

CAEW: Feedback from the Field

College Application and
Exploration Week: Feedback from
the Field



- **We Want to Hear From You!**
- As we continue supporting students across West Virginia on their path to postsecondary education and career exploration, we're exploring possible updates to College Application and Exploration Week.
- **Options under consideration:**
 - Expanding the event into a **season**
 - Extending it into a **month**
 - Allowing schools to **choose their own week**
 - Keeping it as a **dedicated week**
- Your input matters. This brief survey invites you to share your preferences and concerns so we can shape an approach that best supports students, schools, and educator workload statewide.
- **Thank you for sharing your perspective!**
- **SURVEY:** <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ngGCfLq4k9>



WVGU Staff Meeting

January 8th, 2026



Welcome and Updates

Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs



SAT Boot Camp Updates

Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs

Cambridge Educational Services



GEAR UP Fall Events

Mackenzie Brunson, College Access and Success Program Director

SEEDS Leadership Workshop





West Virginia
GEARUP

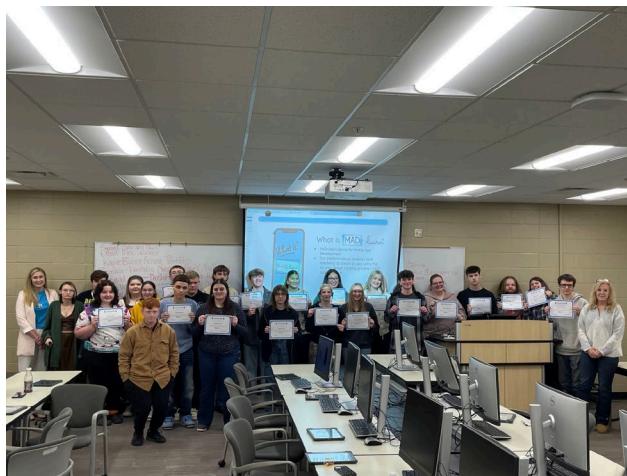
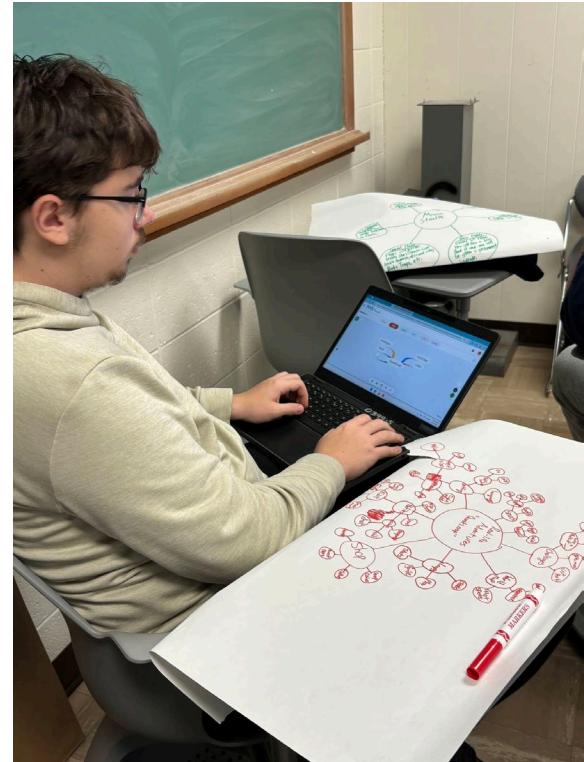
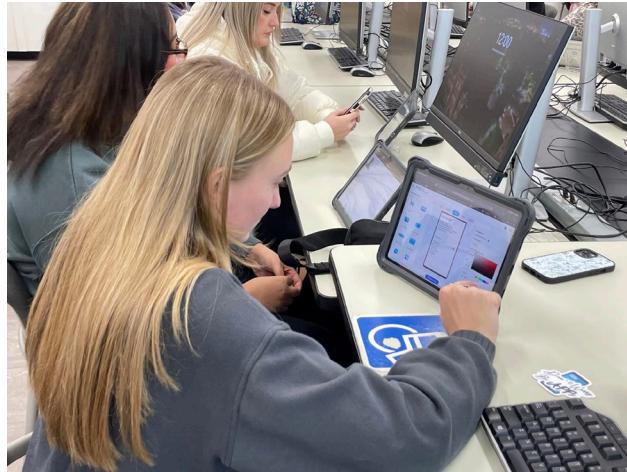
Student Voice Forum



