

What's UP in GEAR UP SWV

"Securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia."

College Application & GEAR UP SWV



GEAR UP SOUTHERN
WEST VIRGINIA
CONCORD • NEW RIVER CTC

Featured Articles:

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- College Application Elements
- tutor.com/gearupswv
- From First Generation College Student to College President

GEAR UP SWV is here to provide teachers, students and families with the support to graduate high school and succeed in college. Applying to college might seem like the first step but it's important for students to prepare for the process. If a student aspires to be the first in their immediate family to attend college there will be some unique challenges along the way. But we know that southern West Virginia students and their families are not afraid of hard work. There are two main activities that GEAR UP SWV students should be doing now to prepare for college; college exploration and personal essay writing. This is a part of your role as a member of the GEAR UP SWV team. We are here to ensure students understand that they *can succeed* in college. We depend on you, as the experts of your community, to know how to connect with your students. Many GEAR UP SWV students will be the first in their family to attend college. Understanding what that means and the challenges that come with it will empower us all to reach our goals. Preparing for the application process by exploring programs, requirements and scholarship opportunities will empower students to choose their own college and their own future.

CONNECT WITH GEAR UP SWV

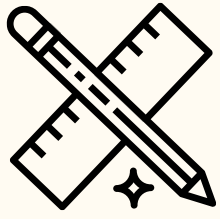
Remember to share your events on social media and with GEAR UP staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)! Be sure to tag GEAR UP SWV and use these hashtags on social media: #GEARUPworks and #GEARUPSWV give us a follow on the following platforms and keep up with the rest of the GEAR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



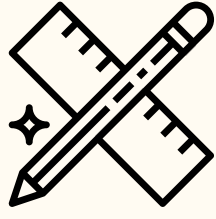
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GEAR UP SWV



College Application Articles/Resources



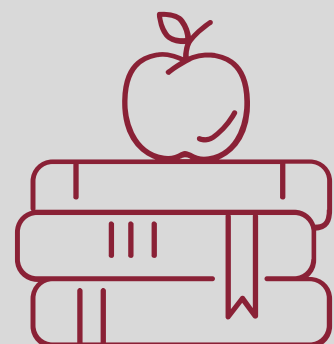
9 Basic College Application Elements

-Marymount University

- Class Rank
- Official High School Final Grades (Transcripts)
- Letters of recommendation
- College Essay
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Community Service/Participation in organized events outside of school
- Interview Prep



- [College for WV Timeline](#)
- [How To Apply For College: Forbes Advisor's Application Checklist](#)
- [How Middle Schoolers Can Get Ready for College Applications](#)
- [9 Basic Elements of a College Application - Marymount University](#)



7th Grade College Prep

- Work at developing good study habits.
- Maintain good grades.
- Start saving for college.
- Talk to people who have attended college to learn about their experiences.
- Start thinking about which jobs interest you. What kinds of work would suit your interests, abilities, aptitudes, values and learning styles?
- Get involved in extracurricular activities like clubs, student organizations, sports and volunteer work.



- If you're given opportunities to pursue academic subjects and extracurricular activities that are new to you, take them! It will help you to expand your outlook.
- Look into additional academic options that may be available in your area, such as magnet programs and school enrichment programs.
- Practice your time management skills. - [Time Management 101](#)
- Improve your reading, writing and math skills.



More 7th Grade
College Planning
Tips Here



8th Grade College Prep

Ask a trusted adult! Counselors, teachers, parents and friends are all good sources of information about college. You can do your own research too!

Study hard! Develop good habits that make education a priority.

Start thinking about the courses you'll take in 9th grade.

Find out which "dual credit" opportunities your high school offers.

Check out full list at [College for WV site](#)



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"First Gen" Defined

While the definition can be complicated, **First Generation College Student** is a student whose parent or parents did not earn a bachelor's degree, according to an amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965. In other words being a first-gen student means that your parents did not complete a 4-year college or university degree. Some colleges and universities use a different definition, so be sure to ask your admissions counselor, academic advisor, or a faculty member to learn more.

