



2021

Capacity-Building Workshop

February 8-10



EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

Feb. 8-10



2021

EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

MON | FEBRUARY 8

TUE | FEBRUARY 9

WED | FEBRUARY 10



The 2021 Capacity-Building Workshop is coordinated by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP), the national association of the GEAR UP program.

1:00 pm - 1:45 PM ET
Burst Session: Excel

1:45pm - 2:00 PM ET
Break

1:45 pm - 5:00 PM ET
Exhibit Hall Open

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
Excel, Prove & Mobilize
Workshops – Part I

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET
Exhibit Hall/Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET
Excel, Prove & Mobilize
Workshops – Part II

4:30 PM - 4:45 PM ET
Exhibit Hall/Break

4:45 PM - 5:30 PM ET
Seminars

1:00 pm - 1:45 PM ET
Burst Session: Prove

1:45pm - 2:00 PM ET
Break

1:45 pm - 5:00 PM ET
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4:30 PM - 4:45 PM ET
Exhibit Hall/Break

4:45 PM - 5:30 PM ET
Well-Being Sessions

1:00 pm - 1:45 PM ET
Burst Session: Mobilize

1:45pm - 2:00 PM ET
Break

1:45 pm - 5:00 PM ET
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4:45 PM - 5:00 PM ET
Closing Remarks by NCCEP

Monday | February 8

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm EST

WELCOME REMARKS AND BURST SESSION

Do I Have Your Attention Now? How COVID-19 Kicked Open the Door to Innovation

Speakers:

Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships



Michael M. Crow, Ph.D., President, Arizona State University

COVID-19 is here to stay and it will not be the last complex challenge society faces. In order to better anticipate and respond to future tests, it is imperative to foster learners and redesign 21st century organizations empowered by enhanced access, adaptability, innovation, and collaboration, all with the goal of maximizing societal impact. In this session, Michael M. Crow, president of Arizona State University and co-author of *The Fifth Wave: The Evolution of American Higher Education*, will discuss the education landscape, workforce development, and why we need new, agile, and technology-empowered education models

capable of positioning individuals and entities to not only survive, but thrive during complicated and unexpected trials.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part I)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

NETWORKING BREAK AND RAFFLE IN EXHIBIT HALL

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part II)



EXCEL WORKSHOP E1: Virtual Learning, Engagement, and You: How to Meet this Moment

Speakers:

Corrinne Fisher, Senior Learning Designer, NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: When it comes to virtual learning, “environment” matters! The environment is more than simply the platform, comment boxes, or video room – think of it as an ecosystem that builds a culture of learning like a classroom or school building.

In this focused workshop, come ready to explore the foundations of creating a successful and engaging virtual learning ecosystem. Together, attendees will learn how to construct virtual gatherings to best serve your students, colleagues, and communities. In Part 1, you will interactively explore research and best practices in creating an engaging virtual environment through real-world examples from GEAR UP programs. During Part 2, come ready to apply what you have learned as you work in small groups and strategize how to build a successful and sustainable virtual learning ecosystem from the ground up, as well as access knowledge, skills, and tools to nurture online learning communities.

Objectives:

- Explore research, theories, and the science of learning, connection, and communication in a virtual setting.
- Identify what makes an engaging structure when developing a virtual learning ecosystem.
- Map out a strategy to build an engaging virtual learning ecosystem while partnering with colleagues.
- Participate in exercises and activities that will foster a high level of engagement.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E2: Intentional Family Engagement: Pathways to Success

Speakers: **Sylvia Vargas**, Education Specialist, Region One GEAR UP
Margaret Boyter-Escalona, Project Director, Chicago GEAR UP
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Consultant, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Are you ready to jump start your family engagement strategy? Or feeling the urge to improve upon the work you are already doing?

Join us in this interactive workshop to explore a GEAR UP framework for meaningful family engagement. In Part 1 of this workshop, we will explore the important factors of family engagement based on the literature and best practices. During Part 2, we will explore what makes GEAR UP family engagement strategies unique. You will also have the opportunity to join breakout rooms and engage with peers across the nation to share strategies for engaging families *virtually*! Don't miss this chance to energize your family engagement strategies and view your plans through a GEAR UP lens.

