



**ARIZONA GEAR UP 2007-08 (Year 2)**  
 Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

**Vision:** AZ GEAR UP believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Arizona students, regardless of economic background, and strives to empower students to realize that ambition. AZ GEAR UP brings this message to middle and high school students, their families, and the community through early college and career awareness activities, scholarships, financial aid information, and improved academic support to help raise the expectations and achievement of all.

**Mission:** to significantly increase the number of students from participating schools who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

**STATE GEAR UP OFFICE**  
**Director**  
 Teena Olszewski

<b>Assistant Directors (2)</b> <i>Barbara Soby</i> <i>Jan Wenning</i>	<b>Assistant Director</b> <i>Stephen Hart</i>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b> <i>Diane Bellock</i>
<b>Early Intervention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Team Resource</li> <li>• Site Coordinator Training and Support</li> <li>• Annual Planning</li> <li>• Performance Monitoring / Reporting</li> <li>• Database Oversight / Data Management</li> </ul>	<b>Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Accounting, Monitoring &amp; Compliance</li> <li>• Invoice Processing / Reimbursement</li> <li>• Cost-Share Accounting &amp; Tracking</li> <li>• Financial Reporting / Records Management</li> </ul>	<b>Administrative Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Entry</li> <li>• Reception</li> <li>• Logistics / Meetings</li> <li>• Site Files / Records Management</li> <li>• Mail &amp; Inventory Processing</li> </ul>

**GEAR UP SITES**  
 6 partnerships • 17 schools / site teams • 8 site coordinators • 2,186 students

<b>Coolidge Partnership</b> West School (92) Hohokam School (85) Heartland School (77)	<b>Flagstaff Partnership</b> M.E.S.A. (11) Leupp Public School (21) Coconino H.S. (21) Sinagua H.S. (22)	<b>Globe Partnership</b> High Desert M.S. (135)	<b>Miami Partnership</b> Lee Kornegay J.H.S. (104)	<b>Phoenix Partnership</b> Carl Hayden H.S. (490) Garcia School (80) Hamilton School (43) Kuban School (53) Sullivan School (80)	<b>Yuma Partnership</b> Centennial M.S. (380) Crane M.S. (392) Cibola H.S. (100)
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## ARIZONA GEAR UP

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Arizona GEAR UP has three overarching components: (1) an applied *early intervention* component that impacts selected cohorts of students directly; (2) a *scholarship* component that provides financial support to GEAR UP graduates pursuing postsecondary education; and (3) a *college-access initiative* that intends to broaden awareness and promote postsecondary education state wide.

The early intervention component encompasses six **Partnerships** comprised of 18 **GEAR UP Schools** in Coolidge, Flagstaff, Globe, Miami, Phoenix and Yuma. The parties to a Partnership are Northern Arizona University and one or more school districts named in the federal proposal. **GEAR UP Teams**, local to each of the participating schools, “shepherd” the 2012 cohort from each Partnership toward pursuit of postsecondary education beginning in 2006-07, when students are in seventh grade, and continuing each year thereafter, through graduation in 2012. Within two of the Partnerships, the early intervention component additionally includes cohorts of 50 students each in the classes of 2009 and 2010. The cohort count, in total, is 1,722 students.

A Partnership includes the **principal investigator** and **project director** (NAU), and the **superintendent**, the **principal** of each school through which the cohort passes, and a **finance representative** from the district office.

The GEAR UP Site Team is lead by the **principal** and includes, at minimum, the **district finance representative**, a **counselor** and a **teacher** appointed by the principal, and a grant-paid **GEAR UP site coordinator** who moves with the cohort through each grade. Depending on the cohort size, the site coordinator may work at one or more schools during the first two years when students are in grades seven and eight, or be shared between two GEAR UP schools within a partnership. Because GEAR UP goals are continuous -- like the site coordinator who moves with the cohort from middle through high school -- decisions related to the hiring of the Coordinator (for example, by which district or school, and when), are best achieved on a partnership-by-partnership basis and in collaboration with the GEAR UP project director.



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### ARIZONA GEAR UP

#### Roles & Responsibilities

**Northern Arizona University (NAU):** As GEAR UP State grant applicant, NAU is the fiscal agent and overall project administrator for Arizona GEAR UP. Through both federal dollars and in-kind support, the University exercises responsibilities for:

- Overall Grant Management, Training, and Administration
- Grant Partner Relations; Development and Sustainability
- Fiscal Operations, Guidelines, Technical Assistance, Federal Reporting
- Program Evaluation, including Database Management, Expertise and Reporting

Arizona GEAR UP is administered through a State GEAR UP office in Phoenix, which houses the project director and four key staff, the grants' principal investigator, evaluators, and database experts are based in Flagstaff on the NAU mountain campus. The State Office lends leadership, development, planning, and support to GEAR UP schools.

**School Partners:** GEAR UP Teams, local to each of the participating schools, shepherd cohorts of GEAR UP students through middle and high school toward pursuit of postsecondary education. Core interventions and services for 1,700+ students are managed by on-site coordinators within six communities across Arizona. The coordinators, who are school employees, move up in grade with the cohorts, working with their respective school teams to ensure the provision of early college preparation and awareness services. Through both federal dollars and in-kind support, school partners exercise responsibilities for:

- Executing an annual work plan and budget
- Determining individual student needs
- Implementing and tracking activities leading to graduation and college entrance
- Collecting and reporting programmatic and fiscal data

**Community Partners:** Arizona GEAR UP partners include the Arizona College Scholarship Foundation; the Arizona Department of Education; the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education; Arizona State University; Bechon, Inc.; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff; Greater Phoenix Youth at Risk; New York Times Knowledge Network; The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Foundation. Their respective contributions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Administration of GEAR UP Scholarships
- Funds for intervention and college preparation services
- College and financial aid awareness materials
- Job shadowing and career presentations
- Mentoring and other college preparation services
- Literacy enhancement program, including professional development
- Funding for summer enrichment