

## **ABSTRACT**

### ***GEAR UP O`ahu (2024-2031)***

The overarching goal of GEAR UP O`ahu is to serve 1,600 7<sup>th</sup> graders from four middle/intermediate schools (Dole Middle, Kalakaua Middle, Wahiawa Middle, and Waipahu Intermediate) on the most populous island in the State of Hawai`i: O`ahu. The three target communities—Kalihi, Wahiawa, and Waipahu—share a similar historical and economic legacy: they were once booming sugar and pineapple towns. However, with the collapse of these industries two decades ago, economic difficulties and related social problems—exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic—have characterized the climate in all three communities and have resulted in a number of educational challenges facing students from these schools. The project will follow this cohort for the next seven years to help them experience academic success, successfully complete intermediate school, transition and graduate from high school in four years, and enter and successfully complete their first year of college.

GEAR UP O`ahu will offer numerous evidence-based activities that will create and expand career pathways, promote work-based learning experiences, and build skills in personal development. These activities will include peer mentorship activities, Early College credit opportunities, access to high school (pre-9<sup>th</sup> grade) and college (pre-1<sup>st</sup> year college) bridge experiences, connections to career exploration programs and career pathways internships, regular academic advising, financial literacy and financial aid workshops, credit recovery and credit enrichment during the summers, standardized test preparation and review, assistance in completing college and financial aid applications, and multiple college campus visits.

Additionally, the project will offer in-class and on-line tutoring, a year-long Student Success Class for students in grades 7-12, school-based GEAR UP staff, and on-going college counseling (virtually or in-person) for GU alumni attending college in the 7<sup>th</sup> year.

GEAR UP O`ahu outcomes include increasing the proportion of GEAR UP students who: (1) miss less than 15 days of school each year; (2) pass Algebra I or its equivalent by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade; (3) are promoted to the next grade level on time each year; (4) graduate from high school in 4 years; (5) demonstrate knowledge of college costs and affordability; (6) complete the FAFSA in their senior year; (7) complete at least 3 college applications by January in their senior year; (8) enroll in college; (9) complete their 1<sup>st</sup> year of college in good academic standing; and (10) persist to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college.

GEAR UP O`ahu will collaborate with a total of 30 partners: 13 programs and offices at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM), 7 target schools, and 10 other educational and community partners. The project addresses all three Competitive Preference Priorities.

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One Vision Partnership i

Ten (10) School Districts, three Higher Education Institutions and six Community/Business Organizations came together to form a strategic partnership to address the needs of low-income, at-risk students in the Columbia Basin of Washington State. The One Vision Partnership (OVP) GEAR UP will increase the number of students graduating high school, prepared for and succeed in college.

The target schools are located in the south-central Columbia Basin of Washington State. Most of the target schools are small, rural, and geographically and educationally isolated. Much of this region is economically distressed and many of the target school students are children of farmers, immigrant or migrant farmworkers who are Hispanic, minority and/or limited English speaking.

The target schools average a 58.2% Hispanic enrollment and an 25.2% English Language Learners (ELL) enrollment compared to state rates of 25.6% and 13.4% respectively. Target school students have low academic achievement rates, high dropout rates, low graduation rates and low postsecondary enrollment rates.

The Strategic Partners are: 1) Higher Education Institutions: Washington State University, Big Bend College, and Columbia Basin College; 2) Schools: Clarkston, Columbia, Ephrata, Finley, Kiona-Benton, Mabton, North Franklin, Pasco, Prosser, and Davenport School Districts; 3)

Business/ Community Organizations: AVID, Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Project Lead the Way, CoolSpeak, Apex Learning and RGI Research Corporation.

The One Vision Partnership GEAR UP will serve 2,738 students for 7 years through high school graduation and their first year in college. Using a strategy formulation process, the OVP Partners selected supportive, identity-safe, culturally appropriate, evidence-based strategies and services that respond to the needs of the target students, parents, and schools.

The OVP GEAR UP Partners have selected a range of research-based programs to increase students taking rigorous and challenging courses. The GEAR UP partners will support the Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) Program, which encourages students taking rigorous curriculum and provides college readiness activities. Project Lead the Way will offer comprehensive STEM education curriculum with a focus on project-based learning that will improve student's math skills to prepare them for high school and college. Academic day and after school tutoring programs as well as summer academic remediation will be offered to support students' academic achievement and learning loss. Partners will provide a range of college readiness activities including accessing student academic information, college planning assistance and workshops for students and parents on financial aid, scholarships, college admission applications, financial literacy, campus visits and career exploration.

These objectives and measurable outcomes will be achieved: 1a) Increase % of 8<sup>th</sup> graders passing state math exam to 25%; 1b) Increase % of 8<sup>th</sup> graders meeting ELA exam to 38%; 1c) By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, % of students completing advanced math will increase to 56%; 1d) Increase % of 12<sup>th</sup> graders completing advanced science to 56%;; 1e) By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, % of students completing dual enrollment will increase to 55%; 2a) Students' knowledge about financial aid will increase to 80%; 2b) By end of each year, 75% of students will participate in financial literacy; 2c) By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students completing FAFSA will increase to 78%; 3a) By end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students passing math state test to 51%; 3b) By end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students passing science state test to 60%; 3c) By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students participating in work-based learning will increase to 50%; 3d) By the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students graduating will increase to 95%; 4a) By 2030, students enrolling in postsecondary will increase to 75%; 4b) By 2031, students completing 1<sup>st</sup> year of postsecondary will increase to 72%.

