



GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Vol 5 Issue 3



GEAR UP STUDENTS TOUR OKLAHOMA COLLEGES

Throughout the fall semester of 2023 GEAR UP students attended several different college tours and their football games including OSU Up Close, NSU Riverhawk Rally ECU Senior day, and OSU-IT Encounters. 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!



Director Spotlight



Jeremy Strickland

Jeremy Strickland, now in his 16th year in education, is pleased to join GEAR UP team at Seminole State College. Upon graduating from the University of Central Arkansas, he taught General Music, along with sections of Beginning Band, Gifted and Talented, and Reading Remediation for Okemah Public Schools. In 2014, he became the Executive Director of Summer Kids Cafe, a summer academic program for students in Kindergarten through 12th grades. 2000-2022 he served as Principal with Paden Public Schools and in 2022-2023 Principal at Henryetta High School. Mr Strickland states, "I am truly excited to bring knowledge, skills, and passion for student success to GEAR UP!"

Senior Spotlight

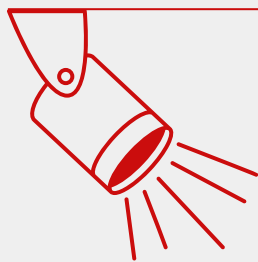


Madison Hinkle

Our Senior Spotlight this month is Madison Hinkle from Varnum High School! Madison has been a participant in GEAR UP since 2017! Madison attended our summer camp in 2018, 2019 and 2021. She has also attended several college visits with GEAR UP including NSU, OU, and OSU Up Close. Thank you for your dedication in GEAR UP Madison!

“Maddie is a bright young lady with an amazing future ahead of her! She is always the first to sign up on my lists to tour local colleges and is eager about GEAR UP Summer camp this year. She balances being in great academic standing while also being very involved in her community and school organizations. We are so proud of you Maddie!”

-Leah Martin, Coordinator for Varnum, Wetumka, and College Freshmen



Freshman Spotlight

Emma Franks

Our College Freshman Spotlight student this month is Emma Franks! Emma has been an active participant in GEAR UP since 2017. Emma attended our summer camp in 2021 and has been on several college visits with GEAR UP. Now, Emma is attending ECU full time studying computer science. We are so proud of you Emma!

"Emma is thriving after making her decision to attend East Central University. She attended our tour of Tinker Air Force base and was a delight to be around. Emma is always thinking ahead and looking for new scholarships and opportunities. I know she has a bright future ahead of her!"

-Leah Martin, Coordinator for Varnum, Wetumka, and College Freshmen

Upcoming Events

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Volunteer Opportunities at Regional Food Bank in the Spring!

Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities at the Regional Food Bank this spring! Participating in community service is an excellent way to enhance your college applications, so don't miss out!



Scholarship for Class of 2023

GEAR UP is thrilled to announce that we awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships to our class of 2023 students!

Our graduates have accomplished so much, and we couldn't be more proud of them.

These scholarships will help our students pursue their dreams and achieve their goals. We believe that every student should have access to higher education, regardless of their financial situation.

To our class of 2023 graduates, congratulations on your achievements! We know that you will go on to do amazing things and make a positive impact on the world. We are honored to have been a part of your journey and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Important Reminders

FAFSA

SENIORS, the FAFSA will open in December to apply for aid for the 2024-2025 academic year! Reach out to your GEAR UP Coordinator if you need assistance completing the FAFSA!

CONCURRENT

The concurrent financial assistance application is due December 11th! Please make sure you turn in the form along with a copy of your concurrent schedule. You must fill out new application each semester. Reach out to your GEAR UP coordinator for an application.



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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Seminole State College GEAR UP



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Wetumka, Varnum and College Freshmen

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