National GEAR UP Week is a chance to highlight GEAR UP’s positive impact in your community.

It’s a time to engage all your stakeholders (students, school faculty and staff, parents, community partners, elected officials and media), share accomplishments and encourage involvement with your services to students and families.

Hold a GEAR UP Week at your school to kick off the year with activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community. Use these materials during National GEAR UP Week or any time that works for you. This toolkit has ideas designed to get the word out about GEAR UP and the importance of going to college.

Remember to share your events on social media and with Oklahoma GEAR UP staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)!

Use these hashtags on social media: #GEARUPworks and #IheartGEARUP

Oklahoma GEAR UP’s social media sites:

@OklahomaGEARUP  @okGearUp       @okgearup
ACTIVITIES

KEY
- Student activity
- Staff activity
- All activity

FAMILY NIGHT
Host a family event during GEAR UP week to get more information out about Oklahoma GEAR UP.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Include fun facts about college in the daily announcements or on school televisions. Examples are included in this packet.

COLLEGE SPIRIT DAY
Have faculty, staff and students wear college gear or colors.

Have students write anything college-related on the sidewalks using chalk.

Have college reps available during lunch to talk to students.

COLLEGE APPLICATION DAY
Host a college application day for your seniors.

It can ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive hands-on assistance as they take the first big step toward continuing their education.

MEDIA OUTREACH
Inform local radio stations, television stations and newspapers about GEAR UP Week. A sample press release is included in this packet.

Highlight an event taking place at your school.

“I WENT TO COLLEGE” SIGNS
Have teachers, counselors and other school staff complete “I Went to College” signs and hang the signs next to their doors. A ready-to-use template is included.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS
Thank your Congressional delegates for supporting GEAR UP by having students sign the enclosed poster. Please give it to your GEAR UP school specialist, and we will take care of mailing it.

Get GEAR UP on your school board’s agenda.

Host a forum for professors, recruiters, or even the president, from your local college.

COLLEGE TRIVIA
Give out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory. Students with the most correct answers may receive a prize. An example of a trivia sheet with the answers is included.
**MORE ACTIVITIES**

**COLLEGE PEP RALLY**
Invite a guest speaker from the community to share their educational journey and why college is important. Reach out to past GEAR UP Iowa students and have them share their experiences with GEAR UP and college life.

**DOOR WARS**
Have students and teachers decorate their homeroom or advisory classroom doors with the college of their choice.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
Send students out to businesses in the community to share information about the positive impact GEAR UP has on their lives. Ask them to hang the enclosed poster to show their support.

**DREAM WALL**
Cover a classroom or hallway wall with paper and write “Our GEAR UP Dreams” across the center. Ask students to write their academic, professional and personal goals on the wall.

Send a picture of your students next to the sign to your Congressional delegation.

**COLLEGE SHARE-AND-TELL**
Have students reach out to a college of their choice and request materials. Open the materials as a class or group and share the received information.

Also, have students fill out a college match worksheet and share their findings with their classmates.

**STUDENT VOICES**
Help students find the power in their stories. Create a school-wide #IHeartGEARUP campaign on social media; create a video competition about why college matters; have students write letters to their future-selves about what they hope to achieve in school, college and beyond!

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Let us know what your school is planning and how we can help! Contact your GEAR UP school specialist with questions, updates or comments.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Oklahoma with a state GEAR UP grant totaling $20.5 million in 1999. The grant was supplemented with a one-year extension of $4.4 million in 2004. Oklahoma received additional GEAR UP grants totaling $20.8 million in 2005 and $34.9 million in 2011. In September 2017, the State Regents were awarded a fourth, consecutive GEAR UP grant in the amount of $24 million over the next seven years.
Daily Announcements

MONDAY
Good morning, students - it’s GEAR UP Week! This week will feature college awareness activities to help prepare and educate you about the possibilities following high school graduation. Get involved and ask questions - college is for YOU! Be sure to post photos on Facebook and Twitter of GEAR UP Week activities and check out what other schools are doing by using #OKGEARUP. Here is a summary of this week’s activities:
- Monday -
- Tuesday -
- Wednesday -
- Thursday -
- Friday -

TUESDAY
It’s Day 2 of National GEAR UP Week! Today we are (insert Tuesday’s activity). Did you know that there are 25 public colleges and universities located in Oklahoma? We have 2 research universities, 10 regional universities, 1 public liberal arts university, and 12 community colleges. You can learn what these types of schools mean by visiting OKcollegestart.org.

WEDNESDAY
We’re halfway through the week and we’ve already had a lot of fun. Don’t forget to participate in ________ that is happening today. Today’s 411 is brought to you by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA for short. This is a FREE application for you to apply for college student aid. There are three types of federal student aid: grants, loans and work-study. Visit fafsa.ed.gov to learn more. Seniors, don’t forget the FAFSA application for college next year opens on October 1.

