions we all face to better assess student impact. The purpose of the Evaluators Learning Lab is to provide a space in which we can connect, network, and share ideas with peers from across the country. Come ready to engage in thoughtful discussions, share what you currently practice, and determine how we can come together as a collective to create change.



LEARNING LAB LL3: Budget and Finance

Salon IX

Speakers: **Alex Chough**, Vice President for Government Relations, NCCEP
James Beeler, Ed.D., Director of GEAR UP, Appalachian State University

Overview: The operational demands of administering a GEAR UP grant are remarkably complex. From understanding federal compliance issues, establishing financial controls, remaining audit ready, and establishing financial processes that are responsive to the unique dynamics of GEAR UP, a strong program requires an effective back-office operation. This learning lab is designed to surface common budget and finance operational challenges, explore successful practices, and draw from the wisdom of the meeting attendees. While this learning lab will be lightly facilitated, the purpose is to create a peer-to-peer space for attendees to share, learn, and problem solve with each other. This learning lab is

designed for individuals who are primarily focused on financial planning, operations, compliance, and other related administrative functions.



LEARNING LAB LL4: State Directors (By Invitation)

Citrus, Collier, Columbia

Overview: This learning lab will serve as the meeting for only directors of State GEAR UP grants. This is a peer-led opportunity for State GEAR UP directors to convene and discuss critical issues, network with one another, and have a space to engage in dialogue about topics relevant to State GEAR UP grantees. Please note that this learning lab is invitation-only and should be attended only by State GEAR UP directors (those who report directly to the U.S. Department of Education).



LEARNING LAB LL5: Partnerships Directors (By Invitation)

Salon VII & VIII

Overview: This learning lab will serve as the meeting for only directors of Partnership GEAR UP grants. This is a peer-led opportunity for Partnership GEAR UP directors to convene and discuss critical issues, network with one another, and have a space to engage in dialogue about topics relevant to Partnership GEAR UP grantees. Please note that this learning lab is invitation-only and should be attended only by Partnership GEAR UP directors (those who report directly to the U.S. Department of Education).

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Closing Lunch & Adjournment

Floridian Ballroom



**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
Capacity-Building Workshop**

Orlando, FL

February 23 -26, 2020