NEW INFORMATION:
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QCM Save-the-Date
This is it! Our final Kickoff QCM of the grant! Mark your calendars!
When: Tuesday, September 29 beginning at 9am
Where: Zoom
Who: Coordinators, Directors, Finance
Please submit agenda items to Shari at williamsonsl@appstate.edu.

Weekly Effort Reporting Clarification
Thank you to all who have completed their __weekly effort reporting__ form after we received new guidance from the Department of Education. As a reminder, all staff who are paid with GEAR UP funds, including those who are working on site at the school (excluding tutors, bus drivers, or substitute teachers) are required to complete the form. The guidance from the Department of Education requires that sufficient documentation of effort is in place during the time that services to students are disrupted. Any questions regarding this process can be directed to Corinne.
In partnership with the Public School Forum of North Carolina, and the Institute for Educational Leadership, we have made the decision to transition the majority of EPFP experiences to a virtual format for the 2020-2021 cohort. The application process is still underway and we invite you to share this opportunity broadly with staff in your district who serve our GEAR UP cohort. There should be no cost to your districts for the majority of the year, with the potential exception of one trip to Raleigh, NC in April 2021 for our final event, if it is safe to do so at that time.

We are working hard to ensure that we can facilitate strong networking opportunities and a very robust program as we transition to a virtual platform. We will retain the majority of our regular programming, and we're also excited about the new possibilities available to us in a virtual environment that will enhance the EPFP experience this year!

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis on August 1, August 15, and August 31 and is available on our website along with additional information regarding the schedule.
Student Leadership Board

We are excited to announce that we have 8 students signed up to participate on the inaugural GEAR UP Student Leadership Board. Our first meeting will be held on Monday, August 3 at 1pm via Zoom.

It's not too late to invite your students. They can simply complete the form below. Click the image to be directed to the Google Form link.

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**GEAR UP Student Leadership Board**

Are you interested in building leadership skills? Are you looking for ways to impact your community? GEAR UP is looking for students who want to serve on a leadership board that would generate ideas, develop programs, provide feedback and more. Commitment includes biweekly meetings and potential work outside of meetings agreed on by leadership board members. (Further communication about the board will be sent to a parent/guardian email - please check your email account you provide below.)

* Required

**Name**

Your answer

**Parent/Guardian Email**

Your answer

**Student Email**

Your answer

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**Broadband Survey**

The state of North Carolina IT department is asking for participation in a statewide survey about broadband internet access. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and is available in both English and Spanish. For households without internet or texting capabilities, the state has set-up a phone number to call.

For more information and to access and share this survey with the families you serve, click here.
Rural Teacher Perspective Project

College Access Partnerships at Appalachian State University wants to compile the stories coming from our rural districts and send these stories to the NREA (National Rural Education Association) "I am a Rural Teacher" project.

If selected, your story and photo will be featured on iamaruralteacher.org, as well as on social media platforms, like the Facebook community for I am a Rural Teacher. NREA reserves the right to edit responses to meet their editorial standards.

NREA wants to hear your story and what makes this work important to you. They are looking for a 250 word essay around one of three key themes: people, place, and policy. They also want feedback as to how your rural community is responding and reacting to Covid-19.

To access the Google Form and submit your story, 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.

We are actively working to create additional 7th year programming materials to add to the folder.

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.