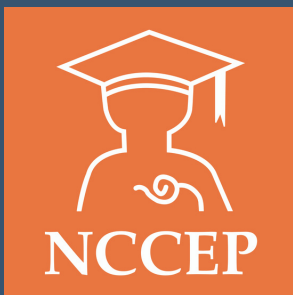


NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

February 13-15, 2023
Online



EXCEL



PROVE



MOBILIZE

NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP



EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE

Feb. 13-15, 2023 • Online

MON | FEBRUARY 13

TUE | FEBRUARY 14

WED | FEBRUARY 15



The 2023 Capacity-Building Workshop is coordinated by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP), the national association of the GEAR UP program.

**THURS | FEBRUARY 9
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET
Pre-Conference: GEAR
UP Orientation**

Attendees can join this special pre-conference webinar.

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
BURST SESSION: EXCEL**

**1:30 PM - 1:45 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**1:45 PM - 2:45 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 1**

**2:45 PM - 3:15 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**3:15 PM - 4:15 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 2**

**4:15 PM - 4:30 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET
Skill-Building Seminars &
Open Labs**

**5:30 PM - 5:40 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**5:40 PM - 6:10 PM ET
Resource Roundup**

**12:00 PM - 12:30 PM ET
Vendor Spotlight**

**12:30 PM - 1:00 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
BURST SESSION: PROVE**

**1:30 PM - 1:45 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**1:45 PM - 2:45 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 1**

**2:45 PM - 3:15 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**3:15 PM - 4:15 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 2**

**4:15 PM - 4:30 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET
Skill-Building Seminars &
Open Labs**

**5:30 PM - 5:40 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**5:40 PM - 6:10 PM ET
Virtual Social Engagement**

**12:00 PM - 12:30 PM ET
Vendor Spotlight**

**12:30 PM - 1:00 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
BURST SESSION: MOBILIZE**

**1:30 PM - 1:45 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**1:45 PM - 2:45 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 1**

**2:45 PM - 3:15 PM ET
Exhibit Hall & Networking
Break**

**3:15 PM - 4:15 PM ET
Excel, Prove, Mobilize
Workshops & Exploration
Labs - Part 2**

**4:15 PM - 4:30 PM ET
Closing Session**

Thursday | February 9

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRE-CONFERENCE

GEAR UP Orientation: Your Official Welcome to the GEAR UP Family

Speakers:

Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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

Overview: Did you recently join a GEAR UP program? Join this session to get to know GEAR UP, NCCEP, and the national community! In this session you will learn about GEAR UP and how it gets from the halls of Congress to the halls of your schools. You'll see why programs like GEAR UP exist and identify the impact of your role in the program. Come check out how GEAR UP will change you and your community. This session is for any new GEAR UP employee who joined GEAR UP in the past year!

Objectives:

- Learn how GEAR UP is administered.
- Identify needs in your communities and strategies incorporated to address those needs.
- Explore your role in the community and how you can get involved.

Monday | February 13

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm ET

WELCOME REMARKS AND BURST SESSION - REFLECTING ON WHAT'S TO COME: TRENDS THAT WILL SHAPE OUR WORK

Speakers:

Alex Chough, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships



Anthony P. Carnevale, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Since its founding in 1998, GEAR UP has focused on expanding the pathway to postsecondary education for students nationwide. Over that time, we've successfully navigated changes in the political, social, and economic landscape, but what are some of the major shifts can we expect in the years ahead?

In this Burst Session, we are thrilled to welcome celebrated thought leader and economist, Dr. Anthony Carnevale, to share his research-based insights into how the labor market is changing, major trends and challenges for higher education, and key opportunities related to our shared pursuit of education equity.

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT I.

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT. II

What is a Workshop?

Workshops focus on cross-cutting, foundational skills that align with the national strategy of Excel/Prove/Mobilize. Speakers will share information and strategies through presentations and activities that can support your GEAR UP work.

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs encourage peer networking, sharing, learning, and problem-solving. Facilitator(s) will guide you through exercises and/or conversations on a specific topic or challenge. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief “Lab Report” after the conference.



EXCEL WORKSHOP:

Building Intentional Relationships, Day 1

Speakers:

Carrie Foster, Trainer, Search Institute

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

Overview: Relationships matter, how do we build them effectively with young people? Developmental Relationships are fundamental for young people to be and become their best selves, however research shows young people do not consistently experience developmental relationships in the schools and out-of-school time (OST) programs that they attend. Search Institute’s ongoing applied research also shows, however, that when adults who work with or are raising young people become intentional about relationships, great things are possible.

Objectives:

- Reflect on where, when, and how they express the elements of developmental relationships.
- Identify strategies to intentionally build developmental relationships with young people.
- Learn how to nurture relationships using activities and techniques to integrate the elements into everyday practice.

**EXCEL WORKSHOP:****Preparing New GEAR UP Leaders for Success: Compliance and Administration****Speakers:**

Marcie Mills, GEAR UP Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

Kevin Hall, Director of Programs, Partners for Education at Berea College

Carlos Bing, Director of College Access Programs, Ohio Department of Education

Alex Chough, President, 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, audit readiness, and compliance. 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.