Objectives:

- Describe the baseline assumptions of family engagement.
- Plan family engagement using a strategic process.
- Delineate the ways in which GEAR UP programs can implement family engagement in-person and virtually.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E3: Preparing New GEAR UP Leaders for Success

Speakers: **Lois Bramwell**, District Coordinator and GEAR UP Project Director, Los Angeles Unified School District/GEARUP4LA
Kevin Hall, Director of Programs, Berea College
Troy Grant, Senior Director of College Access, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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 workshop is ideal for those who are new to GEAR UP, it can be a great refresher for seasoned professionals, too.

Objectives:

- Learn about key compliance issues in GEAR UP.
- Discuss key issues and solutions with peers.
- Plan for enhancing your grant management practices.



PROVE WORKSHOP P1: Fundamentals of Data Visualization and Storytelling

Speakers: **Jennifer Nulty**, Founder & Designer, Pivot Data Design
Chrissy Tillery, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thomas Cech, Associate Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Today, data is everywhere. We often have access to massive amounts of data about participants, service administration, 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 staff the potential to better communicate program outcomes.

This workshop will cover some of the research behind presenting data intentionally. Together, we will review the fundamentals of data storytelling that will help grantees create effective visuals. Grounded in visual processing theory, the principles discussed in this workshop will enhance attendees' ability to communicate more effectively with colleagues, community partners, and university stakeholders through a focus on the proper use of color, arrangement, graphics, and text.

Objectives:

- 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.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M1: Mastering the Social Media Puzzle

Speakers: **Laura Kingston**, Communications Coordinator, KU Center for Educational Opportunity Programs
Dalton Allen, Site Coordinator, KU GEAR UP Topeka
Emily Jeffries, Associate Director for Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: You have an important event and an established social media, but how do you effectively bring them together?

This workshop will help you get the most out of social media using just the smartphone in your pocket! Learn to create a standout social media campaign that shines a spotlight on your event, amplifies your program, connects with partners, and engages students and families through Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. This workshop is ideal for communications specialists or anyone involved in your organization’s communications strategy.

Objectives:

- Learn how to develop a social media campaign that incorporates your programming, events, and social media.
- Increase connection with your community through structured social media campaigns.
- Develop techniques to implement campaigns through various social media platforms.

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm EST

EXHIBIT HALL / BREAK

4:45 pm – 5:30 pm EST

GEAR UP SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS



SEMINAR 1: Comeback Skills: Adapting to the New Normal

Speakers: **Greg Evans**, Founder & Executive Director, Seeds Training
Justin Boudreau, Chief Training Officer and Co-owner, Seeds Training
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Do you miss “normal”?

We all do. In the last year, we have adapted so much of our lives that going back to normal is going to be both a challenge and an opportunity.

This seminar is going to highlight “Comeback Skills” that will help you, your staff, and your students accelerate their efforts to getting back on track. You will gain a host of tools for creating a “reset” that will build a solid SEL foundation and launch you into a strong period of growth and recovery for 2021. Participants will also receive access to a special video series that you can share with your cohort.



SEMINAR 2: Am I on Mute? Skills Reinforcement in a Virtual Setting

Speakers: **Reshaud Rich**, Regional Manager for GEAR UP, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Consultant, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: As we become more familiar and comfortable with online engagement, we can sometimes get “stuck” in the strategies we use daily. If you are engaging with others online – working with students, with other staff, with teams, or even connecting with friends and family – join us in this seminar to find ways to shake up your routine and discover tips, tricks, and techniques that will contribute toward better, smoother virtual

experiences.

In this seminar, you will explore three specific strategies to help reinforce your skills in a virtual setting and find ways to make your online engagement more meaningful for all.



SEMINAR 3: Tools to Tweet About: Social Media Methods to Master Before the Second Wave

Speakers: **MaeAnna Edwards**, Director of Postsecondary Access and Success, New Hampshire GEAR UP Alliance
Emily Jeffries, Associate Director for Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 70% of Americans reported utilizing social media, with 90% of teens ages 13-17 reporting using some form of social media. As the country shut down, with schools closing rapidly, GEAR UP programs quickly pivoted to innovated online GEAR UP service implementation like social media. With the possibility of an impending second wave, GEAR UP leaders need to continue engaging on social media to keep their stakeholders informed, their students connected, and their caretakers supported.

In this seminar, we will explore tools for you to master as we prepare for what comes next. We will go beyond “what’s that social media platform?” and takes a deeper dive into tools that will help you plan for your GEAR UP programming. This seminar is ideal for communication specialists, site coordinators, and other GEAR UP leaders implementing social media initiatives.



