GEAR UP

The K20 Center is excited to welcome you as a new strategic partner. Through exploring this relationship, you'll see how K20 and GEAR UP work together to establish a college-going culture that leads to life-altering benefits for your students.

In 2018, the K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal competed and was awarded three separate Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) grants sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. There were 160 applications for GEAR UP funding, 60 grants were awarded, and K20 won 3 of them.

The GEAR UP OKC, GEAR UP for MY SUCCESS, and GEAR UP for the FUTURE grants will provide seven years of services and development to 46 partner schools all across the state of Oklahoma.
What is GEAR UP?

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education to help students prepare for and pursue a college education. The K20 Center has already worked with many schools, both urban and rural, across the state in past GEAR UP efforts. The power of a GEAR UP project is that it transforms a high-poverty school community into a college-going culture.

2007-2014

SUCCESS

Over the course of a six year grant, K20’s GEAR UP for SUCCESS provided college readiness services to...

3,549 cohort students from 32 districts living in mostly rural, ethnically diverse, poverty stricken areas of Oklahoma.

Hours of teacher, student, and family participation in college preparation programs totaled 186,929.

2011-2018

PROMISE

In its fifth of seven years, K20’s GEAR UP for the PROMISE has been providing college readiness services to...

4,337 cohort students from 9 high schools living in urban, ethnically diverse, poverty stricken areas of the Oklahoma City Metro.

Hours of teacher, student, and family participation in college preparation programs so far totals 100,166.

Since GEAR UP for the PROMISE began in 2011, cohort students have made:

- An increase in awareness about the cost and benefits of going to college (29% increase)
- An increase in awareness of Financial Aid availability (54% increase)
- An increase in awareness of college entrance requirements (51% increase)
- Cohort Students that believe they can succeed in college (93% increase)

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<tr>
<th>COMPARISON COHORT</th>
<th>SUCCESS COHORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA Completion Rate</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT Participation</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Graduation Rate</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Enrollment</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
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<th>OKLAHOMA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA Completion Rate</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT Participation Rate</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Graduation Rate</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Enrollment</td>
<td>52%</td>
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The GEAR UP Model

- Raises academic aspirations of the entire cohort
- Supports the cohort long-term (6th or 7th grade through first year of college)
- Provides sustainable resources that remain with the grade level even after the cohort moves forward
The K20 Center's mission is to cultivate a collaborative network engaged in research and outreach that creates and sustains innovation and transformation through...

**Program Goals**
1. Increase academic preparation
2. Increase graduation rates
3. Increase family college & career awareness

**SERVICES**
- College & career culture development
- Teachers' learning

**GEAR UP**

**COLLEGE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS**

- Public economic good
- Personal economic good
- Public social capital
- Personal social capital

**LEARNING**
- Authentic Lessons
- Tech integration
- Engagement

**IDEALS**
- Leadership
- Service
- Inquiry
- Discourse
- Equity

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
- Shared learning

**Evaluation Expectations**
- Surveys
- Student achievement data
- Mini-research studies

**Relevant Benefits**
- Prepared for TECH economy
- Higher job satisfaction
- Longer life expectancy
- Better mental & physical health
- Healthier family life (lower divorce rates, children achieve in school)
- Sense of accomplishment & independence
- Higher civic engagement: (vote, run for office, volunteer)

**$1M** more in lifetime earnings

**LEARNER-CENTERED PD & INSTRUCTION**

**References**

The K20 Center’s mission is to cultivate a collaborative network engaged in research and outreach that creates and sustains innovation and transformation through...

**AUTHENTIC LESSONS**
- Increase student perceptions of enjoyment, interest, critical thinking, future relevance.
- Decrease student perceptions of boredom, confusion, frustration, hopelessness.

**IDEALS**
- Inquiry
- Equity
- Leadership
- Discourse
- Authenticity
- Service

**SERVICES**
- College & career culture development
- Teachers’ learning
- Leadership support

**LEARNING**
- Prepared for tech economy
- Higher job satisfaction
- Longer life expectancy
- Better mental & physical health
- Healthier family life (lower divorce rates, children achieve in school)
- Sense of accomplishment & independence
- Professional mentors and lifetime network
- Creativity & problem-solving skills
- Higher civic engagement (vote, run for office, volunteer)

**EVALUATION EXPECTATIONS**
(Surveys, Student achievement data, Mini-research studies)

**LEARNER-CENTERED PD & INSTRUCTION**

**RESEARCH-BASED & DATA-DRIVEN**

**K20 APPROACH**

**K20 UNIVERSITY**

**K20 COMMUNITY**

**K20 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**K20 INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATION**

**K20 SHARED LEARNING**

**References**

**learn.k20center.ou.edu**

**model resources**
strategies, lessons, activities
PROJECT DESIGN

GEAR UP OKC builds on a systemic change model by serving an urban cohort of 3339 students in 12 high-poverty schools to better prepare these schools to serve high-need, urban students. To do so, GEAR UP OKC will:

| GOAL 1: | Increase percent of cohort students who report they are engaged in learning. |
| GOAL 2: | Increase GEAR UP OKC students’ academic preparation for PSE upon graduation from participating schools. |
| GOAL 3: | Increase GEAR UP OKC schools’ high school graduation and PSE enrollment rates. |
| GOAL 4: | Increase GEAR UP OKC students’ and their families’ knowledge of PSE options, preparation, and financing. |

Using a three-tiered approach, GEAR UP OKC will work with schools to research, plan, and implement a college and career readiness (CCR) framework that focuses on engaging students with rigorous, relevant instruction; expanding academic supports; increasing student access to adult advocates; and growing the college-going culture.