Objectives:

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

**EXCEL WORKSHOP:****The Inclusive Learner Toolkit: A Hands-On Practical Guide to Instruction and Student Development****Speakers:**

Aaron S. Richmond, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Psychology & Human Development, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to apply Universal Design to Learning (UDL) to several aspects of instruction and learning. Specifically, participants will explore a framework and template to teach underserved students how to learn in summer and after school programs. Grounded in UDL and other evidence-based practices, gain examples you can use that range from the inclusive syllabus and inclusive learning and study strategies.

Objectives:

- Explain how to apply UDL to instruction of learning and memory strategies.
- Use a UDL framework for inclusive teaching and learning.
- Create evidence-based strategies to use in GEAR UP programming.



PROVE WORKSHOP: Research Symposium

Speakers:

Jackie Mania, Ed.D., Director of Research & Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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

Overview: The Research Symposium is an opportunity for GEAR UP professionals and partners to share their ongoing research and evaluation on topics relevant to GEAR UP. The symposium will take place in the style of an academic conference allowing each team of researchers and evaluators to present their papers with a brief discussion period after each paper. This session not only highlights the enhanced evaluation work being done in the GEAR UP community, but provides opportunity to learn more about what is working in GEAR UP and how data can be used to answer critical questions and improve programming.

Part 1 – Qualitative Studies in GEAR UP Contexts

- *Fostering Belonging with Students and Families* – Miena Siddiqi, California State University Fullerton GEAR UP and Mariana Gomez, California State University Fullerton GEAR UP
- *Perceptions of Experienced African American Male Principals of Supports Needed to Improve Their Instructional Leadership Skills* - Dr. Vance Benton, The Mindful Principal

Part 2 – Quantitative Studies in GEAR UP Contexts

- *Spoiler Alert–Money Matters! A pilot evaluation study examining the relationship between GEAR UP college access activities and postsecondary enrollment in one rural, southwest Georgia school district* - Dawn Cooper, GEAR UP Georgia at the University System of Georgia; Comfort Afolabi, Xcalibur; Melissa Gattuso, Xcalibur; Julie Jaramillo, Xcalibur
- *An investigation of how academic performance and school-level characteristics impact GEAR UP student's college-going attitudes and expectations* – Joanna Grace Sullivan, University of Kansas, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs and Dr. Meghan Ecker-Lyster, University of Kansas, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs
- *The Relationship of Advising to College Enrollment and FAFSA Completion in GEAR UP Kentucky* – Kim Welch, GEAR UP Kentucky and Dr. Cody Davidson, GEAR UP Kentucky



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP: A GEAR UP Communications Fly Over: What You Need to Get Started

Speakers:

Kim Welch, Executive Director, GEAR UP Kentucky

Missy Brownson Ross, Associate Director of Communications &

Outreach, GEAR UP Kentucky

Meghan Clarisse Cave, Director of College Pathways & Communications, Colorado GEAR UP

Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Were you recently awarded a new GEAR UP grant? Or want to step up your game in your GEAR UP communications? Well buckle up! Communicating the GEAR UP message is one of the foundations of success for a GEAR UP grant. Learn how to create a sustainable plan, craft your program's identity, and engage your community in this session.

GEAR UP Communications experts, Kim Welch and Missy Ross from GEAR UP Kentucky and Meghan Cave from Colorado GEAR UP will guide you on this flyover of communications for GEAR UP while connecting you to important tools to further your learning. This session is for site coordinators, grant directors, college access or communications specialists, or family engagement specialists.

Objectives:

- Identify your goals, audience, and platforms.
- Explore the dimensions of an effective communications plan that can apply to nearly any GEAR UP context.
- Learn practical approaches to measuring the success of your communications efforts.



EXPLORATION LAB:

Confronting the 'College Isn't Worth It' Mentality and Communicating the Value of Education

Facilitators:

Charlee Beasor, Associate Commissioner for Marketing & Communications, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Allison Kuehr, Communications & PR Manager, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: College enrollment is declining, in part due to greater skepticism about the value of higher education. How we talk about college matters – using language and messaging that is relevant, valuable, and accessible can help change attitudes and hopefully, behavior.

Objectives:

- Explore research conducted by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education on students' and parents' attitudes and beliefs around college
- Discuss the reasons why students and families may not value education

- Draft messages about the importance of college that will resonate with our communities

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief Lab Report after the conference.

Who should attend?

Anyone who communicates the importance of education beyond high school to students and families and wants to share their experiences and learn from others.

What should I expect?

Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. We encourage you to have your camera on to foster connection and conversation.



EXPLORATION LAB: Planning for a Smooth 7th Year

Facilitators:

Katrina Abes, GEAR UP First Year College Student Support Coordinator, University of Hawai'i P20
Lauren Foley, Associate Director of Professional Development, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Are you supporting students as they enter their last year of high school? Join this Exploration Lab to work along with your peers to tackle the challenges of supporting students during their first-year transition, sharing strategies on providing support to students during this time, and setting students up for the most successful experience they can have.

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief Lab Report after the conference.

Who should attend?

Anyone who is getting ready to support students in college and wants to share their experiences and learn from others.

