

## Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program Model

### Overview

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) model is designed to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary programs. The GEAR UP model aims to create a college-going culture designed to support success by providing targeted services to assist students and families with the transition to high school, college and career. GEAR UP takes a holistic approach to college readiness by diagnosing the root cause of student barriers to higher education, providing intensive academic and social support to students and guiding students and families through the college search, application and enrollment process. While the GEAR UP Idaho grant program is limited to participating schools, the model used to provide college and career advising to students has been proven effective and could be replicated by schools outside of the GEAR UP program.

### Delivery

Site Coordinators are employed by the district and spend all of their time focusing on assisting students and families with strengthening academic achievement, increasing academic aspirations and raising college awareness. Activities provided by the site coordinators are conducted in one-on-one settings, small group settings and large group settings. Recommended case load for site coordinators is as follows:

- 1-150 Students: Part-time
- 151-250 Students: Part-time or full-time
- 251+ Students: Full-time

Recognizing that each school is unique, services provided by the school and arranged by the site coordinators may vary based on school needs but recommended services include:

*Tutoring/Homework Assistance/Test Prep* – services provide additional academic instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students.

### *Comprehensive Mentoring*

- Traditional Mentoring (matches one youth and one adult)
- Group Mentoring (links one adult with a small group of young people)
- Team mentoring (several adults working with groups, ideally ratio of 4 youth to 1 adult)
- Peer Mentoring (connects caring youth with other adolescents)
- E-Mentoring (functions via email and the internet)

*Financial Aid Counseling/Advising* – services assist students understanding and navigating the complexities of financial aid, including providing hands-on assistance with the FAFSA and scholarship applications, presentations on financial aid or literacy, using financial aid or literacy curriculum and the benefits and how-tos of participation in college savings plans.

*Advising/Academic Planning/Career Counseling* – services span a spectrum of activities with individual students or small groups of students. Services are defined as follows:

- Advising - providing assistance on course selection (secondary or postsecondary), college and/or career choices, or college and/or career planning.
- Academic planning - providing assistance on coursework selection, course of study choices, college major selection, assessment advising or interpretation of scores, or assistance with placement tests.
- Career counseling - providing assistance about career choices, career planning, internships, or career interests.
- Virtual counseling/advising/academic planning/career counseling - provided via remote access through the internet or other means.

#### *College Visit/College Student Shadowing*

- College visit - physical visit to a college campus, visits should include an official tour, presentation(s) by admissions, financial aid, academic departments, athletics, student affairs, residence life, multicultural affairs, or other college departments.
- College student shadowing - one-on-one experience in which a middle or high school student spends a day on a college campus with an undergraduate student seeing typical college life.
- Virtual college visit - virtual college visit includes services that are provided via remote access through the internet or other means.

*Student Workshops* - services include interactive information classroom-level or large-or small-group sessions that involve hands-on experience for each student. Workshops offered to students on topics like secondary school success, college awareness, and general elements of college readiness such as study skills, self-monitoring, goal-setting, time managements, and problem solving.

#### *Parent/Family Advising*

Services span a spectrum of activities that can include one-on-one or small group advising for parents/guardians/adult family member designed to meet the specific needs of the students engaged in the activity. Advising includes providing individual assistance to parents or guardians on their student's college choices, college planning, financial aid planning, etc.

#### Cost

Due to the vast geographical and socioeconomic range of districts and communities, the wages, benefit eligibility and travel allowance for these types of positions will vary. Recommended wage range for coordinators is \$14.00-\$17.00/hour.

### Performance Measures

School districts and charter schools using funds provided through the college and career advising allocation will be required to report on the effectiveness of their program. Performance measures must align to the requirements pursuant to Idaho Code, §33-1212A. Measures may vary depending on students served and could include the following:

- Student and Parent Participation
- Grade Level Advancement Rates
- ISAT and College Entrance Exam Scores
- Advanced Opportunity Credits Earned
- FASFA Completion Rates
- College Application Completion Rates
- College Scholarship Completion Rates
- Postsecondary Enrollment Rates

### Schools Districts

The following school districts have used this model and may be able to provide additional information on their experiences:

Aberdeen SD	Lapwai SD
American Falls SD	Marsing SD
Boundary County SD	Meadows Valley SD
Buhl SD	Minidoka SD
Clark County SD	Notus SD
Cottonwood SD	Plummer-Worley SD
Culdesac SD	Salmon SD
Emmett SD	Sugar-Salem SD
Gooding SD	Twin Falls SD (Robert Stuart/Canyon Ridge HS)
Homedale SD	Weiser SD
Kellogg SD	West Bonner County SD
Lake Pend Oreille SD (Clark Fork Jr/Sr HS)	West Side SD

### Who to Contact

GEAR UP Idaho

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