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Utah State University STARS! – GEAR UP Partnership i

#### ABSTRACT

The State of Utah's rural communities and schools are being transformed ethnically, educationally, linguistically, and culturally by an influx of Mexican- Immigrant and Hispanic families. Schools are experiencing challenges related to identity, migration, race/gender stereotyping, poverty, language, attendance, and cultural preparation of teachers, all adversely impacting student achievement outcomes. These changes are compounding long-existing challenges in rural areas of the state with historically lower socioeconomic status families of all races and ethnicities. These families have a strong work ethic, but low educational attainment levels. Many parents have not graduated from high school or attended college.

In response to these changing dynamics, the school districts of Logan, American Preparatory Academy, South Sanpete, North Sanpete, Granite, and Utah State University, and key community/business organizations created a partnership to address the needs of these low-income, small, rural communities in northern Utah.

The The Science, Technology, Arithmetic, Reading, Students (STARS!) GEAR UP Partnership will increase the number of students graduating high school and preparing for and succeeding in postsecondary education.

The Strategic Partners are: 1) Higher Education Institutions: The Utah State University (Depts. of Computer Science, Engineering, Education, Agriculture, Biology, Family Studies, and Psychology), University of Utah College of Science, U. Utah Online, Salt Lake City College, Utah Tech, Mountain Land Tech, Granite Ed Tech, Granite Technical Institute, Snow College, and BYU Science Education (Duane Merrill) 2) Community Organizations: Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE), Latinos in Action, NorthRidge, and FOCUS Bus Tours.

The STARS! GEAR UP will serve 2,316 students from middle school through their first year in college. The GEAR UP Partners selected evidence-based programs that address the needs of the target students. STARS! will address Competitive Preference Priorities 1, 2 & 3. College readiness activities will be offered by AVID, TI, ASPIRE, Jump Start, Cool Speak, Latinos in Action, You Science, FOCUS Bus Tours, Student Planning Guide, Salt Lake Community College, NorthRidge, Utah Online, and Snow College. STARS! will incorporate social and Emotional well-being into all activities and align with school system frameworks like PBIS and curricula such as WhyTry. Partners will also provide mentoring and civic education.

STARS! measurable outcomes are: 1a) Increase % of 8th-grade students meeting academic standards on state Math exam to 31%; 1b) By the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 8th-grade students meeting the ELA state exam will increase to 32%; 1c) Each year, % of students attending college/career exploration will increase by 25%; 2a) By end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, % of students meeting ELA state

standards will increase to 50% and Math to 31%; 2b) Increase % of students taking Advanced Mathematics courses to 48.2%; 2c) By end of high school, 90% will complete FAFSA; 2d) 90% of parents will attend FAFSA workshops; 2e) increase % of students graduating high school to 96.3%; 2f) increase % of students enrolling in dual enrollment to 55%; 3a) increase % of students enrolling in postsecondary to 68%; 3b) Decrease the % of postsecondary enrolled students needing at least one remedial course to 10%.

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Utah State University Nuestra Visión – GEAR UP Partnership i

#### ABSTRACT

The Salt Lake City Metropolitan Area is experiencing a change ethnically, educationally, linguistically, and culturally by an influx of Mexican-Immigrant, and domestic Hispanic families. Target GEAR UP schools, once 100% white, now serve 42.4% Hispanic students. Schools are experiencing challenges related to identity, migration, race/gender stereotyping, poverty, language, attendance, and cultural preparation of teachers. All of these challenges are impacting student achievement outcomes. Many of these families have parents and students with no formal education, low educational attainment levels, and limited English-speaking abilities. Many parents have not graduated from high school nor attended college. In response to these changing dynamics, Granite School District, Utah State University, and key community/ business organizations created a partnership to address the needs of these changing communities in surrounding Salt Lake City. The Nuestra Visión (Our Vision) GEAR UP Partnership will increase the number of students graduating high school and preparing for and succeeding in postsecondary education. The Strategic Partners are: 1) Higher Education Institutions: The Utah State University (Depts. of Computer Science, Engineering, Education, Agriculture, Family Studies, and Psychology), University of Utah College of Science, Salt Lake City College, Granite Ed Tech, Granite Technical Institute, Snow College, and BYU Science Education (Duane Merrill) 2) School District: Granite; 3) Community Organizations: Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID), Texas Instruments (TI), Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE), Latinos in Action, and FOCUS Bus Tours.

The Nuestra Visión GEAR UP will serve 3,488 students from middle school through their first year in college. The GEAR UP Partners selected evidence-based programs that address the needs of the target students. Nuestra Visión will address Competitive Preference Priorities 1, 2 & 3. The AVID program will be the project's foundation, working in collaboration with partners to provide classroom, after-school, and summer tutoring programs to enhance academic achievement. College readiness activities will be offered by AVID, TI, ASPIRE, Jump Start, Cool Speak, Latinos in Action, You Science, Derivita Math, FOCUS Bus Tours, Student Planning Guide, Salt Lake Community College, and Snow College. Social and Emotional wellbeing will be incorporated into all activities and aligned with school systems frameworks like PBIS and curricula such as WhyTry. Partners will also provide mentoring and civic education. Nuestra Visión measurable outcomes are: 1a) Increase % of 8th-grade students meeting academic standards on state Math exam to 28%; 1b) By the end of 8th grade, 8th-grade students meeting ELA state exam will increase to 32%; 1c) Each year, % of students attending college/career exploration will increase by 20%; 2a) By end of 10th grade, % of students

meeting ELA state standards will increase to 43% and Math to 25%; 2b) Increase % of students taking Advanced Mathematics courses to 65.9% and Advanced Science to 53.9%; 2c) By end of high school, 90% will complete FAFSA and 80% of parents will attend FAFSA workshops; 2d) increase % of students graduating high school to 85%; 2e) increase % of students enrolling in dual enrollment to 59%; 3a) increase % of students enrolling in postsecondary to 65.9%; 3b) Decrease the % of postsecondary enrolled students needing at least one remedial course to 10%.