GEAR UP Summer Programming

GEAR UP is required to offer programming to cohort grade-level students during the summer months. Whether those services are stand-alone GEAR UP initiatives or folded into the state-mandated summer remediation, any GU-sponsored summer programming should reflect GEAR UP’s instructional strategies and/or college access goals. Specifically, those are:

- Academic Progress Monitoring + Support
  - STEM (Interdisciplinary, Student-Driven, Inductive Learning Experiences)
  - Math 1 Preparation or Remediation
  - Computer Science (Creating content and/or solving problems with technology)
  - Engaging Instructional Strategies (Problem Based Learning, Engineering Design Cycle, etc.)
  - Involving Community Stakeholders
- Critical Skill Development
- College Knowledge
- Career Exploration & Planning
- Application Essentials
- Transition to & Success in Postsecondary Education

These goals, which represent the GEAR UP roadmaps, can be addressed by district-level staff in-conjunction with district GEAR UP coordinators or by district staff working in collaboration with third party providers such as GEAR UP higher education partners. Language specifying how GU-sponsored summer activities move the GEAR UP cohort closer towards GEAR UP goals must be included in the expense justification form. That form must also detail a plan to capture and record participation data from the program in the Lyceum database.
We regularly hear from graduates that EPFP was the best professional development experiences they have ever participated in! For that reason, we are excited to continue the opportunity through GEAR UP 2.0. The application is now available for next year's cohort, and we encourage you to share with all teachers, principals, and administrators. Please reach out to Corinne Smith (smithmc3@appstate.edu) with any questions.

Introducing Jui-Teng

We are pleased to introduce you all to one of our new GEAR UP team members who will be joining the Appalachian State GEAR UP evaluation team as the Assistant Director.

Dr. Jui-Teng Li began his career as a teacher and has 10+ years of teaching in both the U.S. and Taiwan in a range of subjects including English, math, and bilingual education. He completed his doctoral program in educational psychology at Texas A&M in 2017. Since receiving his Ph.D. he has served as an instructor in the Texas A&M bilingual program in the educational psychology department and as a visiting scholar of the bilingual department at Fort Worth Independent School District. Currently, Dr. Li is serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of New Mexico and is an author of 10+ publications with 9 currently in review and 3 currently in preparation or ready for submission. He has extensive U.S. Department of Education grant-funded research experience and brings an incredible passion for the intersection of research and education that we are excited to tap into and bring the GEAR UP research and evaluation work to the next level. His CV and cover letter are attached.

Dr. Li starts on Monday, May 3, 2021, and we look forward to introducing him to you in upcoming meetings.
Welcome Darrion Evans

We are excited to welcome Darrion Evans to the team as the new Burke County District Coordinator. As a former GEAR UP participant, he is excited to 'pay it forward' by bringing awareness and prepping the students of Burke County Schools for future academic success! He was born and raised in Burke County, NC, graduating from Freedom High School (2013) and Lenoir Rhyne University (2017). As a high school student-athlete, he was offered a basketball scholarship to attend Catawba Valley Community College and after one-year, he earned a basketball scholarship to attend Lenoir Rhyne University majoring in Sports Management (minor in Business).

Before working for Burke County Schools, he worked as a Sales Manager Assistant with Enterprise Car Rental and most recently, as a Licensed Account Associate with State Farm Insurance (and in case you're wondering, he never had the pleasure of meeting 'Jake' from State Farm-lol). When he is not working, he enjoys hiking, traveling, and offering personal basketball skills-training to the local youth. He resides in Hickory, NC, where he enjoys life with his beautiful, three-year old daughter, Isabella Faith.

Survey Update

Thank you all for working hard to ensure that the GEAR UP Family, Student and Teacher Survey data collection is a success and yields high response rates. We are especially thankful to all the District Coordinators who continue to be so innovative, exploring and using a wide range of communication techniques and tools for the surveys to reach many students, families and teachers. The final deadline for the GEAR UP Family Survey administration was April 9, 2021.

For those districts who were administering the Family Surveys using paper copies, please mail any and all completed and returned paper family surveys to Appalachian State University GEAR UP offices no later than Monday, May 3rd, 2021.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the surveys please email Tongai (maodzwatl@appstate.edu).

If you use USPS, the address to use is:
C/O Tongai Maodzwa (Family Surveys)
College Access Partnerships
ASU P.O. Box 32152
Boone, NC 28608

And, if you use FedEx or UPS the address to use is:
C/O: Tongai Maodzwa (Family Surveys)
Appalachian State University
College Access Partnerships
Office No. 323
730 Rivers Street,
Boone, NC 28608
STEM Teams Content

Click the PDF to the right to see a summary of all the content regarding STEM Teams and STEM Planning Events. Inside of the PDF are links that connect to district files folder/documents with more information specific to each component of the STEM Teams Program.

STEM Team planning form needs to be submitted by **May 21st**. This is the form that outlines your schools' teams and plans for the STEM Planning session.

Reach out to Doug (thompsondm2@appstate.edu) or Jessica (stockhamjm@appstate.edu) with any questions.

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.

*New items in the folder include GEAR UP Zoom backgrounds, test date reminders, social media posts, GEAR UP services login flyers, survey graphics, and more!*

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.