



Press/News Release

For Immediate Release

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Regional Education Leaders Making Big Plans for 24-25 School Year

Athens, W.Va. - Members of the GEAR UP Southern West Virginia (GEAR UP SWV) Regional Advisory Council (RAC) are planning ways to help students graduate from high school and continue their education. The GEAR UP SWV (RAC) will meet at Concord University in Athens, WV on Thursday, April 18 to develop plans for the 24-25 school year. The day will help GEAR UP SWV partners determine how to support students and families in the next school year. Partners represented at the meeting include Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh and Wyoming Counties, New River CTC and Concord University. The 24-25 school year will be the third year for the GEAR UP SWV federally funded project. The new school year holds special challenges as GEAR UP SWV students will be in both middle school and high school attending 8th and 9th grades. Partners will brainstorm to create a plan to meet six goals during the upcoming school year.

GEAR UP SWV 24-25 School Year Goals/Objectives

- The percentage of students completing Algebra 1 by the end of the 9th grade will increase by 5% in 24-25 and 25-26 school years.
- The average daily attendance rate will increase.
- Teachers will have higher expectations of GEAR UP SWV students and believe more students will enroll in postsecondary education.
- Students and their families know more about postsecondary education.
- GEAR UP SWV students will build even more resiliency.
- Schools in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh and Wyoming Counties will increase their college-going culture.

Some Expected Activities in GEAR UP SWV schools During the 24-25 School Year:

- Algebra I Intervention (High Dosage Tutoring) with Tutor.com
- Student Attendance Assistance Help Strategies
- Family Workshops
- New Student-Led Club (details coming this summer)
- Advising and Academic Planning
- Student Mentoring
- Professional Training
- College Visits
- Much More!

County school systems will also have unique strategies to meet the needs of students in that region.

Guest speakers:

- Molly Hanna, Assistant Director of Technical Content and Qualitative Research, Vela Institute
- Shawn Bergman, Director of Research Vela Institute.
- Dr. LeAnna Wilson, Vice President of Partnerships/Staff Development
- Ms. Garzoria will be in attendance for the parent engagement workshop from 2-4

GEAR UP Southern West Virginia (SWV), helps students graduate from high school and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is part of a national grant program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. GEAR UP SWV works with two grade levels in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties to ensure high school graduation. The program also informs students and families of ways to succeed in a postsecondary education and ways to help fund it. GEAR UP SWV supports teachers, administrators, students, and families on this educational journey.

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NOTE: Members of the media are invited to attend. News crews may begin setting up as early as 9:30 am. GEAR UP SWV staff will remain in the State Room until about 2:30pm to assist media with interviews, b-roll, etc. Reserved parking will be on your right on Vermillion St. across from the main entrance to campus. Please RSVP by calling or texting Jessica Lilly at 267-684-5427.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is part of a national grant program funded through the U.S. Department of Education. GEAR UP Southern West Virginia (GEAR UP SWV) is a Concord University program, in partnership with New River Community and Technical College, that helps students graduate from high school and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP SWV is helping the classes of 2028 and 2029 in Mercer, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties to ensure high school graduation. The program also informs students and families of ways to succeed in a postsecondary education and ways to help fund it. GEAR UP SWV supports teachers, administrators, students, and families on this educational journey.

GEAR UP SWV; securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia. Find more information on GEAR UP SWV social media pages and on our website, conord.edu/gearup.