



GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

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GEAR UP STUDENTS TOUR OKLAHOMA COLLEGES AND VOLUNTEER AT OKLAHOMA REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Throughout the fall semester of 2022

GEAR UP students attended several different college tours and their football games including SWOSU Saturday, NSU Riverhawk Rally, and OSU Orange Friday. Statistics show students who attend college tours/visits are 40% more likely to attend college after high school graduation! If you missed out in the fall we will have more opportunities to visit colleges this spring!

GEAR UP students also had the opportunity to volunteer at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank! Did you know Oklahoma is the 5th hungriest state in the US? The Regional food bank distributes 50 million lbs of food on average each year! Volunteering at the Regional Food Bank is a small way you can give back to the community and help people in need! Be on the lookout for more opportunities to volunteer this semester!

Upcoming Events



ROGERS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Oklahoma City
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE VISITS SPRING 2023

MARCH 1ST

East Central University Junior Day

MARCH 31st

Oklahoma City University Junior Day

APRIL 15th

Rogers State University Junior day

APRIL 29th

Oklahoma University Sooner Saturday

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TALK WITH YOUR GEAR UP
COORDINATOR FOR DETAILS AND A PERMISSION FORM!**

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Be on the lookout
for opportunities to
volunteer at the
Regional Food Bank
later in the
semester!



Coordinator Spotlight

Shannon Kirby



Our coordinator spotlight this month is Mrs. Shannon Kirby! Mrs. Kirby previously worked in the SSC Bookstore and as the office manager for the Business Ed. division prior to becoming a part of the GEAR UP team in February 2022. Mrs. Kirby graduated from Cordell High School

and received her Bachelors in English and Communications as well as a Masters in English Education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Mrs. Kirby serves Okemah, Asher and Konawa Schools. Mrs. Kirby's favorite thing about working with students is having the opportunity to celebrate their successes with them along their journey.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to
GEAR UP Mrs. Kirby!

Junior Spotlight



James Kerr

Our Junior Spotlight this month is James Kerr from Maud High School! James has been an active participant in GEAR UP since 2017! James attended our summer camps in 2019, 2021 and 2022 and has attended several college visits with GEAR UP including SWOSU, NSU, OU, and OSU IT. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in GEAR UP James!

"This young man is one the kindest and well-mannered human beings that I ever met. He is a very hard worker and will help a person in any situation. I have never ever heard him say a curse word or get angry. If he is angry with someone, a person would never know it because he keeps the same easy going demeanor all the time. James is always willing to help a person no matter who they might be. His heart is huge, and his soul is kind and gracious."

-Jackie Bush GU Coordinator for Maud and Seminole



Senior Spotlight

Reece Bierd

Our Senior Spotlight student this month is Reece Bierd! Reece has been an active participant in GEAR UP since 2020 when she first started at Prague high school. Reece attended our summer camp in 2021 and has been on several college visits with GEAR UP including OSU IT, OBU, SWOSU, and Rose State. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in GEAR UP Reece!

"Reece makes GEAR UP a priority and participates in activities as much as she can. She has always been very kind and respectful and is always looking for an opportunity to help others. Reece is a hard worker and excels in her Gordon Cooper program."

-Erica McCaughey GU Coordinator for Prague and Varnum

Important Reminders

FAFSA

SENIORS, the deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the 2023-2024 school year is June 30, 2023! If you have not applied yet, reach out to your GU Coordinator for assistance!

OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

JUNIORS, This is the LAST year you will be eligible to apply for Oklahoma's Promise! If you qualify, OK Promise will pay ALL of your tuition for the first four years of college! Make sure you apply, even if you don't think you qualify! If you need assistance, reach out to your GU Coordinator.



SignalVine

MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP FOR SIGNAL VINE TO RECEIVE REMINDERS AND UPDATES ABOUT EVENTS AND DEADLINES!

Students Text GEARUP to 405-212-9368

Parents Text GEARUP to 405-233-8940

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