Announcing Our New Assistant Director for IHE Partnerships

We are pleased to announce that Meg Turner has accepted the position of Assistant Director for Higher Ed Partnerships! Meg will be coming to the GEAR UP team with over 30 years of experience in education. During that time, she has served as a special education teacher at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, the director of Upward Bound at Mars Hill College, an instructor with North Carolina Outward Bound, and as assistant principal and principal of Charles D. Owen High School in Asheville. She also served as principal at the Buncombe County Early College. Meg has received multiple awards over her career including the 2012-13 Buncombe County Schools' Principal of the Year and NC Scholastic Media Association Administrator of the Year in 2013. Meg received her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education and Human Development from Vanderbilt University, where she also received a full scholarship to play basketball, and she received her Master of Education degree in Administration from Harvard University. Meg will be starting on June 17th.
Communication Plan During Staff Vacancy

As we inch closer to the end of Shari's time on our grant, we wanted to provide an updated set of best points of contact to set us up for smooth communication during the transition. This is a fairly comprehensive list just to make sure all bases are covered, though some of it isn't a change from what we did previously. All of these updates take effect today.

District Finance Justification Forms: the following districts will send approval forms to Teresa Agner (agnertv@appstate.edu) - (Burke, Madison, Yancey, Watauga)

District Finance Justification Forms: the following districts will send approval forms to Clayton Craft (craftcb@appstate.edu) - (Ashe, Alleghany, Clay, Graham, Swain, Wilkes)

IHE SYPP Modifications: IHEs will send SYPP modification forms to Jennifer Denny (dennyjr@appstate.edu)

District General Programming Questions: Doug Thompson (thompsondm2@appstate.edu)

    We have temporarily formed one App State services team, and all coordinators are now reporting to Doug.

IHE General Programming Questions: Corinne Smith (smithmc3@appstate.edu)

    The AD for Higher Ed Partnerships position has been filled and that announcement is above!

Summer Bus Tours and Fall Campus Visits at App: Grace Fortune (fortunege@appstate.edu)

Academic Innovation Conference: Rachel Nave-Lewis (navelewisrc@appstate.edu) and Jessica Stockham (stockhamjm@appstate.edu)

STEAM Expo: Doug Thompson (thompsondm2@appstate.edu)

Design Camp: Jonathan Carpenter (carpenterjd@appstate.edu)

Pitch Competition: Jonathan Carpenter (carpenterjd@appstate.edu)

Postsecondary Strategy Teams: Corinne Smith (smithmc3@appstate.edu)

Thank you again for your patience during this time of transition and learning. Our response times may be a bit delayed and we will do our very best to respond in a timely manner. Thank you for all that you're doing and we're looking forward to some great summer experiences ahead!
**SAT & ACT Scores Optional Through 2024**
The UNC System Board of Governors voted last week to extend the test optional policy for SAT & ACT through Fall 2024. Students can submit standardized test scores when they apply to a UNC System college, but they are not required to do so. The minimum weighted GPA of 2.5 remains in place. Click the button to read more.

**Appalachian CAC Staffing Updates**
Many of your districts actively work and partner with the Appalachian College Advising Corps, and Gloria Medina has been officially been named as the new Program Director for Appalachian's College Advising Corps. Gloria was previously the Assistant Director of the program, and she stepped into this role at the beginning of the month.
The CAC team is also actively recruiting for next year. If you know someone who is qualified for the position of adviser, please share this link with them.
To view the Assistant Director position listing, click here.

**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!*