



Preparing students for success!



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 who attend a partnering West Virginia GEAR UP school can participate. For a list of participating schools, visit WVGearUp.org. These students will be able to take advantage of GEAR UP services starting in 7th grade and through their first year of postsecondary education.

Senior students and their families participating in WVGU receive special services helping them succeed in their education after high school. WVGU students will also receive assistance after graduation as they transition into the first year of postsecondary education.

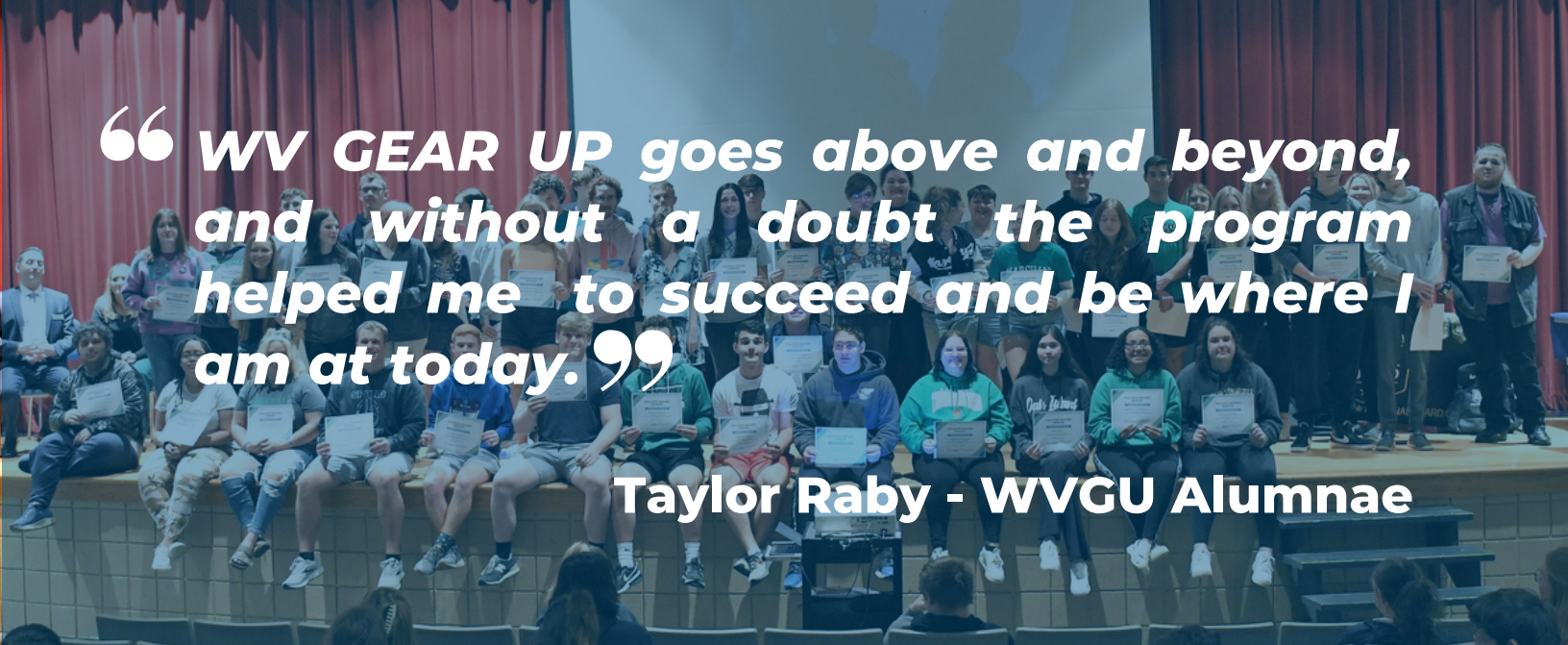


WVGU students receive academic enrichment, such as SAT/ACT prep, tutoring, dual credit and credit recovery, and transition workshops.



Students and families benefit from financial aid and college counseling, FAFSA completion workshops, financial literacy programs and much more!

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 Alumnae

FREE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

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. Seniors may participate in a number of WVGU-sponsored activities and services. Examples include:

- Dual credit courses
- SAT/ACT prep
- Brainfuse 24/7 online tutoring
- College Application and Exploration Month
- In-state college campus visits
- FAFSA completion workshops
- State financial aid and scholarship workshops
- Transition and college readiness family events
- Senior Celebration
- FutureU

For more information about GEAR UP, visit WVGearUp.org.

For 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, a two-year degree, or a 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.

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.

WHAT IS SSS?

The Student Success Society (SSS) is designed to help students succeed in high school and prepare them for life after graduation. SSS members receive one-on-one and group mentoring that will give students the tools, confidence, and guidance needed to graduate, plan their future, and make smart choices—especially when it comes to their education, career paths, and managing money.

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

