

7.29.19

## GEAR UP Iowa invites Des Moines class of 2020 to dream big

Students who will graduate from Des Moines Public Schools in 2020, along with their families, are invited to the BIG Dream Gathering—an opportunity to set goals and map out a plan to achieve them. Details:

**Date:** August 12

**Time:** 4:30-6 p.m.

**Location:** Iowa Events Center

**Admission:** Free

The BIG Dream Gathering was founded by Mitch Matthews, who will deliver a keynote address on goal-setting strategies. Attendees will write down and post their dreams, then meet people who can help achieve them. Colleges and employers will have information tables, and colleges will accept applications on the spot. Door prizes will be awarded as well.

Amber Miller, the GEAR UP Iowa coach at Roosevelt High School, participated in a BIG Dream gathering when she was in college and wanted to bring the same experience to her students. “I was able to see firsthand the impact this event can have on the lives of others,” she says. “I can’t wait to watch our students and families dream together, make connections, and begin to move forward on their dreams.”

The BIG Dream Gathering in Des Moines is sponsored by GEAR UP Iowa and Des Moines Public Schools. GEAR UP is a federal college access and success grant administered by Iowa College Aid. The grant serves the high school class of 2020 in 12 Iowa school districts, including Des Moines.

Students and families can learn more about the Des Moines event and RSVP at [GEARUPIowa.gov/BIGdream](http://GEARUPIowa.gov/BIGdream).

Additional photos and interviews with Matthews, GEAR UP students, and GEAR UP staff available on request.

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