SERVICES

**Student Engagement Dashboard**
In the first tier, GEAR UP OKC will develop the Student Engagement Dashboard, which will provide stakeholders with diagnostic information regarding student engagement around behavioral and psychological constructs.

**Targeted Student Interventions**
The second tier, using the data streams realized in the diagnostic tier, will provide meaningful targeted interventions. Research-validated strategies will be adapted and implemented at the school level, ensuring that interventions are backed by evidence and customized to meet the needs of each school.

**Adult Advocates:** GEAR UP OKC will use a site-based college coach as an adult advocate who bridges communication gaps that exist between the students and their families or school staff. College coaches will use the Student Engagement Dashboard to identify students who consistently exhibit early indicators of cognitive, emotional, or behavioral disengagement. These high-risk students are included on the coach’s caseload and provided with meaningful supports. With this flexible, individualized approach, the college coach might assist some students with building skills such as problem solving and goal setting, while other students might require referral to tutoring programs or other services.

**Site-Based Action Plans**
GEAR UP OKC schools and project staff will work together to use K20’s logic model platform, PLANS (Project Logic models: Adapting Novel Strategies for school), to create site-based action plans. The six-stage action plan-building process includes data analysis, defining research, setting goals, determining activities and resources, indicating outputs, and defining intermediate and long-term outcomes. GEAR UP OKC’s professional curriculum writers and instructional designers will work with each school to align research-based strategies with school-specific needs. They collaborate to develop an implementation plan and create a professional development curriculum packet for the school’s teachers and staff that incorporates key adult learning structures and models authentic, learner-centered instruction.

**LEAD Summer Institute:** The GEAR UP OKC professional development coordinator will work with teachers who agree to serve as teacher-leaders. These teachers will complete a summer institute (called LEAD) where they explore adult learning and the K20 Center’s instructional framework. LEAD teachers will team with the coordinator to help implement the school’s action plan. As the year progresses, LEAD teachers will assume a greater role in facilitating site-based professional development opportunities, while the coordinator will take a step back to serve in a supporting role.

**Career Readiness**
Through three career-related initiatives, GEAR UP OKC students will be introduced to new careers to which they might not otherwise have access.

GEAR UP OKC students will participate in Oklahoma Works’ Career Expo Week, where they will be introduced to an array of in-demand careers in business and industry. Students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful, small-group mentoring sessions with a professional through Career Cafés: Each Café provides an opportunity for students to speak directly a community member about careers and college planning in a small-group atmosphere during the students’ lunch period. College2Career Forums give students the opportunity for on-site, hands-on experience with a career that interests them and an opportunity to
engage in a brief mentoring session with a professional.

Each of these opportunities will help students boost their career aspirations and personal goals and establish a road map to achieve those goals.

**College-going Culture**

**College Teams:** Teams (counselors, teachers, parents, and students) will be formed to implement academic, behavioral, and postsecondary education awareness activities with students and their families. These teams will attend an annual planning institute where they review literature to identify the elements of a college-going culture that are most relevant for their school community. Teams will then use that information to build a year-long plan to implement related activities.

**Campus Visit:** Supported by the College Teams, all cohort students will visit a minimum of five postsecondary education partners throughout their six-year middle and high school careers. Each annual visit will target a different element of college life, degree path, or career and allow students to explore the campus, interact with college mentors, and gather information (entrance requirements, degree paths, cost, scholarship and financial assistance).

In addition to campus visits, the College Teams will provide student and family events that align to and promote federal and state recommended timelines and milestones for middle school and high school students as they consider postsecondary education.

**Dual Enrollment:** GEAR UP OKC will provide students with an opportunity to earn college-level mathematics credit through Statway for Seniors, a dual enrollment, co-requisite course to earn on-level, college mathematics credits. Statway for Seniors is an innovative approach to give students on the cusp of college readiness a transitional strategy to avoid the “academic-death sentence” of remediation and reap the opportunity to earn an on-level college mathematics credit.

**Schoolwide Intervention—Authentic Teaching and Learning**

Authentic learning is active and student-centered and occurs as students access prior knowledge and understanding to connect with foundational concepts (Bransford et al., 2000). In authentic classrooms, teachers foster a climate of questioning, risk-taking, and respect.

**LEARN:** The K20 Center has created a repository of high quality, authentic lessons that include recommended instructional approaches, strategies, and supports (handouts, and presentations). Curriculum writers coordinate with cohort teachers to identify a standards-based learning objective and build a lesson around that objective. Student-centered authentic lessons have been shown to have significant advantages over teacher-centered instruction and generate more student interest and less boredom (Jeter et al., 2018).

LEARN currently includes more than 250 published lessons across English, math, science, and social studies. Curriculum writers will create additional lessons for GEAR UP OKC teachers.

**Action Research in Authenticity (ARA):** The K20 Center has developed an authentic teaching professional development structure, ARA, that places the teacher in the roles of learner and action researcher. Each participating teacher has access to a year-long professional development experience, starting with a four-day summer institute that explores the theory and practical application of authenticity. AS teachers implement a series of authentic LEARN lessons in their classrooms, they are mentored by GEAR UP OKC curriculum specialists and identify their strengths and opportunities for growth.
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The K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal is a statewide education research and development center at the University of Oklahoma that promotes research-based innovative learning through school-university-community collaboration.

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