

GEAR UP WEEK 2019

National GEAR UP Week is a chance to highlight GEAR UP's positive impact in your community.

It's a time to engage all your stakeholders (local, state and federal elected officials, funders, partners and media), share accomplishments, and encourage involvement with your services to students and families.

Hold a GEAR UP Week at your school to kick off the year with activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community. Use these materials during National GEAR UP Week or any time that works for you. This toolkit has ideas designed to get the word out about GEAR UP and the importance of going to college.

Choose to do some or all of the activities or create your own traditions.

Don't forget to share your events on social media and with GEAR UP Iowa staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)!

Use these hashtags on social media:

#IheartGEARUP #GEARUPworks

ACTIVITIES

Key

- Student activity
- Staff activity
- All activity

Family Night

Host a family event during GEAR UP week to get more information out about GEAR UP Iowa.

School Announcements

Include fun facts about college in the daily announcements or on the school televisions. Examples of announcements can be found [here](#).

College Spirit Day



Have faculty, staff and students wear GEAR UP or college gear or colors.

Have students write anything college-related on the sidewalks using chalk.

Have college representatives available during lunch to talk to students.

Media Outreach



Inform local radio stations, television stations and newspapers about GEAR UP Week.

Highlight an event taking place at your school.

Contact Your Leaders

THANK YOU!

Thank your Congressional delegates for supporting GEAR UP. A list of addresses can be found [here](#).

Get GEAR UP on your school board's agenda.

Host a forum for K-12 and higher education leaders.

Invite your mayor to speak at a school event.

"I Went to College" Signs



Have teachers, counselors and other school staff complete "I Went to College" signs and hang the signs next to their doors. Find a ready-to-use template [here](#).

College Trivia

COLLEGE TRIVIA

All answers are **public or private two-year or four-year colleges in Iowa.**

- Q: Which college is Iowa's first public institution for higher learning?
A: _____
- Q: Which college was the only "for-Change"??
A: _____
- Q: Which college became the nation's first "wireless community" when they gave laptop computers to all library students and faculty at the State Lake campus with the ability to connect to the computer wire less network?
A: _____
- Q: Which college has two women named Governor and three in one of their campus ponds?
A: _____
- Q: Which college was essentially named after a former Iowa governor, who also served as a United States Senator and Secretary of State?
A: _____
- Q: Which Iowa college was the first to graduate a woman?
A: _____
- Q: Which college did George Washington Cover start his education at?
A: _____
- Q: Which college has a stadium called the "Dome"?
A: _____
- Q: Which college is located in Iowa Falls, IA and their mascot is the Panther?
A: _____
- Q: Which college gave the initials DMACCI?
A: _____
- Q: Which college did Governor Branstad receive his law degree from?
A: _____

Give out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory. Students with the most correct answers may receive a prize. Find an example of a trivia sheet [here](#).

College Pep Rally



Invite a guest speaker from a local college or the community to share their educational journey and why college is important. Reach out to past GEAR UP Iowa students and have them share their experiences with GEAR UP and college life.

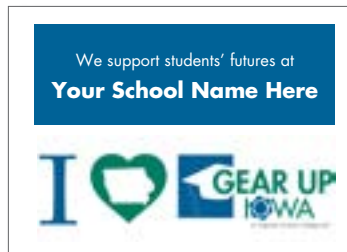
MORE ACTIVITIES

Door Wars



Have students and teachers decorate their homeroom or advisory classroom doors with the college of their choice.

Community Partnerships



Send students out to businesses in the community to share information about the positive impact GEAR UP Iowa has on their lives. Ask them to hang a poster to show their support. Find a ready-to-use template [here](#).

Community Event

Bring together the school and community to learn more about GEAR UP and get involved to develop the college-going culture beyond the school walls.

Combine the event with parent teacher conferences or a school activity. Invite elected officials to talk about the importance of higher education.

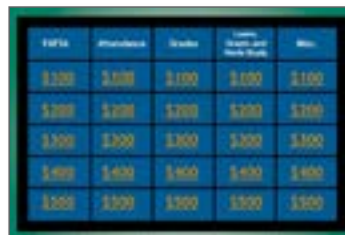
Dream Wall



Cover a classroom or hallway wall with paper and place a large GEAR UP Iowa logo in the center with "Our GEAR UP Dreams" underneath. Ask students to write their academic, professional, and personal goals on the wall.

Send a picture of your students next to the sign to your Congressional delegates.

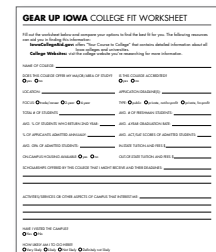
Games



Split students into teams and enjoy a friendly quiz show. Download the interactive slideshow [here](#), or find a template for a game board, clues and answers [here](#).

Give out college application bingo cards during lunch or advisory. Find an example [here](#).

College Share-and-tell



Have students reach out to a college of their choice and request materials. Open the materials as a class or group and share the received information.

Also, have students fill out a [college fit worksheet](#) and share their findings with their classmates.

Let us know what your school is planning and how we can help! Contact your GEAR UP Iowa facilitator with questions, updates or comments!