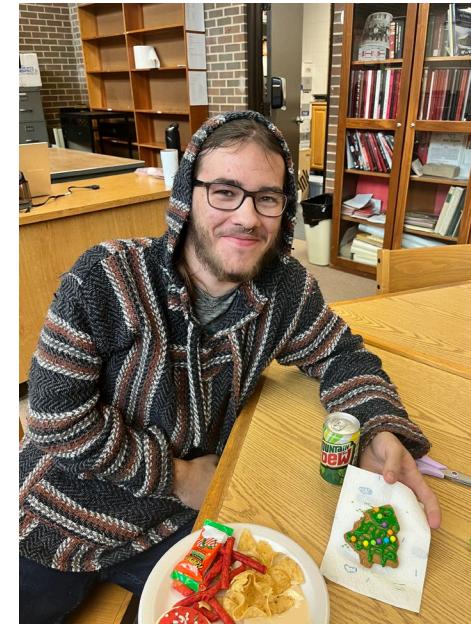


West Virginia
GEAR UP

MADLearn Workshop at Marshall University



Holiday Hangout

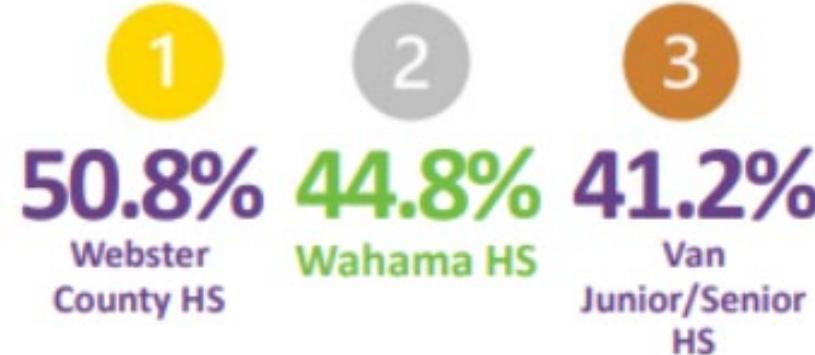
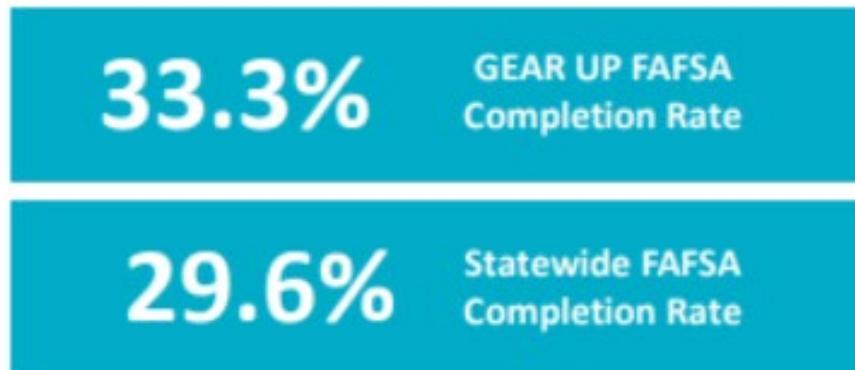




Data and Evaluation Update

Lesli Taylor, Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation

FAFSA Completion Report



Common causes of data differences

- Address
- Social Security Number

Student Survey Updates

WV GEAR UP School Survey Response Rate Report, Year 5

District	School	Enrollment	Student	
			Surveys Received	% Surveyed
	TOTAL	6,898	1,932	28.0%
Boone	Scott High School	409	0	0.0%
Boone	Sherman High School	220	70	31.8%
Boone	Van Junior/Senior High School	47	20	42.6%
Clay	Clay County High School	377	169	44.8%
Lincoln	Lincoln County High School	583	256	43.9%
Logan	Chapmanville Regional High School	440	0	0.0%
Logan	Logan Senior High School	375	64	17.1%
Logan	Man Senior High School	233	144	61.8%
Mason	Hannan Junior/Senior High School	111	0	0.0%
Mason	Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School	483	51	10.6%
Mason	Wahama Junior/Senior High School	206	0	0.0%
Mingo	Mingo Central Comprehensive High School	428	217	50.7%
Mingo	Tug Valley High School	244	53	21.7%
Nicholas	Nicholas County High School	487	202	41.5%
Nicholas	Richwood High School	203	0	0.0%
Roane	Roane County High	328	196	59.8%
Wayne	Spring Valley High School	693	149	21.5%
Wayne	Tolsia High School	240	50	20.8%
Wayne	Wayne High School	363	51	14.0%
Webster	Webster County High School	229	123	53.7%
Wirt	Wirt County High School	199	117	58.8%

Family Survey Updates



Mailing this month



Returning to WVHEPC Office via prepaid envelope



Your role!

