

March 13, 2025

## WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP PROGRAM STAFF MEETING AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Program Update.....9:30 am**  
Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs
- II. Statewide Initiatives Update.....9:45 am**  
Heather McChesney, Director of Statewide Access Initiatives
- III. Fiscal and Administrative Updates.....10:00 am**  
Joanne Rutherford, Coordinator of Fiscal and Administrative Services
- IV. GEAR UP Data and Evaluation.....10:15 am**  
Lesli Taylor, Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation  
Susana Mazuelas Quirce, Senior Research Analyst, ICF
- V. Career Academy.....10:40 am**  
Janine Coutu, College Access and Success Program Director
- VI. GEAR UP U 2025 Enrollment Procedures.....10:55 am**  
Mallory Carpenter, College Access and Success Program Director
- VII. Communications Update.....11:10 am**  
Emily Hammond, Assistant Director of Communications and Outreach
- VIII. Texas Instruments Technology Project.....11:30 am**  
Bill McCloud, GEAR UP Site Coordinator and Math Teacher
- IX. The Landscape of Higher Education in West Virginia.....11:45 am**  
Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration
- X. Lunch.....12:00 pm**  
Sam's Uptown Café
- XI. Gambling Among Students: The Coming Crisis.....12:45 pm**  
Shelia Moran, Director of Marketing, First Choice Services
- XII. Seeds Training: Leadership Workshops.....1:30 pm**  
Chelsea Stickelman, College Access and Success Program Director  
Justin Boudreau, Seeds Training
- XIII. GEAR UP Group Planning Discussion.....2:15 pm**
  - HEROs
  - Student Success Societies
  - FANs
- XIV. Transition and Readiness Initiatives.....2:45 pm**  
Tiffany Anderson, Director of Post Secondary Readiness Programs
- XV. Meeting Adjourned.....3:00 pm**



## Save the Dates

### West Virginia GEAR UP Program Staff Meetings

*Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 9:30 - 4:30 pm, Advanced Technology Center, WVRTP - South Charleston, WV*

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 10:00 - 3:00 pm, Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, Charleston, WV*

### West Virginia GEAR UP Events

*Career Academy, Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, Charleston, WV*

*GEAR UP U at Marshall University, June 25 – 28, 2025, Huntington, WV*

*Student Success Summit, July 23 – 24, 2025, Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, Charleston, WV*

### Other Important Dates

*Promise Scholarship Application and FAFSA Deadline, March 1, 2025*

*WV Higher Education Grant FAFSA Deadline, April 15, 2025*

*WV Invests Priority Application Deadline, April 15, 2025*

# Family Action Network

## 3 Events Planned to reintroduce the FAN workshops for families:

1. March 11, 2025 – Virtual Event:  
FAFSA Completed—Now What? Navigating Your Financial Aid Package
2. March 18, 2025 – In person at Spring Valley High School & Virtual Event:  
Supporting Your Student: A Parent's Guide to Navigating College  
Health & Mental Health Services
3. April 3, 2025 – In person at Nicholas County High School & Virtual Event:  
Navigating College with a Disability: How 504 Plans & IEPs Transition from  
High School to Higher Ed – Your Rights & Resources