

# What's Up in GEAR UP SWV

“Securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia.”



## Featured Articles:

- **Making Decisions**
- **Register NOW!  
for Parent  
Student College  
Tour**
- **Helping Middle  
Schoolers Make  
Decisions**
- **Summer Camp  
Opportunities**
- **Summer Camp  
Scholarship  
Program**
- **Now Booking  
College 101  
Sessions**
- **Celebrate  
Community  
Colleges**

## April: Making Decisions

There is a lot to think about when choosing a college/career training program- whether students want to earn a certificate or 2-or-4-year degree, where students want to live, and more! Finding the option best for the individual student can impact their success. Choosing a future career can feel overwhelming. Having good information can help students make better decisions for their future. Here's a few tasks to help students get started:

1. Make a list of your skills, strengths, and interests.
2. Take dual credit courses and internships during high school to help you identify a good career fit.
3. Based on those experiences, research colleges that offer the programs you are interested in.
4. Finally, narrow down your education program options.

There are many paths that students can take to reach success! The military has many ways to help pay for college. Help students decide by inviting a recruiter and/or current/former military members to talk with GEAR UP SWV students.

[WWW.CONCORD.EDU/GEARUP](http://WWW.CONCORD.EDU/GEARUP)

[@gearupswv | gearup@concord.edu](mailto:gearupswv@gearup@concord.edu)



# Helping Middle Schoolers Make Decisions

**20 Impactful Decision-Making Activities for Middle School**  
Includes decision making worksheets, activities, pamphlets and more.

Do you have middle school students who have a hard time making decisions? At times, it is hard for all of us to navigate the decision-making process. Teaching Expertise has compiled a list of classroom resources to help middle school students improve decision-making skills. Check it out!

Let us know what works for your classroom!



## Grant Money for Academic Enrichment Available



### Academic Enrichment Grants

The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation offers Academic Enrichment Grants designed to develop in-class and extra-curricular programs that improve student learning. The Foundation considers prop...

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation / Sep 20, 2012

The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation seeks to provide funding to small teams of teachers to create and implement innovative K-12 classroom instruction. Grants of up to \$10,000 allow teachers to integrate fresh strategies encouraging critical inquiry and student engagement observations. *(Looks like a great opportunity that some GEAR UP SWV educators may want to apply for!)*

**Deadline: April 15,  
2024**



**REGISTER NOW**

FOR THE PARENT & STUDENT COLLEGE TOUR

Parents/guardians have a chance to tour colleges with their students! We are hosting a Parent/Student college tour of Roanoke College and Radford University on April 27! Parents and their GEAR UP SWV student can experience two campuses in Virginia. Registration required!



SCAN ME

**WHEN:**

Saturday, April 27

**WHERE:**

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY & ROANOKE COLLEGE**

**PLEASE NOTE**

- THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2024.
- LUNCH AND SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED.
- INDIVIDUALS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO THE BOOKSTORE.

**QUESTIONS?**  
 Contact  
**Catrice Robinson**  
 Email: [crobinson@concord.edu](mailto:crobinson@concord.edu)  
 Phone: 304-384-6231

**7th Summer Camp Added for GEAR UP SWV Students**



**Be Your Own Boss**

**Another Opportunity from GEAR UP SWV & New River CTC**

**Who:** Up to 50 students in the GEAR UP SWV cohort.  
**What:** Educational workshops that teach students creativity, brand building, and steps to starting a business.  
**When:** July 9-11th (Day program)  
**Where:** New River Community and Technical College  
 280 University Drive, Beaver, WV

**Students can design their own piece of apparel and receive the finished product. At the completion of the program, each student has the option to start their own e-commerce business with no fees or associated costs!**



**GEAR UP** SOUTHERN  
WEST VIRGINIA  
CONCORD • NEW RIVER CTC

# SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

FREE for GEAR UP Southern West Virginia  
(GEAR UP SWV) Students

## • New River CTC Adventure Leadership Camp

June 10-14, 2024 - Day camp with drop-off at New River CTC in Beaver, WV. Students will travel to Summit Bechtel Reserve and ACE Adventure Resort to participate in ziplining, rock climbing, hiking, the aerial challenge course, and enjoy the water park!

## • WVU Tech STEM Camp

June 17-22, 2024 - Students will stay overnight in the dorms at WVU Tech in Beckley, WV. Meals included. Engineering, Robotics, Nursing, Physics, and more!

## • Concord Media Camp

June 24-28, 2024 - Day camp at Concord University, students will explore the field of media through journalism and broadcasting instruction, getting to experience WVCU-LPFM LIVA radio station, a TV set, and get to produce, direct, and deliver a LIVE TV news show!

## • Be Your Own Boss

July 9-11, 2024 - Day camp with drop-off at New River CTC in Beaver, WV. Students will learn how to build their brand and learn how to start their own business.

## • Student Leadership Retreat

July 14-18, 2024 - Students will stay overnight in the dorms at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Meals included. Team-building, hiking, rafting, caving, rock climbing, and more!  
\*See your school counselor if interested.\*

## • ACE Adventure STEM Camp

July 30-August 1, 2024 - one day per county. Students will spend the day at ACE Adventure Resort in Oakhill, WV exploring the ecology of the New River Gorge while ziplining, and enjoy the water park!