SEMINAR 4: College Admissions in the Age of COVID-19

Speakers: **David Hawkins**, Executive Director for Educational Content and Policy, National Association for College Admission Counseling
Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs, University of California, Office of the President
Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University
Angela Nixon Boyd, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission, Hampton University
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: It’s no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has upended nearly every facet of education. As K12 and higher education have pivoted to today’s realities, it is becoming increasingly clear that the effects of the pandemic will be felt for some time in education. How has the pandemic changed college admissions? Which adaptations are temporary and which changes are likely to be permanent?

Join a panel of college admissions experts from a variety of 4-year institutions as they discuss critical insights, key trends, and explore how GEAR UP can position students for success.



SEMINAR 5: How to Serve Rural Students During a Pandemic: Lessons from the Last Best Place

Speakers: **Travis Anderson**, Director, Montana GEAR UP
Sam Garetson, Program Manager, Montana GEAR UP
Chrissy Tillery, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thomas Cech, Associate Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Serving students in rural communities has its own set of challenges, many of them unique to the communities themselves. In Montana and elsewhere, rural communities face many issues including: attracting qualified educators to teach rigorous course offerings; decreased access to opportunities focused on academic enrichment and/or remediation; transportation issues impacting after school activities; lack of broadband infrastructure; geographical isolation from college campuses; and a lack of a variety of job opportunities. These barriers became compounded throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as the need for remote services intensified.

We have all been asked to be innovative and creative in furthering GEAR UP goals and objectives in our communities. Join us as we share our story from the Big Sky and lead a discussion on serving rural students remotely during the pandemic.



SEMINAR 6: Virtual Roundtable: Grant Administration in the Pandemic

Speakers: **Alex Chough**, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In the best of times, administering a GEAR UP program is a challenge. However, the pandemic has compounded the challenges we face. How do we effectively adapt our operations to meet the current needs of our schools, students, and families? How have others taken advantage of the flexibilities in federal compliance requirements? Come join this (very) lightly facilitated peer-to-peer session to share, learn, and discuss pressing issues with your fellow GEAR UP leaders, finance and budget specialists, and others concerned with grant administration and compliance.

Tuesday | February 9

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm EST

BURST SESSION

Cultivating Genius: An Equity Model for Education

Speakers:

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



Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Language and Literacy, Georgia State University

Join nationally recognized expert Dr. Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad as she facilitates a session to clearly define culture, equity, anti-racism and culturally & historically responsive education. Together, culture will be explored and revisited in deep, multifaceted ways. In this Burst Session, we will consider our own cultural identities and approaches to learning the cultures/identities of students. By the end of this session, participants will understand culture and will be charged to engage in self-identity work. The facilitator will also introduce participants to the model of culturally and historically responsive education (CHRE). Participants will learn a brief history of CHRE and the power of

education among communities of color in the United States. In addition, educators will be introduced to a five-layered equity model for teaching and learning: (1) identity, (2) skills, (3) intellectualism, (4) criticality, and (5) joy.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part I)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

NETWORKING BREAK AND RAFFLE IN EXHIBIT HALL

3:30 pm EST – 4:30 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part II)



EXCEL WORKSHOP E4: SEL for Adult Learners: Managing Stress and Trauma in Uncertain Times

Speakers: **Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D.**, Director, School Partnership Grants, Faculty, Arizona State University GEAR UP
Alex Casillas, Ph.D., Principal Research Psychologist, ACT
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: As GEAR UP professionals, we are all aware that social and emotional (SE) skills are key to student success, particularly for underserved learners. These same SE skills are essential to adults as well.

In Part 1 of this interactive and research-driven workshop, participants will become familiar with common approaches to social and emotional learning, and the importance for both student and adult audiences. Participants will also be exposed to current research related to trauma, trauma-informed approaches, and the connection to GEAR UP educational settings in the uncertainty of our current health crisis and socio-political climate. During Part 2 of the workshop, a variety of interactive activities will take place. Participants will walk away with tools to combat stress and address triggers of trauma intended for their self-care; however, the tools can also be used to support students and families within the GEAR UP community.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with common approaches to social and emotional learning, and why it is important for both adults and students.
- Define trauma, trauma-informed approaches, and their relevance to educational settings in the age of COVID-19.

