Family Survey Update

Thank you all for working hard to ensure that the GEAR UP Family Survey data collection is a success and yields high response rates. We are especially thankful to all the District Coordinators who continue to be so innovative, exploring and using a wide range of communication techniques and tools for the survey to reach as many families as possible.

Overall, the current response rate for the 11 districts stands at 961 completed Family Surveys. That is approximately 8% of all the 10th through 12th grade families.

Throughout the family survey data collection, we have been learning the different ways and methods being utilized by the District Coordinators to help with the data collection. Some of these methods have included:

- Handing paper-copy surveys to families to complete at the school sites when they come to pick up their students’ materials for virtual learning
- Sending survey reminders using their district’s GEAR UP Weekly Updates
- Sharing the survey link and reminders on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Google-Drive), email, and school and district websites. Collaborating with teachers to include the survey link in their first-class period virtual agenda

In addition, the survey link has been included in the district September Family Newsletters that were released on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

As we continue with the data collection for the Family Surveys, please do not hesitate to share these new ways and methods you are using in your districts. We will share them as well as an update on the completed surveys in the next bulletin.

If you have any questions or need assistance with ideas, please email Tongai at maodzwatl@appstate.edu. Thank you again for all the hard work you are doing in your districts!
The DOE in partnership with other organizations will host a virtual summit for the Appalachian Region on **9/24/2020**. This virtual Partner Summit will provide federal updates by FSA officials, an opportunity to share thoughts and idea on challenges, best practices and resources, as well as a forum for an exciting panel discussion on best practices to assist students and families in the Appalachian region.

**When:** September 24, 2020, from 10:00AM – Noon (ET)

**Where:** Virtual

**Who:** The virtual Partner Summit is open to:

*High School Counselors, School and District Administrators, College Access Professionals, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based and Non-Profit Professionals*

Register [HERE](#). Click here to view the flyer.
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.

Social Media Support & College Application Drive

In anticipation of the upcoming college application drive during the month of October, we will be sharing some ideas for increasing engagement and excitement for students across our districts.

Elyssee Gibson will facilitate a brainstorm session during the next Virtual Coordinator meeting on September 23 and will discuss some of the plans for a social media campaign across the Appalachian GEAR UP social media channels.

GEAR UP Week is also fast approaching! If you have any ideas you'd like to share as to what you're doing in your district next week, please feel free to share with Elyssee (gibsons@appstate.edu). Check out our social media channels to see re-posted and original content during the next few weeks.

We are also planning a social media campaign in October focused on FAFSA. If you'd like more details on what we have planned, join us for the virtual meeting next week.

As always, reach out to Elyssee if you have any questions or requests related to social media, marketing, communications, or resources.

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.