



Press/Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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GEAR UP SWV Kicks Off Events for Class of 2029 in Mercer, Summers, and Wyoming Counties

Athens, W.Va. – GEAR UP Southern West Virginia (GEAR UP SWV) is proud to announce the expansion of a mentoring program for the class of 2029 in Mercer, Summers, and Wyoming Counties. The expansion comes after the success of last year's partnership with the Student Success Agency (SSA) and the Class of 2028. GEAR UP SWV continues to support students in their academic and personal journeys, preparing them for post-secondary success.

To celebrate, SSA is hosting a series of kick-off events to include motivational presentations, educational activities, and information on college readiness. The program aims to inspire students to start thinking early about their futures, setting them on the path toward academic and career success.

Kick-Off Event Schedule:

- **Monday, Nov. 18, 2024**
 - 8:30 am - Bluefield High School
 - 1:30 pm - PikeView High School
- **Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024**
 - 8:30 am - Montcalm High School
 - 9:30 am - Princeton Senior High School
- **Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024**
 - 8:15 am - PikeView Middle School
- **Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024**
 - 9:00 am - Glenwood Middle School
- **Friday, Nov 22, 2024**
 - 8:30 am - Bluefield Middle School
 - 11:15 am - Princeton Middle School

Other public schools in southern West Virginia that hosted kick offs earlier this Fall include:

Huff Consolidated / Herndon Consolidated / Wyoming East High / Road Branch Elementary / Summers County Comprehensive High School / Oceana Middle / Pineville Middle / Glen Fork Elementary / Westside High / Baileysville Middle / Mullens Middle.

Each event is tailored to provide students with key resources, guidance, and inspiration as they begin their high school journey. These events also serve as a platform for families to learn more about GEAR UP SWV's mission of preparing students for college and careers, while fostering leadership skills and goal setting.

About GEAR UP SWV: 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. Find more information on GEAR UP SWV social media pages and on our website, conord.edu/gearup.

GEAR UP SWV; securing a legacy of strength and resilience in Appalachia.

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