



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Because College Changes Everything

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GEAR UP Iowa to host 80 students for college readiness summit
Sophomores from 19 Iowa high schools will spend three days on ISU campus

GEAR UP Iowa will host 80 students for its second annual college readiness summit next week, from Sunday evening (June 25) through midday Wednesday (June 28) at Iowa State University. The students are all rising sophomores, and they come from 19 high schools around the state.

Along with eight college student mentors, the high school students will stay in ISU dorms to get a feel for campus life. On Monday and Tuesday, the students will break into morning and afternoon sessions to help them set personal goals and explore their college options.

Other events on the schedule include:

- "Wake Up" energizers Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
- "Focus Olympics" Monday evening
- Interactive team challenges Tuesday evening
- Student presentations and a graduation ceremony Wednesday morning

"This summit will help students understand the higher education opportunities that are available and how they can prepare," said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, which administers the GEAR UP Iowa program. "We're not looking simply at these students' futures. We're looking at the future of Iowa, because a more educated population benefits everyone."

GEAR UP Iowa is a program to increase college awareness, access and completion among students from low-income school districts. It currently serves more than 8,000 sophomores in 12 Iowa school districts. They began

GEAR UP Iowa as seventh-graders, and the program will follow them through their first year of college. A college scholarship is available to all GEAR UP Iowa students. GEAR UP Iowa is funded through a \$22 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and matched at the state level.

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About Iowa College Aid: We provide college access, financial literacy and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. We administer state scholarship, grant, work study and loan forgiveness programs totaling more than \$70 million annually; conduct research and distribute higher education data; and offer Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information.

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