

WEST VIRGINIA GEARUP



UPDATES FOR
2019-20

ADMINISTERED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

WHO WE ARE

West Virginia GEAR UP is a federal grant program aimed at assisting students in "Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs".

The Commission's first GEAR UP project launched in 2008 and continued through the 2014-2015 academic year.

During the fall of 2014, the Commission received their second GEAR UP grant. This grant will serve upwards of 13,000 students and continue through 2021.



West Virginia GEAR UP serves Boone, Summers, Mason, Mercer, Mingo, Wirt, Nicholas, Webster, Fayette and Wyoming counties.

STUDENT VOICE FORUM

During a two-day event in April, nearly 400 high school juniors collaborated and positioned students to use their voice to improve their community and take responsibility for their future. Students participated in round table discussions to share their hopes and fears. 10 scholarships were awarded. Findings from the student responses were shared with educational stakeholders during the 2019 Student Success Summit.



AUDIENCE



COLLEGE VISITS

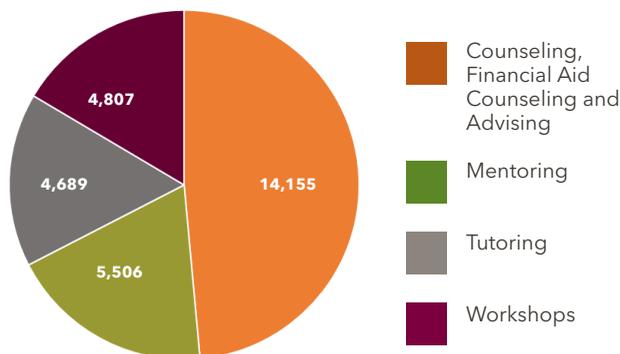
8,000

HOURS WERE SPENT ON CAMPUSES ACROSS WEST VIRGINIA DURING THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

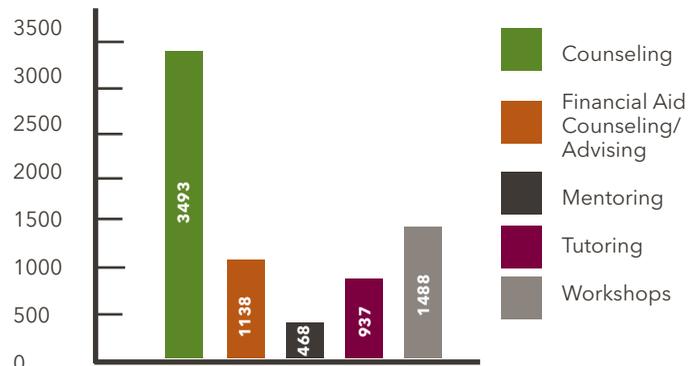
I believe that WV GEAR UP makes a **difference** in students' lives.

- GEAR UP site coordinator

HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT



PARTICIPATION

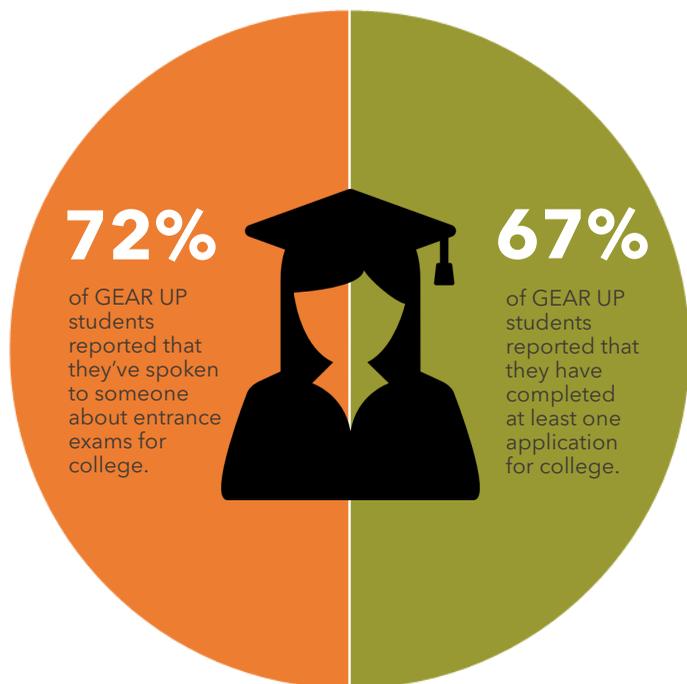


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KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATIONS

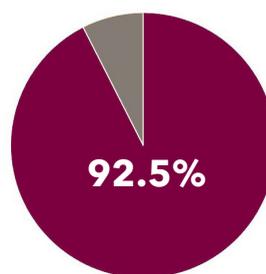


Last fall, more than 800 students visited the Clay Center to participate in the annual Student Leadership Academy. They discussed the importance of post-secondary education. During the event, nine students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

IMPACT AND PERCEPTIONS



92.5 % of school personnel believe that GEAR UP is making a positive impact on students in their school.



Over 60% of students at GEAR UP schools filled out the FAFSA by April 15, 2019 compared to 57% statewide.

GEAR UP U SUMMER ACADEMY



126 WV GEAR UP students and their parents/guardians participated in this event held at West Virginia State University. Parent/guardians were asked to celebrate their students' achievement and dedication to receiving a higher education. These students stayed 5 days and 4 nights on the campus and

were exposed to aspects of college life, like spending the nights in residence halls, eating in the campus dining hall, and attending college classes. This year, students had the option to attending courses in one of the following areas: Arts, Forensic Sciences and Criminal Justice, Business, Computers, Music, Health Sciences, Education, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Also, students had the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills, participated in team-building activities and in near-peer mentoring sessions.

HEROS

HEROs is an acronym for Higher Education Readiness Officers. The HEROs effort focuses on helping more students plan, apply, and pay for college. HEROs is a school organization made up of students who want to help their classmates achieve success in their futures. They work to aid in the creation of a college-going culture in their schools and communities.



TXT 4 SUCCESS

1,098

GEAR UP STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED TO RECEIVE COLLEGE-PLANNING TEXT MESSAGES FROM THEIR COLLEGE ACCESS ADVISORS

STUDENT SUCCESS SOCIETY

Student Success Society (SSS) was designed to help students build leadership skills, promote engagement, and prepare for and succeed in their chosen postsecondary pathway. The members and their sponsors meet weekly to discuss goals and their growth mindset.



I wholeheartedly believe in
WV GEAR UP's **mission.**

- GEAR UP site coordinator