Announcing New Assistant Director for College Access Services

We're thrilled to announce that Wes Calbreath has accepted the position of GEAR UP Assistant Director for College Access Services. Wes has served as the school counselor for seniors at Watauga High School for the past 6 years and brings a wealth of knowledge to this position related to the barriers students face and interventions that can help improve student postsecondary enrollment. In his role, he will be responsible for supporting our school district partners in meeting GEAR UP goals and strengthening the school counselor network across western North Carolina. Wes starts on July 18th!

September QCM Save-The-Date

The next Quarterly Coordinator Meeting is set for Tuesday, September 20th from 9am-3pm at Appalachian State University. The meeting will be held in the library on campus and more details, including the agenda, will be shared as we get closer. Please note that although the QCMs are generally geared toward the GEAR UP Coordinators at both districts and IHEs, all GEAR UP Directors are also invited to attend any QCM. Those directors which are new to GEAR UP, might especially benefit from attending a QCM every now and then.
Annual Plan Meetings & Invitations

It’s budget and planning season in GEAR UP, so we want to provide individualized support in the development of your annual plans. All IHE and district coordinators, please be on the lookout for invitations to set up meetings to discuss, brainstorm, and build a strategy for meeting GEAR UP goals and developing your annual plans! IHEs should expect to hear from Meg Turner (turnerm5@appstate.edu) and districts should expect to hear from Jessica Stockham (stockhamjm@appstate.edu) or Rachel Nave-Lewis (navelewisrc@appstate.edu).

NPSI Budgets

LEAs: Due to COVID limitations over this prior period, we are excited to again be able to offer additional funding to our partners this year. Within the budget breakdown that was sent to LEAs last week, there was a notation of additional expenses for NPSI. These costs are allocated at an expense of $1,500/person to attend the Chicago NPSI National Convening (October 2-5, 2022) with a cap on the number of attendees based on a tiered system. Please use the amount noted in your budgets, divided by $1,500 to determine the maximum number of Postsecondary Strategy Team members your district is eligible to send to the institute. Additionally, this estimate per person is based on the hotel block we are working to confirm which includes single rooms only. Hotel and conference center contracts are currently in progress, therefore more information regarding the schedule, travel arrangements, and registration will be coming soon. If you have any questions regarding this total allocation amount, please contact Clayton Craft at craftcb@appstate.edu.
New Student Welcome Kit Deliveries

The last round of new student welcome kits are being assembled, and we hope to arrange delivery to your districts by the end of July. Please be on the lookout for emails from Elyssee or Hannah regarding delivery options. If district coordinators have any plans to be on the Appalachian State campus in the upcoming weeks, please let Elyssee (gibsonse@appstate.edu) know so we can coordinate a time to pass along the kits while in Boone.

Family Surveys

Thank you for providing the breakdown numbers for student and parent surveys. Survey printing is in progress and they will be delivered along with the rising 6th grader welcome kits that are also currently being prepared for each district. Our goal is to have the surveys delivered to districts by July 22 so that surveys can be sorted and distributed during open houses, first day of school, parent packets, or any other method your district feels will achieve the highest response rate. If you have any questions or concerns, please let Jui-Teng know at your earliest convenience (lijuiteng@appstate.edu).

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.