What should I expect?

Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. We encourage you to have your camera on to foster connection and conversation.

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm ET

SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS & OPEN LABS

What is a Skill-Building Seminar?

Skill-Building Seminars focus on tools and resources that can be adapted to your local context. Through hands-on activities and exercises, you will explore strategies you can use.

What is an Open Lab?

Open Labs are an opportunity for networking and informal conversations. Through a series of small group breakouts, you will ask questions, discuss challenges, and share successes.



SEMINAR:

Data and Evaluation 101

Speakers:

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

Overview: Understanding the core foundational aspects of GEAR UP research and evaluation are essential for effectively running a GEAR UP grant. Join NCCEP’s prove team for this beginner-level session that will cover an introductory overview of GEAR UP data management and evaluation practices which will include hands-on materials that you can use as a toolkit for your program.

This session will focus on three core areas of data and evaluation: (1) the core tenants of GEAR UP data and evaluation so you are equipped with knowledge; (2) an understanding of how your data connects to the services you provide through data-informed decisions; and (3) an overview of the ways to enhance your data and evaluation efforts once you are equipped with the foundation.



SEMINAR:

Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities for Youth

Speakers:

Marcia Hampton, Supervisory Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
Kyle Maguire, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
R. Kenyon Corbett, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
Ryan J. Thompson, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Apprenticeships offer the foundation for youth to choose among multiple pathways – to enroll in college, begin full-time employment, or a combination. Apprenticeship opportunities

provide a foundation for career success and are a great way to implement career readiness within your GEAR UP programming.

Join this session with the U.S. Department of Labor to learn how educators, employers, and workforce professionals across the country can team up to launch apprenticeship programs serving high school and college students. Also, gain information on how to help middle school students start thinking about their future careers and learn how to jumpstart their careers.

Participants will gain access to materials that will help GEAR UP programs and their collaborative partners with building the foundational elements of a successful apprenticeship program that provides quality results for their students and schools.



SEMINAR: Student Engagement & Retention in a Post-COVID World

Speakers: **Carlos Ojeda Jr.**, CEO and Creative Force, CoolSpeak
Ernesto Mejia, Vice President, CoolSpeak
Thomas Cech, Senior Data Scientist, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Increased mental exhaustion coupled with decreased attention spans have made it difficult to engage students these days. While it's not impossible to retain them, it does require upgrading and exploring new techniques to help deliver programs. This session will address some of the programmatic changes CoolSpeak has implemented in the last few years, relying on research to help rejuvenate how we operate. If you are seeking new ways to engage, educate, and improve educational outcomes, then join us for this skill-building seminar!



SEMINAR: Student-Centered Advising

Speakers: **DJ Rock**, Manager of Training Partnerships, Bottom Line
Allen Coultas-Miggins, K-12 College & Career Readiness Manager, Fort Wayne Community Schools
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community & Education Partnerships

Overview: As we work with students one-on-one to help prepare them for college and career, we might fall into the role of "giving" – providing advice, information, and direction. Yet, advising often requires "receiving" – truly listening to individual needs. In this seminar, we will explore strategies and resources to strengthen student-centered advising, including a review of relationship-building tools and a discussion about how biases show up in advising. Come ready to engage in discussion about tools and resources for relationship-building with students, how to identify your own biases in advising, and how to use new frameworks to center student perspectives and needs into advising.

**SEMINAR:****What is Design Thinking & How Can it Help Me?****Speakers:**

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

Overview: Curious about design thinking? Looking for a new way to brainstorm solutions to solve tough challenges and issues? Search no further – join this seminar as we explore design thinking through an education lens. In this interactive seminar, we will identify what design thinking is and see a few examples of design thinking in action in different educational settings and contexts. Then, together, we will take the first steps into the design thinking process by participating in an empathy mapping exercise. Come to this seminar ready to engage with your peers, learn a new problem-solving process, and gain new tools and ideas you can take back to your workplace!

**OPEN LAB:****Bridging the Gap from Middle School to High School****Speakers:**

Chanel Truitt, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Next Generation GEAR UP, DeSoto ISD

Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: The transition from middle school to high school is a critical inflection point for students. Students who are at risk of falling behind in core learning courses may not be able to recover from that learning loss. Families may feel overwhelmed and discouraged when faced with the long list of to-dos for their student going into high school. But it's also a time for students to explore their interests and career pathways and ensure that their high school coursework is mapped out to align with their interests. Needless to say, the transition from middle school to high school can directly impact the trajectory of a student's future.

Join your peers from across the country to discuss challenges you face in implementing GEAR UP strategies during this transition and how you implement programming and advising to address this gap.

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!

**OPEN LAB:****Get to Know GEAR UP: Networking for Newcomers****Speakers:**

Jasmine Dean, Program Manager of Middle Grade Services, Arizona GEAR UP

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

Overview: Is this your first NCCEP/GEAR UP national event? Have you been with GEAR UP for less than three years? What do you want to learn and explore with other GEAR UP professionals? Join us to share your early learnings about GEAR UP, how you want to grow in the college access field, and to simply get to know the national community. As part of a strong, impactful, energetic community, let's come together and explore what this GEAR UP journey means for each of us.