Student Voice Forum



What motivates students at your school?



What prevents your peers from pursuing higher education?



Student Ambassador Panel

Tiffany Anderson, Director of Post Secondary Readiness Programs,
Lincoln Thorne, Cali Thompson, Aubrey Dotson, Karissa Giles

2025–2026 WV GEAR UP Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors

- **Karissa Giles** – Glenville State University
- **Audrey Dotson** – Marshall University
- **Cali Thompson** – Southern WV Community & Technical College
- **Lincoln Thorn** – Marshall University

Their Role

Recent WV GEAR UP graduates sharing real-time college transition experiences to support and inspire WV GEAR UP high school students.

What They Do

- Short video storytelling about college life
- Monthly virtual check-ins
- Outreach and program representation

Why It Matters

- ✓ Authentic student voices
- ✓ Stronger college-going culture
- ✓ Relatable role models for your students



GEAR UP Communications Update

Emily Hammond, Assistant Director of Communications and Outreach

West Virginia FAFSA Day

- February 5, 2026
- All GEAR UP schools must participate
- For more information, the toolkit, or to register, visit cfwv.com/wvfafsaday
- Be sure to share photos/videos of your events





- Recognizes individuals, organizations, and schools that have made a significant contribution to postsecondary access and student success in West Virginia.
- Nominations will open February 1 and will run to March 31
- GEAR UP schools are encouraged to submit nominations

Quotes Needed!

- Student Quotes:
 - College visits
 - GEAR UP programs (Career Academy, Student Voice Forum, GEAR UP U!)
 - How GEAR UP impacted their future goals/ambitions
- Site Coordinator/Educator Quotes:
 - Positive impact of GEAR UP in school, on students, and in the community

