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Introducing Bethany Hill to the Appalachian GEAR UP Team

We are excited to e-introduce Bethany Hill as the new Grants Management Specialist. She will be working on the reimbursement packet reviews (checking for Lyceum entries), and she will specialize in tracking all services in Lyceum. It is our goal that the addition of this position will help us to further refine and strengthen the quality of the data that we are reporting to you, our partners, and to the Department of Ed in our Annual Performance Report. Bethany is coming to the Appalachian team most recently from Duke and previously from UNC Chapel Hill where she has held various research support positions. Bethany can be reached at hillbg@appstate.edu.

We look forward to introducing Bethany in person at the March 3rd QCM, but until then, let’s all give Bethany a warm Appalachian GEAR UP welcome!

ACT Test Prep Reminders

As juniors are preparing to take the ACT, don’t forget about the free online test prep through MasteryPrep.

Click the image to the right to be directed to the marketing handout with login information. Also, don’t forget about the $500 MasteryPrep Scholarship opportunity!
ACAC Website Is Now Live

We are excited to announce the new website for the Appalachian College Advising Corps Program! The website will function as a tool to recruit new advisers, share relevant information, and promote the amazing work being done in your districts.

You can find the new website at advisingcorps.appstate.edu. Also, be on the lookout for adviser recruitment applications for 2020 opening at the end of January. We would love it if you could send any applicants you think would be a good fit to the website to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Warren at warrenap@appstate.edu.

Teacher Surveys

We want to share a quick reminder that the data collection for the teacher survey begins on Monday, January 27 and will end on February 28, 2020. Teachers that complete the survey will be given an opportunity to take part in a drawing for one of four Amazon $50 gift cards. Thank you for your help with the collection of this data.

Upcoming College Deadlines

Regular admissions deadlines at many 4-year institutions are quickly approaching. It’s a great time to ensure students are aware of these deadlines and are connected to resources to help them apply in your district. This is also a great opportunity to inform students that many institutions, including community colleges, have rolling admissions. There are always options!

Making Progress Toward FAFSA Goal

In the fall semester, we made substantial progress toward our FAFSA goal of 65% starters and 98% completers (of those who start). As of November 1, 2019, our FAFSA starters were up +4% in Grant 1 and +8% in Grant 2, when looking at a year-over-year comparison.

Fast forward to January 10, 2020, and Grant 1 is now at a +7% change, and Grant 2 is at a +6% change compared to the same time last year. If we keep on pace with this trend, both grants are projected to meet our goal of 65% starters by the end of the FAFSA cycle.

When it comes to completers, we are on par compared to January of last year, with both grants pulling a total completed at 96%. As you are helping students to start their applications, be sure to keep following up with those starters. According to our data, there are 49 starters who have not yet completed, and if half of them complete, we will be in great position to meet our goal. Shout out to Madison, Watauga, Alleghany, and Swain who are all currently on target for meeting both of the FAFSA goals (starters/completers). You all are doing an excellent job in helping more students discover their options for college financial aid! Keep up the great work everyone!
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.

MasteryPrep Lunch & Learn Poll

Almost all of our districts have participated in the MasteryPrep services that Appalachian State is providing, and after one full year of implementation under our belts, MasteryPrep is interested in learning from you. They would love to provide lunch for the group and facilitate a feedback discussion at an upcoming meeting where they can learn about how the MasteryPrep services are going in all GEAR UP districts. I'm sure they are just as interested in the constructive feedback as they are the positive feedback.

We need your help in determining if this is something you'd like to see done at an upcoming meeting. We want to respect your time and respect what little time we get with each other face-to-face, so we'd love your thoughts on this before we move forward.

Only GEAR UP Coordinators and Directors need to complete this short poll.

Click here to take the poll.

NCCEP 2020 Youth Leadership Summit Applications

The application for the 2020 NCCEP YLS is now available. The 2020 summit will be held on July 19–22, 2020 at the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

To learn more and to access the application, visit www.edpartnerships.org/yls. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2020.

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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.