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!



OPEN LAB:

Hot Topics for School Districts: Managing in Turbulent Times

Speakers:

John Barker, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships Program

Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: School districts across the country face daunting challenges managing their day-to-day operations in a post-COVID (really?!) world. Student and teacher attendance, labor force demands, and academic achievement gaps are just three of the major issues facing districts. This Open Lab session will air out some of the dirty laundry education practitioners face and provide a "sandbox" space to share frustrations and possible solutions.

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!

5:30 pm – 5:40 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

5:40 pm – 6:10 pm ET

RESOURCE ROUNDUP



RESOURCE ROUNDUP:

Canva: Your One-Stop Shop Design Studio

Speakers:

Adriana Eldred, Communications & Outreach Specialist, Vermont GEAR UP

Rachael Sanchez, Education Specialist, Region One Education Service Center, College Ready-Career Set!

Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Need a flyer for your family GEAR UP night? Canva can do that. Want to design an infographic to share your program's data? Canva can do that. Need to make a short video about financial aid for social media? Canva can do that – and let you post directly to your platform of choice.

Whether you're a complete novice or a total Canva evangelist, this session will walk through

some of the many features that this design software has to offer. We think Canva is awesome, and you will too!

If you want to get the most out of this session, create a free Canva account ahead of time.



RESOURCE ROUNDUP: Family Engagement Starter Kit for All

Speakers:

Rebeca Figueroa, Impact & Operations Strategist, GEAR UP at Appalachian State University & YES

Cristal Sanchez, Education Services Coordinator, CSUF GEAR UP

Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Looking for a resource for a GEAR UP initiative? Want inspiration for family engagement tools? Join us as we explore a couple resources from the Family Engagement Starter Kit for All and how you can adapt them to your GEAR UP program. The resources and kit were developed in partnerships with NCCEP’s Family Engagement Advisory Committee, a group of dedicated professionals who want to support family engagement efforts nationally.



RESOURCE ROUNDUP: The Coordinator’s Toolkit

Speakers:

Jamie Porter, GEAR UP Virginia Regional Manager, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

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

Overview: Do you support program development and implementation, provide direct services to students, collect and manage data regarding student services and outcomes, and/or organize college awareness events? Are you looking for new ideas and resources to help in your work? Join us and discover the resources in NCCEP’s Coordinator’s Toolkit and learn how they can help you. In this short session, we will introduce the Toolkit and the resources available while highlighting two specific resources with applications to real-world work. You’ll leave our session with new ideas, tools, and templates that you can use today!

Tuesday | February 14

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm ET

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



SPOTLIGHT #1:

CERT

Speakers:

Buddy Sampson, CERT

Holly Lawson, CERT

Thomas Cech, Senior Data Scientist, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet the CERT team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

Designed for GEAR UP, CERT provides ACT, SAT, TSIA2 assessments and individualized remediation in English and Spanish as well as comprehensive College Planning software.



SPOTLIGHT #2:

The Scholar Budget: There's More Than One Way to Pay For College

Speakers:

Rockell Bartoli, IPREP4LIFE

Leticia Parrilla, IPREP4LIFE

Kelly Pappas, Director, Career & College Clubs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet The Scholar Budget team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

The Scholar Budget equips students with the tools and knowledge to make financially savvy decisions. Students learn financial skills and the BEST practices for earning a debt-free degree through engaging presentations, books, and eCourses.



SPOTLIGHT #3:

Student Success Agency

Speakers:

LeAnna Wilson, Student Success Agency

Michael Benko, Student Success Agency

Janeé Williams, Associate Director of Operations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet the Student Success Agency team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

Student Success Agency's (SSA) mentoring platform and vetted staff helps schools and grants improve their engagement with students by creating an environment for students to receive timely services like comprehensive mentoring, academic tutoring, and college advising from their electronic devices after school and over the weekends.

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm ET

BURST SESSION - WHAT'S AT STAKE? EXAMINING THE FUTURE OF RACE-CONSCIOUS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Speakers:

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



Liliana M. Garces, Ed.D., W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, University of Texas at Austin

With the U.S. Supreme Court considering two prominent cases that seek to challenge the use of race-conscious admissions in American higher education, we find ourselves at a potential inflection point. While several states have prohibited the use of race/ethnicity as a factor in college admissions, at the national level, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that the use of race/ethnicity was lawful for over 40 years.

With their ruling expected later this summer, many expert observers are anticipating that the Court's decision will alter the admissions landscape. While it remains to be seen if these will result in narrow or seismic changes to college admissions, it will undoubtedly impact the many students that GEAR UP serves.

In this Burst Session, we are delighted to welcome renowned education and legal scholar, Dr. Liliana M. Garces to help us explore what's at stake for our students and our nation.

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT. I

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT. II



EXCEL WORKSHOP:

Building Intentional Relationships, Day 2

Speakers:

Carrie Foster, Trainer, Search Institute

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

Overview: Relationships matter, how do we build them effectively with young people? Developmental Relationships are fundamental for young people to be and become their best selves, however research shows young people do not consistently experience developmental relationships in the schools and out-of-school time (OST) programs that they attend. Search

Institute’s ongoing applied research also shows, however, that when adults who work with or are raising young people become intentional about relationships, great things are possible.