- Learn tools and exercises to help you combat stress, and address triggers of trauma.
- Learn how to convert the tools and exercises to help support the students and families with whom you work.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E5: Virtual Summer Programs to Reduce Summer Slump

Speaker: **Julie Johnson**, GEAR UP Director, Mira Costa College
Martha Atencio, Assistant Director, The Bronx Institute at Lehman College
Alana Simmons, Ph.D., Director, GEAR UP Dougherty
Danielle Walker, Associate Director of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: School is out, but learning doesn't have to end. The last day of school is a welcomed break for most students, but it can also mean a detour for college readiness work. Between 10%-20% of high school seniors who are admitted to college, and intend to go, don't make it to the first day of school. For grade school students, there is a well-known slump in learning during the summer. So, how can we beat the heat?

Join presenters as they discuss virtual summer programming frameworks and tools to prevent Summer Slump. No matter which grades you serve, you'll leave this workshop with resources to support every virtual summer program plan.

Objectives:

- Understand effective virtual summer program frameworks.
- Gain resources and tools to support virtual summer programs.
- Explore summer planning roadmaps and plans.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E6: Stand Up, Stand Together

Speakers: **Damien Sweeney**, Ed.D., Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, Kentucky Department of Education; Adjunct Professor, University of the Cumberlands and Spalding University
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: How do GEAR UP teams get involved in breaking down racist barriers for their school communities and stakeholders while facilitating courageous conversations to bring about social change? How do school communities become anti-racist and ensure that educators (and collaborative partners) within these educational settings have a voice in the process?

This workshop will introduce participants to the Kentucky Department of Education's *Guidance on How Districts Can Facilitate Conversations About Race-based Stress and Trauma* and the *Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization* (presented at an Association of Educational Service Agencies conference) while showing participants how to navigate these tools (and so many more) in an effort to become the educators our traditionally marginalized students have always needed.

Objectives:

- Understand the importance of facilitating critical/courageous conversations and have tools to do so.
- Know the data needed to consider when reflecting on school’s progress towards becoming anti-racist.
- Understand the need to implement a multi-tiered system of support in a program and understand how to use this system through a racial trauma lens.
- Be able to identify where a school/district/organization is in its efforts to become anti-racist and know what to do to help the organization progress.



PROVE WORKSHOP P2: The Foundation: GEAR UP Data, Evaluation, and Federal Reporting

- Speakers:**
- Julie Jaramillo**, Director of Data and Analytics, Xcalibur
 - Anna Prescott**, Senior Evaluation and Research Analyst, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
 - Chrissy Tillery**, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
 - Thomas Cech**, Associate Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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, are essential for effectively running a GEAR UP grant.

Join GEAR UP researchers for an introductory overview of GEAR UP federal reporting, data management, and evaluation practices which will include hands-on materials that 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 enhance every facet of your federal reporting, data, and evaluation efforts.

Objectives:

- Understand the status of the updated federal requirements for the APR.
- Review federal reporting, data management, and evaluation practices.
- Obtain a toolkit that can be used locally.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M2: Cut the Jargon: Approaches to Communicating with Clarity

- Speakers:**
- Eric Johnson**, Director of Editorial Strategy, The College Board
 - Dana Beck**, Program Manager, Oregon GEAR UP
 - Lesli Yogi**, Communications and Engagement Specialist, GEAR UP Hawaii
 - Alex Chough**, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Our success depends in no small part in our ability to effectively communicate with students, families, and others. Given the nature of our college readiness work, it’s simply hard to effectively communicate our GEAR UP purpose, how college admissions works, or how to make sense of the financial aid process. Yet ensuring that our messages are well understood by real people can be

achieved by adopting an audience-centric mindset and using simple techniques that cut through the jargon, dense, or complex language that typifies our work. This workshop is suited for any individual who communicates to students, families, or non-educators about the college going and financial aid process.

Objectives:

- Learn guiding principles that help you communicate with simplicity and clarity.
- Explore specific challenges in communicating about GEAR UP with your audiences.
- Apply what you've learned through hands-on exercises.

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm EST

EXHIBIT HALL / BREAK

4:45 pm – 5:30 pm EST

GEAR UP WELL-BEING SESSIONS



WELL-BEING 1: Well-Being Made Simple – Physical

Speakers: **Nick Drago**, Professional Dancer, Writer, and Producer, and Co-Owner of Flow 40 Dance Workshops
Kelly Pappas, Associate Director, Career & College Clubs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let's deliberately take care of ourselves through simple, restorative activities so we can feel happy, **healthy**, socially connected, and purposeful.