**HELP STUDENTS  
SIGN UP TODAY!**

**Spaces are limited for most camps, so use the QR code to sign up today to grab your spot and join GEAR UP SWV on an adventure this summer!**



<https://tinyurl.com/rp78bpjh>

# SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## PICK YOUR OWN CAMP

# GEAR UP SWV

Know a student who found a camp they'd really like to attend but don't have the cash? GEAR UP SWV might be able to help! Check out a list of possible camps that qualify on our website, [concord.edu/gearup](https://concord.edu/gearup). Local Coordinators will have digital flyers available for students & parents/guardians.

Scan Here to Apply



<https://tinyurl.com/bdhaxfsy>

[gearup@concord.edu](mailto:gearup@concord.edu) | [concord.edu/gearup](https://concord.edu/gearup)



Utilize GEAR UP SWV  
Provided Resources!



# STUDENT SUCCESS AGENCY™

Eighth grade GEAR UP SWV students in Mercer, Wyoming and Summers Counties can have their very own agent (mentor) but only after they turn in permission slips. It's part of Student Success Agency and a program SSA+. *Please remind your students to upload their permission slip ASAP!*

**PERMISSION SLIP  
REMINDER!**

**More information  
here.**

Have your students used Tutor.com yet? As we head into the homestretch of the school year, now is a great time to make sure students know how to log into the website to access this FREE resources outside of classroom.

tutor  
com™

A Service of **The Princeton Review®**

Here's how:

1. Visit [tutor.com/GEARUPSWV](https://tutor.com/GEARUPSWV)
2. Enter the username, which is the same as the Student ID
3. Enter the password GEARUPSWV

More information is also available at our website, [concord.edu/gearupswv](https://concord.edu/gearupswv), under "Parent Resources" tab.



# Professional Development

Striving to operate as a culture of continuous improvement



## 2024 Student Success Summit

The Student Success Summit is for anyone interested in supporting student development and achievement, including educators, counselors, and administrators from the preschool, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education systems; and community leaders; military; parents; and students!

Our friends at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, the West Virginia Department of Education, and West Virginia GEAR UP invite you to, "Navigating New Horizons: Empowering Educators & Students in a Changing Landscape," an essential event designed to equip educators with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to thrive in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

[Click here](#) for more information

GEAR UP Directors from across the country met for two days to engage in collaborative planning centered on improving the design, implementation, and impact of GEAR UP programs across the country.

## GEAR UP SWV Director Attends First GEAR UP Directors' Summit

*"Opportunities like the Directors' Summit ensure GEAR UP SWV's ability to keep the needs of southern West Virginia students in the fore front of national decision-making processes. As Appalachian students' needs are addressed, funding and research to meet these needs can occur."*

**- Kristen O'Sullivan,  
GEAR UP SWV  
Director**



@gearupswv | gearup@concord.edu

# Local Coordinators!



## Mark Our Calendars! ;)

The GEAR UP SWV calendar is filling up fast! As next year's (2024/2025) academic calendars are voted on and approved, please remember to share the results with your GEAR UP SWV Partnership Coordinator ASAP! We have lots of planning to do and want to collaborate in the best way. We are looking forward to the upcoming year! Find your Partnership Coordinator on the [GEAR UP SWV website directory](#).

Now



College 101

Tammy Mills, GEAR UP SWV Coordinator and Community Outreach for New River CTC, available to visit your school to host "College 101" with students. The length of the presentation may be adjusted to fit your schedule.

GEAR UP SWV is proud to offer a new program for the classroom called "College 101." The program is led by Tammy Mills, GEAR UP SWV Coordinator and Community Outreach for New River CTC. The program includes a visit from Ms. Mills to your classroom to share a road map for students to attend and succeed in college. Schedule a classroom presentation to help students make decisions on attending college. The presentation will include the types of colleges and how to find the right fit.

Contact Tammy Mills  
phone: 304-929-5471  
or  
[tmills@newriver.edu](mailto:tmills@newriver.edu)  
to book your school's  
College 101 session.



## Celebrate Community Colleges!

West Virginia has nine community colleges across the state. See a full list of colleges and what degrees are offered at the West Virginia Community and Technical College System website.

April is  
Community  
College  
Awareness  
Month!



  
**NEW RIVER**  
Community and Technical College

  
**GEAR UP** SOUTHERN  
WEST VIRGINIA  
CONCORD • NEW RIVER CTC

**GEAR UP SWV is proud to have New River Community and Technical College as a partner! New River Community and Technical College provides accessible, affordable, quality education and workforce programs to meet the needs of the region it serves.**

*Together we ARE securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia.*



## CONNECT WITH GEAR UP SWV

Remember to share your events on social media and with GEAR UP staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)! Be sure to tag GEAR UP SWV and use these hashtags on social media: #GEARUPSWV and #GEARUPworks. Give us a follow on the following platforms and keep up with the rest of the GEAR UP SWV team, find out about upcoming events and more!



@gearupswv



@GEARUPSWV



GEAR UP SWV