# Preparing students for success!

West Virginia GEAR UP

## What is GEAR UP?

West Virginia GEAR UP (WVGU) is a program funded by the US Department of Education and stands for **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms. More than 40 states across the United States have GEAR UP programs. In September 2021, WVGU received a $24.5 million dollar grant to serve more than 17,000 middle and high school students across Boone, Clay, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Nicholas, Roane, Wayne, Webster and Wirt counties through 2028.

## Who can participate?

Students in the **2027 and 2028** high school graduating classes that attend a partnering West Virginia GEAR UP school can participate. This cohort group of students will be able to take advantage of GEAR UP services starting in 7th grade and through their first year of postsecondary education.

For a list of participating schools, visit **WVGEARUP.org**.

WVGU students learn about the importance of postsecondary education and receive academic enrichment opportunities such as tutoring, STEM activities, dual enrollment, and mentoring services.

It is never too early to start those conversations about paying for college. Students and families will receive assistance and resources about financial resources and paying for postsecondary education.

**VISIT WVGEARUP.ORG FOR MORE INFO**

> *WV GEAR UP goes above and beyond, and without a doubt the program helped me to succeed and be where I am at today.*

**Taylor Raby - WVGU Participant**

## FREE SERVICES FOR COHORT STUDENTS

All services provided by WVGU are **FREE** to students, families, and educators. Services are designed to help students and families plan, apply, and pay for education and training beyond high school. Services start in middle school and go through the first year of college. Examples include:

- Student Leadership Academy
- College Exploration Week
- In-state college campus visits
- GEAR UP HEROs
- Career exploration
- CFWV account workshops
- Mentoring through the Student Success Society
- Transition to high school family event
- GEAR UP U! Summer Academy
- STEM programing
- 24/7 access to online tutoring through Brainfuse
- Classroom academic enrichment

**More information about our services can be found at WVGEARUP.org**

## WHAT ARE GEAR UP HEROS?

HEROs stands for Higher Education Readiness Officers. HEROs serve as higher education advocates. They help their classmates and community learn about college options, including two-year and four-year degrees, certificate programs, career and technical programs, apprenticeships, and military service. HEROs also help organize GEAR UP events in their school.

As a HERO, it's your job to promote a college-going culture that supports students in the college-going process and encourages them to dream big and earn a certificate or diploma. Students interested in the HEROs program should talk with their school's GEAR UP coordinator.

**For the latest WVGU news, events and information, visit our website using the QR code.**

## For Cohort Students:

The WV GEAR UP program believes college is a necessity. When we use the term "college," we are referring to any training and education beyond high school including earning a trade certificate, two-year degree, or four-year degree. The GEAR UP program provides you with a full range of resources to help you navigate the college-going process with your family. It is never too early to start planning for life after high school. Our goal at West Virginia GEAR UP is to see you succeed and help you plan for success.

West Virginia GEAR UP is managed by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission with funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

WEST VIRGINIA Higher Education Policy Commission