



Our students will shape and lead the future

News release

Sept. 17, 2015

Celebrate **National GEAR UP Week** starting September 21



This week commemorates the continuing success of *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs* ([GEAR UP](#)), a college access program providing students and families the support and resources they need for college access and success. Since its start in 1999, GEAR UP has improved educational outcomes for millions of students across the United States, including over

35,000 students in Washington State this academic year. The Everett Public Schools GEAR UP grant currently serves almost 800 students. The program is a six year grant that follows the same cohort of students from middle school through high school.

GEAR UP Graduation Specialists Alicia Naig, Wendy Alcala, Sara Cameron, and Jamie Stewart work with the Class of 2017 at their respective schools. GEAR UP Specialists work with students daily to help them explore colleges and careers, search for scholarships, and provide resources for personal and academic support. Along with planning several family events and workshops throughout the year, GEAR UP Specialists are currently coordinating upcoming activities which include field trips to the University of Washington, National College Fair, Boeing Career Tour, and a visit to Washington Institute of Technology.

"The grant provides resources to help students prepare and plan for their future. Since 7th grade, some of the GEAR UP students have visited over a dozen college campuses and explored a variety of interesting careers. I'm not sure they would have had these opportunities if it wasn't for the grant."

-Alicia Naig, GEAR UP Graduation Specialist at Everett High School.

The six-year, 27 million dollar Washington State GEAR UP grant is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education and is administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council in partnership with the University of Washington, the College Success Foundation, Washington State Employee Credit Union, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

For more information about the GEAR UP program at Everett High School contact Alicia or Wendy at 425-385-4471 or anaig@everettsd.org. For more information about the GEAR UP program at Cascade High School contact Sara or Jamie at 425-385-6138 or scameron@everettsd.org.



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For more information:

[Alicia Naig](#) or Wendy Alcala, GEAR UP Graduation Specialists at Everett High School, 425-385-4471

[Sara Cameron](#) or Jamie Stewart, GEAR UP Graduation Specialists at Cascade High School, 425-385-6138