Majority of GEAR UP SWV Students will be First Gen Students

What to know as a
First Generation
College Student



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Celebrating First Generation College Students

Whether you're a first-generation college student yourself, or supporting first-generation college students in GEAR UP SWV, this day is a great day to celebrate going to college. - Nov. 8



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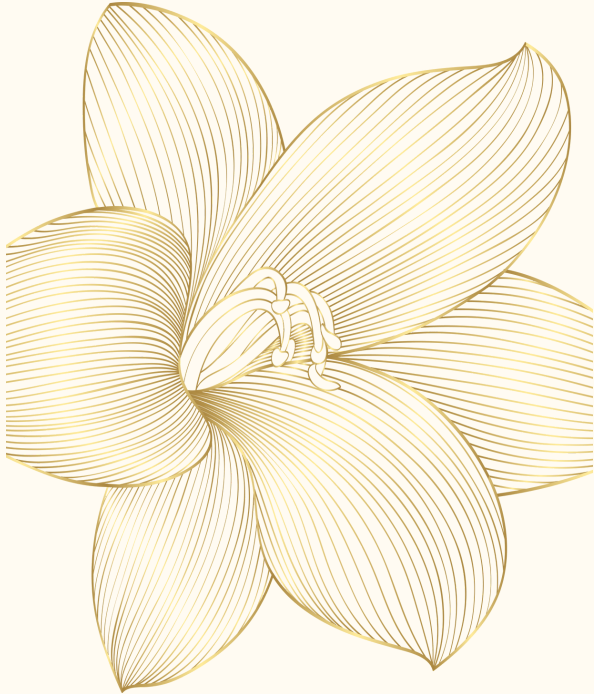
GEAR UP SWV's student worker, Kaitlyn Hughart, (front left) spoke about being a first generation student at Concord University.

Baileysville Elementary and Middle School First Gens!



Mark your 2024 calendars! First Generation Day is Nov. 8!

From First Gen College Student to College President



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"First—adjective—"preceding all others in time, order, or importance"

What does it mean to be a first generation college student? In straight forward terms, it means a student who is the first in his or her family to attend college. First generation students are trail-blazers for other family members to follow; first generation students are courageous and bold as they step into an unfamiliar world. They often have no one to ask questions about college, and they travel a path that they build as they go. This is a week that we honor their accomplishments and recognize them for the positive steps they are taking by pursuing higher education.

”

Bonny Ball Copenhaver, Ed. D., President, NRCTC

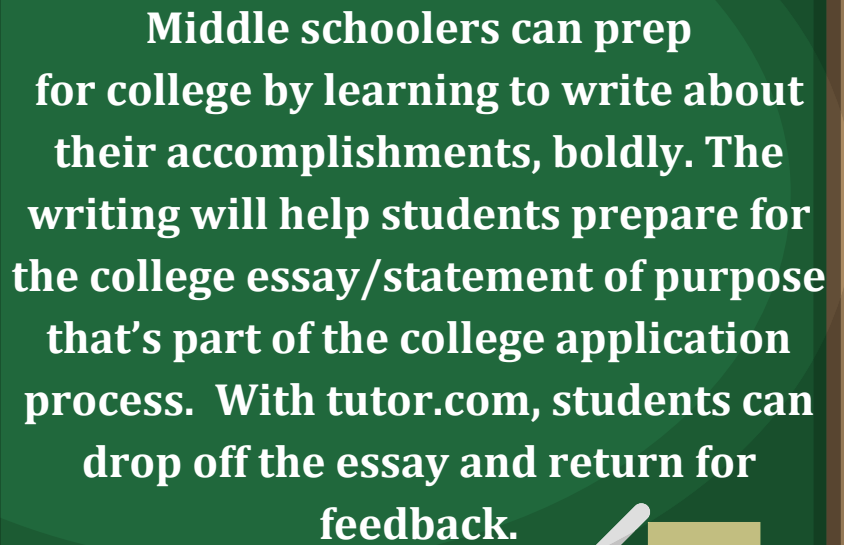


Encouraged by her mother to complete a college degree, Kendra Boggess did more than that—she became the 12th president of Concord University in Athens, WV. As a woman and first-generation college graduate, Boggess defied the odds and expectations of her generation. Read more about Concord's first woman president at this West Virginia Executive magazine article.