This session will focus on the "healthy" by providing simple, evidence-based techniques to improve your health and body function. Join us to learn some simple, low-impact exercises to engage your body and get your heart pumping.



WELL-BEING 2: Well-Being Made Simple – Workplace

Speakers: **Zipporah Little**, Project Director, Midlands GEAR UP
Roderick Figgs, Assistant Director for GEAR UP, California State University San Bernardino
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Consultant, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let's deliberately take care of ourselves through simple, restorative activities so we can feel happy, healthy, socially connected, and **purposeful**.

This session will focus on the "purposeful" by providing simple, evidence-based techniques to pursue your interests and enhance your professional development. Join us to learn how to improve your workplace well-being and engagement, motivation, and productivity.

WELL-BEING 3: Well-Being Made Simple – Emotional

Speakers: **Carlos Bing**, GEAR UP Director, Ohio Department of Higher Education
Danielle Walker, Associate Director of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let’s deliberately take care of ourselves through simple, restorative activities so we can feel **happy**, healthy, socially connected, and purposeful. This session will focus on the “happy” by providing simple, evidence-based techniques to practice stress management, improve self-care, and resiliency. Join us to learn how you can increase your capacity to enjoy life, handle stress, and experience happiness and security.

WELL-BEING 4: Well-Being Made Simple – Social

Speakers: **Timenee Thomas**, Program Coordinator, Louisiana GEAR UP
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let’s deliberately take care of ourselves through simple, restorative activities so we can feel happy, healthy, **socially connected**, and purposeful.

This session will focus on the “socially-connected” by providing simple, evidence-based techniques to develop meaningful relationships with others. Join us to learn how you can build social skills that foster a genuine connection with those around you to promote healthy, nurturing relationships.

WELL-BEING 5: The Power of Gratitude and Your Happiness

Speakers: **Ernesto Mejia**, Vice President & Partnership Cultivator, Coolspeak
Carlos Ojeda, Jr., Youth Empowerment Speaker and Expert, Coolspeak
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let’s deliberately take care of ourselves by looking inward, focusing on gratitude. During these trying times, it can be easy to oversee the good that is taking place around us due to the never-ending challenges we face. However, if we can change our focus toward the positives and begin using the power of gratitude, we can impact our happiness levels.

This session will focus on discovering new manners to express gratitude toward our co-workers, students, family members, and, of course, ourselves. Join us to learn how you can practice gratitude to increase happiness and celebrate life no matter what the world throws your way.

Wednesday | February 10

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm EST

BURST SESSION

Breaking Through: Supporting the Mental Health and Well-Being of Students

Speakers:

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



David Rivera, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counselor Education, Department of Educational & Community Programs, Queens College, City University of New York

The pandemic has been described as the largest disruption of education in history. When coupled with social unrest and economic uncertainty, it's no surprise that students—especially students of color—are feeling isolated, overwhelmed, anxious, and depressed. With today's climate exasperating longstanding inequities, how can we better ensure that the broader social, emotional, and mental health needs of low-income students are met as they prepare for higher education? Please join Dr. David Rivera as he contextualizes the wellness disparities experienced by marginalized communities, explores the impact of today's climate on students, and shares recommendations on how to better support our GEAR UP students in this crisis and beyond.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part I)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

NETWORKING BREAK AND RAFFLE IN EXHIBIT HALL

3:30 pm EST – 4:30 pm EST

WORKSHOPS (Part II)



EXCEL WORKSHOP E7: Transforming GEAR UP Programming with Trauma-Informed Approaches and Practices

Speakers: **Isaiah Pickens**, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, iOpening Enterprises
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Can you imagine a GEAR UP community where we interact with every student and family we meet as if we knew their story of hardship and trial, and provided support and services to each of them from that knowledge?

Join this workshop to engage with the experts to learn how trauma impacts youths' lives and the importance of our role within this essential work. Come prepared to open your head, hearts, and hands! By connecting with us, plan to reflect individually, discuss collectively, and plan strategically for our GEAR UP community-wide approach to utilizing trauma-informed techniques and implementation strategies with our students, families, colleagues, and ourselves in mind. Participants will leave this

workshop with student- and educator-friendly resources and tools that can be implemented within your school community.

