NEW INFORMATION:
Blog Post Guest Writers
Tutor.com
Data Corner

REMINDERS:
Marketing & Communication Files

Blog Post Guest Writers All Call
In an effort to continue to improve our website and to generate new content, we are looking for guest writers to submit blog posts about the successful GEAR UP practices in your district. If you have an idea for a post and would like to write a feature for our website, please contact Elyssee Gibson (gibsonse@appstate.edu).

Click here for our How-To Guide to sharing your story in a GEAR UP blog post.

Tutor.com
As the break winds down and the students GEAR UP for their return to class, let’s remind everyone how useful a service like Tutor.com can be, and how it would be a great tool to refresh everyone’s knowledge after a long winter vacation. Why not hear it from the students themselves? Here is a brief list of the many comments we received from December.

"I have had such a great experience with my tutors and would highly recommend this service. Great job and thank you so much". -9th
"I love how my tutor asked if it was easy or hard for me so that we could move on to a more difficult area. It is great so far!". -9th
"Great tutors and it helps me a lot to learn and grow as a student.". -9th
"Helped me with all of my errors, and told me how to correct them.". -10th
"He did an awesome job at explaining the proper way to write.". -10th
"Absolutely love my tutor here. She helped me with my homework and even gave me extra problems to make sure I understood the steps.". -11th
"My tutor was great and so sweet! It made me feel more confident about my essay". -11th
"This tutor helped me tremendously, they responded to all my questions and pointed out errors in a way that made me understand why I was making them, allowing me to avoid them in the future.". -12th
"This helped me a lot in starting my paper! I finally have some direction on where to go with my paper! Thank you for offering this!". -12th
WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE OF DATA CORNER! Today, we have an opportunity to introduce you to one of the workshops/sessions that Doug Thompson has been doing in our GEAR UP schools known as Micro:Bit. Many of us at Appalachian did not know what Micro:Bit was until Doug joined our team. We are happy to introduce and share some feedback from one of the sessions he did for this tool.

You can see the full report of the findings here: Micro:Bit_Eval

In a review across two open-ended questions, “...what did you find most useful? Why?” and “…additional comments?”, we were able to look across the feedback that participants provided and see how helpful and useful this workshop was for them.

Looking at the responses, we saw a pattern with similar feedback across participants (N=16). The following are the four major themes we were seeing.

- the opportunity/hands-on time to work with Micro:Bit
- being either introduced for the first time or introduced to new ways to use this tool
- the overall, “learning”, and
- how participants were beginning to think about the integration of this tool in their classrooms, activities, and lesson plans.

All participants (N=16) reported this session/workshop to be helpful with many expressing “the learning” (81%) they were taking away from this workshop. This learning was seen in different ways. For example, some participants (31%) explicitly referenced the hands-on practice and opportunities to “investigate” and “explore” this new tool. These and other participants (38%) were learning ways to apply this new knowledge by further thinking of ways to introduce/apply/use this in their classrooms.

There were also some participants that expressed concerns of not having any coding experience or expecting this “new tool” to be difficult to learn/use. Upon completion of the workshop, they reported the coding to be quite easy.

Overall, all participants reported that they would recommend this professional development opportunity to a colleague(s).
Data Corner (continued)

“Presenter was very knowledgeable.”
“This training was very informational and will allow me to utilize Micro:Bits in my classroom.”
“This was awesome, it was thoroughly explained to us and we were able to get time to work and practice with it.”
“This was one of the best PDs I have been to in a very long time.”

One comment further mentioned the need for additional training to better utilize this tool in the classroom. Are you interested in learning more about Micro:Bit? Maybe you are interested in another session? Let Doug know. You can contact Doug at thompsondm2@appstate.edu.

I hope you all enjoyed this first look at data in the “Data Corner.” We have more to come over the next months. Please remember, if you have any questions or have any items you would like for us to share/talk about in the Data Corner email Andrea at reubensac@appstate.edu. Happy New Year!

Marketing & Communications Files
Do you need anything in our GEAR UP Resource Folder personalized? Do you want us to create something similar in your district? We can tweak any resource to fit the needs of your district, and we encourage you to brainstorm any ideas of how our resources can serve your needs! Districts may use any of the resources from this folder at any time. If a district wants to make any edits to an existing item in the folder, they will need to complete the Resource Request form. We will continually add items to this folder, so be sure to check back often. If you would like App State to print a resource in the folder, please allow 30 days for printing and delivery of the materials. Contact Elyssee Gibson (gibsonse@appstate.edu) with any questions.

Have Suggestions?
We love to hear your ideas! Do you have suggestions that will help us improve? At any time, please provide your feedback by clicking the button on the left. Thanks for taking the time to help us continuously grow and improve.