Objectives:

- Reflect on where, when, and how they express the elements of developmental relationships.
- Identify strategies to intentionally build developmental relationships with young people.
- Learn how to nurture relationships using activities and techniques to integrate the elements into everyday practice.



EXCEL WORKSHOP: Creating a Culture of Family Engagement

Speakers:

Elvin Browne, Regional Coordinator, GEAR UP Tennessee
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: It is well known that parents, family members, and other caring adults create a lasting impact on student success. This impact is why GEAR UP requires family engagement, and why every GEAR UP program strives to create programming that truly makes a difference. But we know that the work is not always simple, and that each family member comes with experiences and knowledge that shape engagement.

In this interactive workshop, discover foundations for family engagement, explore creative programming, and walk away with ideas to make family engagement not just required programming but desired GEAR UP programming.

Objectives:

- Describe the baseline assumptions of family engagement.
- Plan family engagement using a strategic process.
- Delineate ways to meaningfully engage GEAR UP families.



EXCEL WORKSHOP: Discover the GEAR UP STEM Toolkit

Speakers:

Jana Burd, Nevada GEAR UP College Coordinator, Nevada System of Higher Education
Joshua Faith, Regional Director, Indiana GEAR UP
Anita Long, Academic Support Coordinator, Vermont GEAR UP
Laura I. Saavedra, GEAR UP Program Director, University of Michigan Center for Educational Outreach

Janet Stake, NSHE GEAR UP Director, Programming & Outreach, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)/ Nevada State GEAR UP

Doug Thompson, Assistant Director Curriculum and Instructional Design, Appalachian GEAR UP

Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community & Education Partnerships

Overview: Underserved students are less likely to major in or have a career in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Therefore, a group of GEAR UP professionals came together to address this persistent challenge through a design thinking process.

The result: the STEM Toolkit, which encourages GEAR UP programs to implement STEM activities and connect them to college and career. No matter your background or level of expertise in STEM, this practical guide includes recommendations, lessons learned, and a list of resources to get you started. The toolkit also contains over 20 different STEM activities created or curated by the group and our national partners: MAD-learn, Maker Ed, and Texas Instruments.

Join us in this hands-on workshop!

Objectives:

- Learn the importance of STEM and its connection to GEAR UP goals.
- Discover strategies and tips to successfully integrate STEM activities into your GEAR UP program.
- Participate in hands-on STEM activities that you can do with students.
- Develop your confidence in your ability to implement and/or deliver STEM programming.



PROVE WORKSHOP: GEAR UP Federal Reporting: An Overview of the APR and FPR

Speakers:

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

Jackie Mania, Ed.D., Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this session, NCCEP staff will preview the GEAR UP Annual Performance Report (APR) and Final Performance Report (FPR), including an overview of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) indicators, student demographic information, and student outcomes. The session will also include an overview of the reporting timeline and what your grant project can do to prepare for the reporting requirements. Tips from seasoned staff who have completed countless GEAR UP federal reports will be provided throughout the session.

This session will close with a discussion of recommendations that NCCEP will be proposing to the U.S. Department of Education for a redesigned, future version of the APR and FPR. Participant feedback will be encouraged and documented for this process.



MOBILIZE WORKSHOP: Amplifying the #GEARUPworks Message and Securing Buy-In Locally and Nationally

Speakers: **Jacque Deahl**, Project Director, GEAR UP Idaho – Idaho State Department of Education
Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: We know that #GEARUPworks. We see it in our schools every day. But how do we ensure the future of the GEAR UP program? By sharing the impact of the GEAR UP program in your life, the lives of your students, and the lives of families in your community. Great work and outcomes are not enough to gain the support you need to successfully implement, sustain, and grow the GEAR UP college readiness agenda. From the schools we serve to the U.S. Capitol, we need to proactively engage with leaders who directly impact the future of the GEAR UP program, nationally and locally. Fortunately, advocacy work is easy if you are prepared and have a plan.

Join us to learn how to better understand the factors that influence decision-making, the principles of sound advocacy, and develop strategies you can use to advocate for your program locally. This workshop is suited for any individual who wants to be a better advocate for their activity, program, or GEAR UP as a whole.



EXPLORATION LAB: Exploring Financial Aid & College Application Challenges

Facilitators: **Elizabeth Manuel**, Senior Director of Student Services, Division of Student Affairs, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Do you work or engage in the college and financial aid application processes? If yes, this Exploration Lab is for you. This lab is designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of our group will be compiled in a brief “Lab Report” after the conference. Everyone will benefit from the information!

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief Lab Report after the conference.

Who should attend?

Those who work/worked with students and families on the college application and financial aid application completion and want to share their insights, experiences, and resources. Let’s learn and grow together!

What should I expect?

Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. We encourage you to have your camera on to foster connection and conversation.