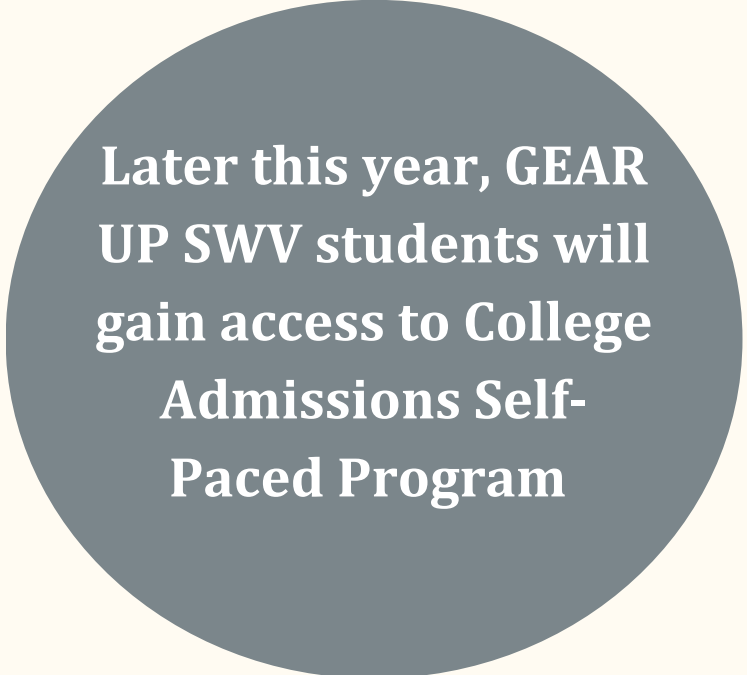




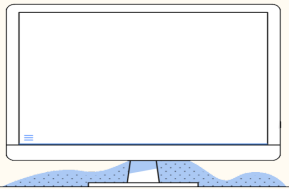
tutor.com/gearupswv



Middle schoolers can prep for college by learning to write about their accomplishments, boldly. The writing will help students prepare for the college essay/statement of purpose that's part of the college application process. With tutor.com, students can drop off the essay and return for feedback.



Later this year, GEAR UP SWV students will gain access to College Admissions Self-Paced Program



1. Visit tutor.com/GEARUPSWV
2. Enter the username, which is the same as the Student ID
3. Enter the password GEARUPSWV

Please help to share this information with GEAR UP SWV teachers, administrators, students and families. They can access Tutor.com by going to www.tutor.com/gearupswv. More information is also available at our website, concord.edu/gearupswv, look under the Parent Resources tab. Students younger than 13 years of age should have their parents/guardians sign and return a paper permission slip before using tutor.com.

STUDENT SUCCESS AGENCY



SSA Kick Off Events Are Coming To:

Pineville Middle
Oceana Middle
Mullens Middle
Baileysville Middle
Road Branch Middle
Herndon Consolidated
Huff Consolidated
Princeton Middle
PikeView Middle
Bluefield Middle
Summers County Comprehensive



The need to help students extends beyond the school walls. After school hours are when students are working on their homework, or extracurricular activities. Student Success Agency will boost staff capacity by offering students personalized mentoring anytime/anywhere! Their agent can provide ongoing coaching for academic, college, career and life success. SSA helps GEAR UP SWV reach important project goals.

Eighth grade GEAR UP SWV students in schools that partnered with Student Success Agency will soon have their very own "agent."

[More information here.](#)

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Happy
THANKSGIVING

**We are thankful for the
work you do!**
*Together we ARE securing a
legacy of strength and
resilience in Appalachia.*



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