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Holiday Break Bulletin Schedule
Can you believe it? This is the last bulletin of 2021! We will resume the biweekly newsletters after the holidays. The next edition will come out on January 5, 2022.

Academic Innovation Conference Feedback
Thank you so much for your time and consideration this week when we shared our plans for the Academic Innovation Conference scheduled for June 17-19, 2022 in Asheville. The website is still a working draft, and we'd love any feedback you may have with respect to the proposed conference model or the website. Please feel free to reach out to your respective Academic Innovation Specialist or Doug Thompson with any feedback or questions you have.
Welcome, Dr. Qianyi Gao

We are pleased to introduce our new GEAR UP team member Dr. Qianyi Gao. Today is her second week working with us. She will be working remotely for several months, and she plans to move to Boone by March 1. Once she arrives, her office will be located in suite 326 of Edwin Duncan Hall. We are grateful to have found someone that has a research background as well as teaching experience to fill this role.

“My name is Qianyi Gao. I am excited to join the GEAR UP team as a Post-Doc Research Specialist. I received my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Clemson University and worked closely with undergraduate students and young children. My research interests include creativity in the classroom, arts integration, and play-based learning. My current work focuses on helping students develop stronger social and emotional skills by using evidence-based strategies. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, doing puzzles, and trying new foods.”

Electronic Service Data Due

The September 16 through December 15 quarterly service data for electronic services (e.g. iReady, Edmentum, Virtual Job Shadow, etc.) is due by Friday, January 7. This should include any services your district is paying for that students access online. Please talk with your respective data liaisons if needed to obtain this data. If there are any questions that you may have about the data we are requesting, please don't hesitate to contact Hayden (lawshx@appstate.edu) or Jui-Teng (lijuiteng@appstate.edu).

Family Surveys

This is the final week of survey collection for the control group students (9th and 10th). You should have received our weekly survey report. If not, please let us know. The deadline for receipt of completed surveys is December 10. Thank you for your assistance with the survey.
NCCEP Resources

In the last bulletin, we shared links to NCCEP toolkits, one of which includes a Family Engagement Starter Kit for All. YES Program Coordinator Rebecca Figueroa helped develop the materials as part of the NCCEP/GEAR UP Family Engagement Advisory Committee. Thanks, Rebeca for serving and helping to create this resource!

If you have not yet reviewed the resources, please take some time to see how they can assist you in the work you do for our students and families.

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!*