EXPLORATION LAB:

Strengthening GEAR UP Compliance and Operations

Facilitators:

Amanda Whittington, Assistant Director of Finance & Compliance, NC Appalachian Partnership, Appalachian State University

Jereese Johnson, Project Director, Next Generation GEAR UP, DeSoto ISD

Lois Bramwell, Retired GEAR UP Director

Wendy Stack, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Alex Chough, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Let's be frank: administering a GEAR UP grant is remarkably challenging. Not only does it require a top-notch programmatic team, but it also requires a strong budget, finance, and compliance infrastructure too. Yet, learning how to navigate the federal compliance issues and standing up financial and operational controls, policies, and processes that are responsive to the unique implementation model of GEAR UP can take years to develop. This Exploration Lab is designed to bring together programs of all experience levels to collaborate on how to take the back-office operations of GEAR UP to the next level.

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief Lab Report after the conference.

Who should attend?

Individuals who are responsible for grant administration, finance and budget planning, operations, compliance, and other related functions who want to share their insights, experiences, and resources. Let's learn and grow together!

What should I expect?

Join us for this participatory experience! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. The session will be lightly facilitated to create a peer-to-peer space for attendees to share, learn, and problem solve with each other.

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm ET

SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS & OPEN LABS



SEMINAR:

Career & College Clubs: Student Engagement Using Student Leadership

Speakers:

Kelly Pappas, Director, Career & College Clubs, National Council for

Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: We all know how difficult it can be to engage students, especially when students have competing or even conflicting priorities. A proven and effective approach to engage students: utilizing students as leaders. Learn how to incorporate student leadership in your programs and leave with sample activities from NCCEP's Career & College Clubs program to use with your students.



SEMINAR:

Foundational Issues in GEAR UP Leadership and Implementation

Speakers:

Troy Grant, Senior Director of College Access / Principal Investigator, Tennessee Higher Education Commission / GEAR UP Tennessee
Angela Jackson, GEAR UP Hawai'i Project Director, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, University of Hawai'i
Adriana Badillo, Director, Center for Educational Partnerships, California State University, Fullerton
Alana Simmons, Ph.D., Program Director, GEAR UP Dougherty

Alex Chough, President, National Council for Community & Education Partnerships

Overview: Winning a GEAR UP grant is the first step in a long and challenging journey. Your ability to improve student outcomes will depend in part on your ability to overcome challenges that nearly every GEAR UP leader face when implementing a high-quality program. This seminar will explore foundational issues that every GEAR UP leader should prepare for, including getting off to a strong first year; change management; nurturing your partnership; and creating a culture of evidence.

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 seminar is ideally suited for new GEAR UP directors, senior coordinators, and other central staff administrators who play important roles in leading GEAR UP programs.



SEMINAR:

Present like a Pro

Speakers:

Adrienne Enriquez, Assistant Director, Oregon GEAR UP
Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Do people fall asleep while you're presenting? Or spend time constantly checking their phones? How about the dreaded death by PowerPoint? STOP. Present like a pro!

Learn best practices for preparing, designing, and delivering presentations in this interactive session. Anybody who presents information to students, parents or colleagues shouldn't miss learning about these simple strategies to engage audiences. Make your next presentation

awesome. *Planning to present at the NCCEP / GEAR UP Annual Conference? This session is for you!*



SEMINAR:

The 5 Cs: How to Build a Culture of Belonging and Student Voice Linked to Essential Skills for Meaningful Careers

Speakers:

Michael Matsuda, Super Intendent, Anaheim Union School District
Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community & Education Partnerships

Overview: According to a recent Oxford University study, almost half of all jobs are likely to be eliminated in the next few decades by technology. In addition, the employability gap – the gap between what skills employers need and what skills workers have – is growing larger and our school systems are failing to address the skills development challenge adequately.

Moreover, as Anthony Carnevale, Artem Gulish, and Catherine Campbell have stated in a report published by Georgetown University, *"The evidence of our failure to help all youth make the long journey from early childhood to adult economic independence is plain. In the trajectory from kindergarten to a good job, the most talented disadvantaged youth do not fare nearly as well as the least talented advantaged youth . . . It is far better to be born rich and white than smart and poor in America."*

Hear how one urban school district, with the leadership of their superintendent, is changing the culture of schools through instruction integrating the 5 C's: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Compassion. Join this engaging session to learn from Superintendent Michael Matsuda about a new framework for schools, and how the elevation of student voice has led to increased metrics in attendance, grades, college, and career readiness.



SEMINAR:

The Great Reboot: Lessons from the Pandemic to Increase Social Emotional Learning

Speakers:

Greg Evans, Founder & CEO, Seeds Training
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: What do we do after a pandemic? How do we reboot? What do we need to change?

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many challenges in our society that brought to light fear and anxiety; at the same time, it enabled us to be innovative and introspective. As the world evolves, it's critical to reflect on our individual and collective growth and how we can apply lessons learned in the future.

This session will explore the impact of the pandemic with a holistic lens by examining neurological responses and behavioral outcomes. The skill-building seminar will provide several key tactics that can shift our perspectives moving forward, including handling fear, improving wellbeing, supporting others, and solidifying our ability to be resilient.