Objectives:

- Examine the research, theories, and related assessments that provide foundational knowledge and building blocks.
- Identify and analyze the challenges, barriers, and opportunities in addressing trauma-related experiences and actions.
- Discuss and share information, resources, and tools that will support and guide trauma-informed efforts.
- Jumpstart an action-plan for implementing trauma-informed techniques within programming.



EXCEL WORKSHOP E8: Bracing for Change: Developing a Structured Approach for Innovation and Implementation

Speakers: **Alexandrea Robinson-Rogers**, Executive Director, Office of Academic Supports, School District of Philadelphia
Danielle Walker, Associate Director of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Rapid change, complex problems, and inspiration—a recipe for innovation. The year 2020 has brought us many lessons on the power of technology, our capacity for adaptability, and the impact of rapid change. How can these lessons improve program design for 2021 and beyond?

In this interactive presentation, participants will learn about tools for solving complex problems, explore the importance of turning staff members into stakeholders, and engage in an iterative approach for success. During Part 1 of this workshop, we will explore the tools and resources that can support innovation. You'll have a chance to consider how to use them in your local context in Part 2 of the workshop. Whether you are a GEAR UP director, coordinator, evaluator, or anything in between, this workshop is for you. Participants are encouraged to join this presentation with 1-2 additional team members.

Objectives:

- Gain resources to understand and remedy complex problems.
- Learn about human centered design meant to encourage collaborative practice and investment.
- Explore a strategic planning framework.



PROVE WORKSHOP P3: The End Goal: Postsecondary Outcomes

Speakers: **Chrissy Tillery**, Ed.D., Vice President of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thomas Cech, Associate Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: For those grants in their early stages, postsecondary outcomes may be a distant consideration; however, an early and strong understanding of how to collect, analyze, interpret, and report on these outcomes is imperative. A deep understanding of these outcomes will not only make your program evaluation more robust but will add to the national picture of our impact. There is a

growing conversation about GEAR UP’s need to assess college completion. As such, and to stay ahead of the curve, we need to understand postsecondary outcomes on a systematic and collective level. Year after year, we are looked at through many different lenses. Those lenses have become more and more critical to our continued viability and sustainability at the federal level. So, don’t wait until your students are going to college; take the time now to prepare and understand the details of three very important measures: enrollment, persistence, and completion.

Join us for a deep dive on the various postsecondary outcome measures that are important for GEAR UP student and programmatic success. Specifically, this workshop will highlight the three critical postsecondary outcomes of enrollment, persistence, and completion. It is critical that all GEAR UP constituents understand our end goal—getting students to and through college!

Objectives:

- Understand the magnitude of properly collecting postsecondary outcome data for reporting purposes.
- Determine where to obtain postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion measures.
- Understand how to interpret postsecondary outcome data.
- Determine how to utilize key measures for evaluative purposes.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP M3: Culture, Identity, and Experience: Building an Effective GEAR UP Brand

Speakers:

Praveen Vajpeyi, Creative Director, Mastery Transcript Consortium

Kim Drummond, Executive Director, GEAR UP Kentucky

Meghan Cave, Director of College Pathways and Communications, Colorado GEAR UP

Alex Chough, Vice President for Government Relations & Interim CEO, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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 M4: Our Stories Matter: How to Mobilize GEAR UP Students, Educators & Families through Storytelling

Speaker:

Richard Reyes, Executive Director, PLUS ME Project

Summer Steele, Director of GEAR UP and Cal-SOAP, California State University, San Bernardino

Emily Jeffries, Associate Director for Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: It's vital that we learn how to create inclusive cultures within GEAR UP communities where students, educators, and parents feel like all their voices are being heard. When we understand the importance of storytelling, human connection, and how to build a culture that includes everyone's story, we build stronger teams.

This workshop will cover a six-step process on how to build a storytelling culture in a GEAR UP community, school, or classroom that connects and inspires all members. We will listen to each other's stories and learn how to mobilize our students to share their stories by understanding how to create safe spaces and implementing inclusive storytelling strategies. If you are looking for support on how to build connections, empowerment, and empathy between staff, students, and parents through a virtual or in-person space, then this workshop is for you!

Objectives:

- Learn how to create inclusive cultures within GEAR UP communities through storytelling.
- Explore a six-step process on how to build a culture of storytelling.
- Develop tools to cultivate storytellers in your GEAR UP community.

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm EST

EXHIBIT HALL / BREAK

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm EST

CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT



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NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity-Building Workshop

February 8-10, 2021