THURSDAY
Happy Thursday everyone! Today we have lined up ________ for National GEAR UP Week. Still unsure if college is right for you? According to CollegeBoard, bachelor’s degree recepients tend to earn about 66% more during their career life than a high school graduate.

FRIDAY
The end to National GEAR UP Week is here. Thank you for participating in this week’s activities. Congratulations to our (insert # of students) seniors who have applied to college this week! As we’re wrapping up, do not forget you can visit OKcollegestart.org to view college planning checklists for 7th - 12th grade to keep you on track for your college goals.
Fill out the worksheet below and compare your options to find the best fit for you. The following resources can aid you in finding this information:

**OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG**: offers detailed information about all Oklahoma colleges and universities.

**COLLEGE WEBSITES**: visit the college website you are researching for more information.

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**NAME OF COLLEGE**:  

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**DOES THIS COLLEGE OFFER MY MAJOR/AREA OF STUDY?**
- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

**IS THIS COLLEGE ACCREDITED?**
- [ ] yes
- [ ] no

**LOCATION**:  

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**APPLICATION DEADLINE(S)**:  

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**FOCUS**:  
- [ ] trade/career
- [ ] 2-year
- [ ] 4-year

**TYPE**:  
- [ ] public
- [ ] private, not-for-profit
- [ ] private, for-profit

**TOTAL # OF STUDENTS**:  

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**AVG. # OF FRESHMAN STUDENTS**:  

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**AVG. % OF STUDENTS WHO RETURN 2ND YEAR**:  

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**AVG. 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE**:  

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**% OF APPLICANTS ADMITTED ANNUALLY**:  

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**AVG. GPA OF ADMITTED STUDENTS**:  

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**IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES $**:  

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**OUT-OF-STATE TUITION AND FEES $**:  

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**SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY THIS COLLEGE THAT I MIGHT RECEIVE AND THEIR DEADLINES**:  

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**ACTIVITIES/SERVICES OR OTHER ASPECTS OF CAMPUS THAT INTEREST ME**:  

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**HAVE I VISITED THE CAMPUS?**
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**HOW LIKELY AM I TO GO HERE?**
- [ ] Very likely
- [ ] Likely
- [ ] Not likely
- [ ] Definitely not likely
I WENT TO COLLEGE. ASK ME HOW.

Name: __________________________________________

College: _______________________________________

Degree: ________________________________________

You CAN attend college! GEAR UP can help you get there!
College Trivia Questions
- Questions -

1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located?
2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree?
3. What is the oldest institution of higher education in Oklahoma?
4. What university has a state of the art animation department that has graduates working with Disney and Pixar films?
5. What is the name of a test you must take to be admitted into college?
6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Okla.?
7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the _________.
8. What college did Carrie Underwood graduate from?
9. Name a college that has a rodeo team.
10. What university was once named the Oklahoma Military Academy?
11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back?
12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University?
13. Which college in Oklahoma has graduated the most Miss Americas?
14. What is the program that allows 8th, 9th, or 10th grade students from families with an income of $55,000 or less to earn a college tuition scholarship?
15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students?
16. How many Native American languages are taught at OU?
17. How many public colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma?
18. What date does the FAFSA application open for students?
19. What is Oklahoma’s land grant university?
20. What is the only public liberal arts university in Oklahoma?
21. What is the program that allows juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school?
College Trivia Questions
- Answers -

1. Edmond
2. Community College
3. Bacone College
4. Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU)
5. ACT or SAT
6. Redlands Community College (RCC)
7. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
8. Northeastern State University (NSU)
9. Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU), Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), Connors State College (CSC), Oklahoma State University (OSU), Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC), Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU), Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU), Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) - Some other colleges have rodeo student organizations
10. Rogers State University (RSU)
11. Loan
12. Savage Storm
13. Oklahoma City University (Jane Jayroe ’67, Susan Powell ’81, Shawntel Smith ’96)
14. Oklahoma’s Promise
15. Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC)
16. 4 (Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Kiowa; More than any other college in the country)
17. 25
18. October 1 (Apply as soon as possible)
19. Oklahoma State University (OSU)
20. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO)
21. Concurrent Enrollment
Congressman Cole,

THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Hern,

THANK YOU for supporting
Oklahoma GEAR UP!

WHAT IT TAKES
TO GET TO COLLEGE
Congressman Horn, thank you for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Lucas,
THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!

WHAT IT TAKES TO GET TO COLLEGE
Congressman Mullin,
THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Senator Inhofe,
THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Senator Lankford, thank you for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!