



GEAR UP WEEK 2016

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:

#OneInAMillion #IAmGEARUP #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 display on the school televisions. Examples of announcements can be found [here](#).

GEAR UP/College Spirit Day

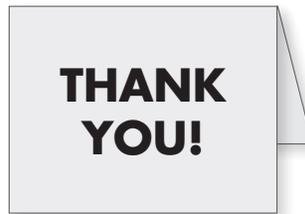


Have faculty, staff and students wear GEAR UP or college gear or colors.

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

Have college representatives available during lunch to talk to students

Thank You Cards to Congress



Thank your U.S. Senators and Congressional Delegates for supporting GEAR UP and other college access programs with a card or letter or reach out to them on social media.

A list of Congressional Delegates as well as address can be found [here](#).

BINGO

COLLEGE BINGO				
B	I	N	G	O
This writes a letter of recommendation.	This goes on a college visit.	Knows how to write a cover letter.	This has a meeting with the College Board or Guidance Counselor about college.	This takes the ACT.
Wrote at least one college essay for the college application.	Already knows one college they will apply to.	This visited a school or staff member to help receive a college essay or an application program.	Knows the names they want in the future.	This has on a job site visit.
This applied to a college.	This participated in an internship or activity.	This completed a GEAR UP course (Student Success).	This volunteered their time.	This investigated what to expect when they start.
This started saving for college.	This completed a resume.	This studied for the ACT.	This applied for a job.	Earned B+ or higher on their report card.
Completed an internship or a career field trip experience in.	This completed and completed the NCA.	This talked with their family about college and how to pay for it.	This participated in leadership development groups.	Found out about Advanced Placement courses.

Give out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory. Students with the most correct answers may receive a prize. Find an example of a BINGO card [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 saying "Be Grange"?
A: _____

Q: Which college became the center for "ruralism continuity" when they gave grants computers to all Iowans students and faculty of the State State campus with the ability to connect to the computer network?
A: _____

Q: Which college has two women named Loveland and Elise in one of their campus ponds?
A: _____

Q: Which college was eventually 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 Carver 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 goes by the initials DNEACD?
A: _____

Q: Which college did Governor Branstead receive his law degree from?
A: _____

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"I Went to College" Signs

The time to start planning is now...

I went to college.
Ask me how.

Name: _____

College: _____

Degree: _____

GEAR UP IOWA You CAN attend college!
GEAR UP can help you get there!

The university system supports and helps provide financial aid for GEAR UP students. Financial aid opportunities are determined by the Iowa College Board, not GEAR UP.

Because college changes everything!

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](#).

Public Outreach

Inform local radio, television stations and newspapers about GEAR UP week and highlight an event that's taking place at your school.

Invites elected officials, both locally and nationally!

GEAR UP/College Pep Rally

Invite a guest speaker from a local college or the community to share about 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 door 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 is making in 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 just 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 wall of a classroom or hallway 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 U.S. Senators and Congressional Delegates.

Jeopardy

GEAR UP IOWA COLLEGE JEOPARDY			
Types of Colleges	Know the Lingo	Entering College	Applying
100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400

Split students into teams and enjoy a little friendly game of college jeopardy. Find a ready to use template that includes the game board, the clues and the answers [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!