**OPEN LAB:****Creating Common Ground: Operationalizing Outcome Definitions****Speakers:**

Jackie Mania, Ed.D., Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Thomas Cech, Senior Data Scientist, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: As we all strive to advance our evaluation efforts and tell our GEAR UP story, it's important that we are all speaking the same data language. In this Open Lab, we will have discussions about current definitions related to GEAR UP outcomes, the challenges in collecting outcome data, and how we can begin to refine our definitions to improve our GEAR UP reporting and, ultimately, advocacy.

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!

**OPEN LAB:****Making Time for Reflection****Speakers:**

Erin McGrath, Assistant Director College Access & PK12 Outreach, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

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

Overview: After two days of sharing and learning new ideas, come make your plan to turn “one day” into “day one”. We'll start by reminding ourselves of why we do our work, followed by a reflection on what we've learned at the conference. Finally, we'll map out our goals to put our learning into action after we've returned home. Please bring something to draw on and something to draw with – colored pencils, markers, etc. All roles and experience levels welcome!

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!

**OPEN LAB:****Sometimes, It's Okay to Brag - Celebrating Your GEAR UP Community****Speakers:**

Brett Lukert, Program Director, Haysville GEAR UP, Wichita State University

Emily Crawford, Director of Government Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Do you take the time to celebrate the people your program serves? Are you having trouble finding new ways to highlight achievements? Join your fellow peers in this Open Lab where you can connect and gain insight on a critical topic. We will reflect upon the significance

of celebrating your community, discuss challenges, and share strategies your program utilizes to highlight and celebrate your students and community.

Open Labs bring together the GEAR UP community for informal conversations and networking. Come prepared to engage!

5:30 pm – 5:40 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

5:40 pm – 6:10 pm ET

VIRTUAL SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: BINGO Redemption

Speakers:

Janee Williams, Associate Director of Operations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

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

Overview: Yes, you heard us right, BINGO is back! Didn't get a win last year? No worries, come join us as we jump back into this classic game and test your luck to be the first to five or blackout.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Hometown Staycations & Dream Board Destinations

Speakers:

Kelly Pappas, Director, Career & College Clubs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: GEAR UP members are spread across the nation, allowing us an opportunity to learn about different communities near or far to us. While COVID-19 may have impacted travel over the last few years, the itch to explore is back in full swing! Whether acting as a tourist in our own hometown or manifesting a dream vacation, this session aims to better understand our diverse landscape and have some fun.

In this social session, we will map out exciting excursions in our local communities, share favorite domestic travels, and visualize a bucket-list vacation spot through a dream board.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Workday Mindfulness & Meditation

Speakers:

April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Does your workday begin before you get out of bed in the morning? Do you answer emails before breakfast? Do you rush through lunch to return to Outlook, Zoom, or Teams? Do you second guess your meeting or presentation materials minutes before it is time to share? If

you can answer yes to these (or related) questions, then this social engagement session is for you!

Join us for an insightful and relaxing experience as we come together to learn (and engage in) the key components of mindfulness meditation for your workday.

Wednesday | February 15

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm ET

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



SPOTLIGHT #4:

Overview CoBro Evaluation Services and Data Management Systems

Speakers:

Darlene Cole, CoBro Consulting

Keren Brooks, CoBro Consulting

Kelly Pappas, Director, Career & College Clubs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet the CoBro Consulting team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

CoBro specializes in GEAR UP online data management systems and comprehensive program evaluation, including APR reporting, survey services, data analysis, and a variety of results reporting.



SPOTLIGHT #5:

Paradigm Shift

Speakers:

Dena Messop, Assistant Director of Student Access Sales, Paradigm Shift

Kyle Price, Director of Training, Paradigm Shift

Dana Beck, Director of Practice, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet the Paradigm Shift team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

Paradigm Shift uses practical leadership and adventure-based models to help both students and educators build meaningful connections, sharpen 21st century skills, and develop a defined purpose. They invite participants to learn through dynamic keynotes, interactive workshops, online coaching, and customized training. Most importantly, Paradigm Shift will challenge participants to unlock their leadership potential.



SPOTLIGHT #6:

Seeds Training

Speakers:

Greg Evans, Seeds Training

Justin Boudreau, Chief Training Officer and Co-owner, Seeds Training

Janeé Williams, Associate Director of Operations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: In this 30-minute session, you'll have the opportunity to meet the Seeds team and hear about all they do, get information on current and upcoming products and services, and ask questions. Take advantage of the chance to meet and greet with these sponsors and learn more about how they support our GEAR UP community.

Seeds Training designs and delivers educational programs that build life, leadership, and learning skills in students, teachers, and professionals around the world. In response to COVID-19, we've created a whole new line of products and services. Great SEL and leadership training for your students, parent engagement courses, and professional development for educators.

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm ET

BURST SESSION – IS MY GEAR UP BETTER BECAUSE I LEAD IT?

Speakers:

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



Baruti Kafele, Author and Former Principal

While the resources and programming that GEAR UP provides are essential, it's no secret that our collective success relies on one critical ingredient: leadership.

Every role within GEAR UP is an opportunity to innovate solutions to the many barriers that confront our students, families, and fellow educators. Yet the truth is, we rarely have the time to reflect on how our leadership identity can drive our individual and collective impact.