FREE PARENT WEBINAR

Student Success Support

Health, Wellness & Disability Services on Campus



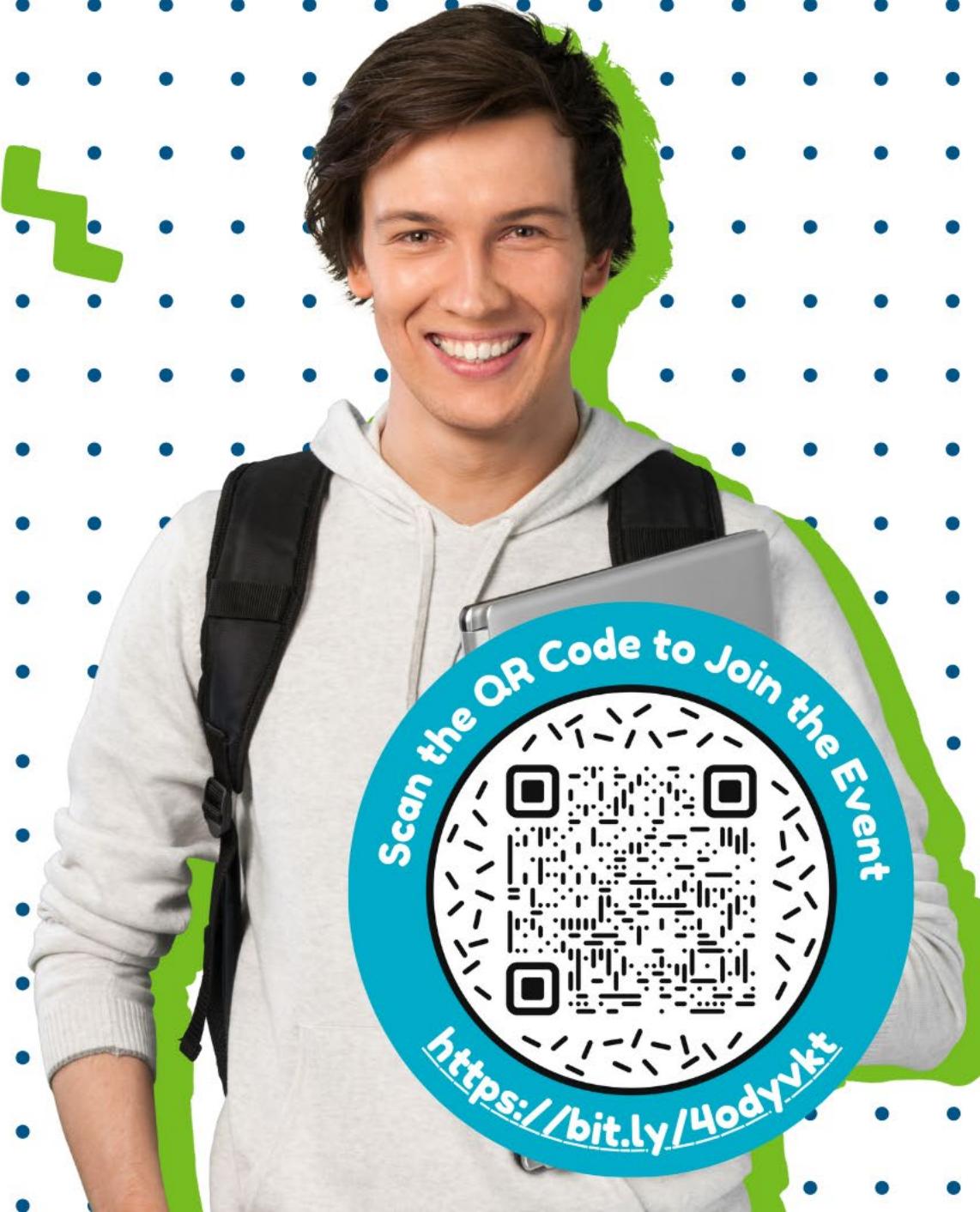
Online via ZOOM



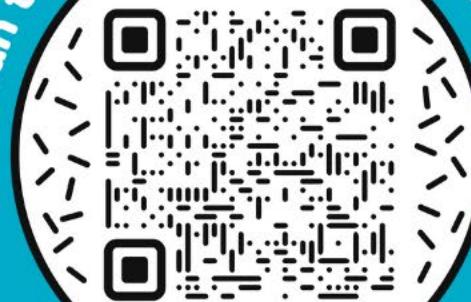
Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026



6:00 PM



Scan the QR Code to Join the Event



<https://bit.ly/4odyvxt>



GEAR UP U!



Chelsea Stickelman, College Access and Success Program Director

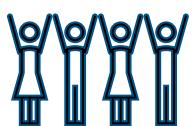
GEAR UP U 2026



JUNE 23 – JUNE 27, 2026



Glenville State University-
Glenville, WV



Eligible Students: current
sophomores & juniors

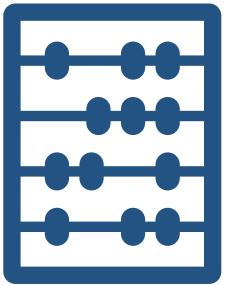
Application, Review, Selection Processes

1. Interested students will need to complete the online application
 - Application is LIVE until **February 2nd!**
 - Applications will be sent to SCs no later than **February 3rd!**
2. Site Coordinators review and rank applicants using GUU Scoring Sheet
 - Score sheets should be completed and uploaded to GoAnywhere by **February 10th.**

Applicant Scoring Procedure

1. SCs will be sent a spreadsheet of their school's applicants.
2. GUU 2026 Applicant Scoring Sheet will be completed for each applicant.
 - a) Can be completed electronically via Excel or printed and completed manually.
3. All Scoring Sheets to be returned to Regional PDs via **GoAnywhere** by February 10th.

Important Information



Allotment =
Enrollment



Student Notifications
March 2



Enrollment Kit
March 31

Timeline

January 5 –
February 2
Application open

February
10

Score sheets due
back to Chelsea
GOANYWHERE UPLOAD

March 31
Enrollment Kit
Due

February 3
Applications sent
to Site
Coordinators

March 2
Selection
notifications

Important Information



Registration Event



Camp
Supervisor/Counselor
Application opens
February 1



GUU Website
Updates Coming
Soon!

Meeting Adjourned