For this Burst Session, please join celebrated educator, school leader, and author, Baruti Kafele as he explores core leadership questions that translate our purpose, vision, goals into successful actions.

1:30pm – 1:45 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT. I

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm ET

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm ET

WORKSHOPS & EXPLORATION LABS PT. II



EXCEL WORKSHOP: Four Keys to Elevating Academic Preparation

Speakers: **Manuel Colon**, Chief Program Officer, Inflexion
Matt Coleman, Chief Executive Officer, Inflexion
Betty Paugh Ortiz, Vice President of Programs, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: How does your school community define what it means to be academically prepared for college? Does your GEAR UP programming align with your shared definition? Does your shared definition shape the student experience both within and beyond the school day, week, and/or year?

Dr. David Conley developed the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness (Four Keys) so students, families, and educators can identify and prioritize the skills that are needed to be successful after high school. This framework was primarily derived from studies and projects led by Dr. Conley and Inflexion as well as educational and social science research from a wide variety of sources including sociology, psychology, and learning theory. The workshop will focus on how the Four Keys can align what is happening every period, every day to GEAR UP programming beyond the school day, week, and year.

Participants will develop a working understanding of the Four Keys and engage with tools informed by schools using the Four Keys to prepare students with the skills and dispositions needed to be ready for college, career, and life. Specifically, the workshop will include practical guides designed to support GEAR UP schools in developing and using a shared definition for academic preparation to transform and align the student experience.

Objectives:

- Develop a working understanding of the Four Keys.
- Engage with tools and guides designed to support the use of the Four Keys.
- Explore little things and key moves that support academic preparation for all.



PROVE WORKSHOP: Designing Randomized Control Trials within a GEAR UP Context

Speakers: **Thomas Cech**, Senior Data Scientist, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Jackie Mania, Ed.D., Director of Research and Evaluation, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Randomized Control Trials (RCT) are often considered the “gold standard” of research as a result of their ability to reduce bias and mitigate factors that influence differences between groups. Because of these benefits, the What Works Clearinghouse often reserves identification of studies as Tier 1, those with strong evidence of effectiveness, for RCTs. However, conducting

an RCT in the context of GEAR UP has its unique challenges. In this session, you will learn how to design an RCT and discuss how the methodology can be successfully applied in a GEAR UP evaluation.



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

Speakers:

Richard Reyes, Executive Director, PLUS ME Project

Melisa Kashiwahara Lauer, Program Manager, GEAR UP 4 LA

Emily Crawford, Director of 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 session 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 session 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.



EXPLORATION LAB: Communicating with Families

Facilitators:

Monica Padron, GEAR UP Academic Content Coach - Family Specialist, UTRGV GEAR UP

Katie Hill, Ph.D., Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Flyers. Newsletters. Texts. Phone Calls. We use all these and more to connect with GEAR UP families. Yet, despite the many, varied, and herculean communication efforts, it can still be a challenge to engage with families. Let's talk about it.

During this Exploration Lab, we'll explore the core challenges of meaningful communication with families, the root causes of the challenge, and brainstorm ways to improve communication.

Effective communication paves the road for engagement, trust, and positive outcomes for the students, families, and communities we serve.

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief Lab Report after the conference.

Who should attend?

Anyone who works directly with families and wants to share their experiences and learn from others.

What should I expect?

Come ready to participate! We encourage you to have your camera on to foster connection and conversation.



EXPLORATION LAB: Serving Special Student Populations

Facilitators:

Roshelle S'Gleason, Site Coordinator/Counselor, Eastern Arizona College

April Bell, Director of Constituent Relations, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Overview: Do you work with special student populations like homeless youth, English language learners, or other groups with unique needs? Join us for an Exploration Lab as we dive into topics of your choice. As a group, we'll discuss promising practices, resources, and brainstorm new solutions to your challenges.

What is an Exploration Lab?

Exploration Labs are designed to crowdsource solutions to common challenges. The collective input of the group will be compiled in a brief "Lab Report" after the conference.

Who should attend?

Anyone who works or has worked directly with special student populations and wants to share their experiences and resources and learn from others.

What should I expect?

Come ready to participate! Exploration Labs are highly interactive. Facilitators will guide the group through conversations and activities to uncover solutions and new ideas.



SPECIAL MEETING: Partnership Directors' Meeting

Overview: This is an invitational meeting and pre-registration with NCCEP is required to access the meeting.

The Partnership GEAR UP Directors' meeting is entirely led and organized by GEAR UP Partnership Directors to convene, network, and discuss critical issues. Please note that this

meeting is invitation-only and should only be attended by GEAR UP Partnership Directors and/or Principal Investigators who have been designated as such by the U.S. Department of Education.



SPECIAL MEETING: State Directors' Meeting

Overview: *This is an invitational meeting and pre-registration with NCCEP is required to access the meeting.*

The State GEAR UP Directors' meeting is entirely led and organized by GEAR UP State Directors to convene, network, and discuss critical issues. Please note that this meeting is invitation-only and should only be attended by State GEAR UP Directors and/or Principal Investigators who have been designated as such by the U.S. Department of Education.



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NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity-Building Workshop

February 13-15, 2023



EXCEL • PROVE • MOBILIZE