



Prague grade 8 students pictured above and Konawa grades 8 and 9 pictured below, experienced the campus of East Central University in Ada on January 29, 2020. Students learned many things about a college environment and had lunch on the campus.



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March 2, 2020



Volume 2, Issue 3

# SSC GEAR UP DREAMCATCHER



## Student Success Agency

SSC GEAR UP has rolled out a digital mentoring program for freshmen students called Student Success Agency. Asher, Konawa, and Wetumka were the first three schools to begin the process on February 4, 2020.



*Asher students above participate in the opening session "Kick-Off" event with Chief Executive Officer of Student Success Agency, E.J. Carrion.*

Student Success Agency (SSA) will match GU participants with a mentor who will become their agent. SSA agents will help each student to discover and meet his/her academic, career, and life goals that the student sets. All interactions (texts & emails) between students and the adult mentors will not disrupt the school day and are recorded for safety. Conversations include:

- \* On Demand tutoring
- \* Transition to college
- \* Find a job/internship
- \* Growing a brand
- \* Increasing networking opportunities
- \* Scholarship completion
- \* Editing essays
- \* College/career options
- \* Decision making

For more information call (405) 382-9687.

## Summer Camp 2020 Forensic Excavations



SSC GEAR UP summer camp 2020 theme is forensic excavations! Students will dig up and get the full scoop on this growing career field. Forensic science is the process of applying scientific methods to solve mysteries and crimes. Students attending camp will gain valuable skills in examining physical evidence through detailed and critical thinking, administering tests like fingerprinting, interpreting finger print analysis, and developing communication skills.

**We will have two sessions of residential camps. The first week session is May 20-24 and week two is May 27-31, 2020. There is a limit of 75 students per week. There is NO cost for students to attend as lodging, meals, field trips, movies, memories, and fun will be covered by SSC GEARUP. Students will work with other students solving mysteries including an escape room.**

A few of the day field trip excursions include touring the University of Central Oklahoma and walking through the Forensic Science and STEM buildings, learning labs and touring the OKC National Memorial and Oklahoma Museum of Osteology, and dinner and a movie in OKC Bricktown. The GEAR UP student/parent coordinators will begin distributing summer camp applications to students the week of March 9, 2020. We encourage all cohort students to apply.

## GEAR UP Coordinators Plan March and April 2020 student activities

SSC GEAR UP student / parent coordinators classroom workshops in March and April 2020 include collaboration, communication, portfolio, guidance counseling, preliminary financial planning, student athletes, testing, researching careers, decision making, and deciding on a career.



## Income Tax Time=Oklahoma's Promise

With April 15, 2020 quickly approaching, parents have the opportunity to submit a copy of their income tax documents to assist their children in receiving the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship. **Parents of current eighth, ninth, and tenth grade students can submit either their 2018 or 2019 federal adjusted gross income tax documents if their income is \$55,000 or less** to qualify for the scholarship. After April 15, 2020, only the 2019 tax documents will be accepted for income verification.

Oklahoma's Promise can be used for post-secondary education cost of attendance. Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, and supplies at a public college or university, career technical school, or private college in Oklahoma and only after the student graduates high school. For more information go to: [okhighered.org/okpromise](http://okhighered.org/okpromise).

Source: [okhighered.org/okpromise/faq.shtml](http://okhighered.org/okpromise/faq.shtml)



## SSC GEARUP receives seven student slots to attend Youth Leadership Summit in Washington DC



SSC GEAR UP received notification January 31 that we have been selected to allow seven students from our cohort schools to attend the Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) in July 2020. The seven students selected will be among only 200 from 100,000 students across the U.S. invited to attend. The 2020 YLS will be held in Washington DC during the national GEAR UP conference July 19-22. **The focus of YLS is to help students identify and maximize their leadership skills, create a national network of peers, and obtain the tools and training to make positive change happen in their communities and around the world.**

Student applications and supporting documents were due in the SSC GEAR UP office on Friday, February 21, 2020. The seven students to be selected had to complete an extensive application process including submitting written essays, school recommendation and parental permission forms, extra curricular activities, and community service projects among other criteria. **Tentative travel dates are July 16-23, 2020** and students selected will travel with GEAR UP personnel.

In addition to attending the summit, the seven chosen students will participate in a two or three day tour of Washington DC and surrounding college campuses. **All student expenses including air travel, lodging, meals, registration, and admission fees will be provided by the SSC GEAR UP program.** The selected students will be notified no later than April 1, 2020.

## How do you decide on a career that is right for you?

The teenage years are a time when students crave social interaction and support from their peers but also begin seeking more independence. Each student has unique characteristics, knowledge, skills, abilities, and interests that set them apart from their peers. These attributes are part of the ingredients that students should explore and experience when deciding a career to pursue. Sure there are students who know exactly what they want to do when they graduate high school, but the majority of students do not think about developing a plan prior to high school graduation. This is a major benefit your child has by being part of GEAR UP. We work with students providing information and experiences that empower them to choose a career that match their attributes.



An online tool that GEAR UP student/parent coordinators work with students exploring their attributes is [OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG](http://OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG). In the **Career Planning** tab of OKCOLLEGESTART, there are many different **interest surveys** that students can learn about themselves and determine their interests, skills, and work values that match career /job/occupation options. The **Career Cluster survey** tool matches students unique interests, knowledge, and personal qualities to what is called career clusters, or job/occupation options. Career clusters are a broad field that contain occupations in the same field of work that require similar skills. Current research identify **16 major career clusters** that comprise all occupations. A few career clusters include **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Business Management and Administration, Finance, Health Sciences, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.**

Students are encouraged during middle and early high school to explore all 16 career clusters and perhaps choose a **Career Pathway**. A career pathway is described as an educational road map that will connect student interests, depth of knowledge, and skills to student career choices and occupations. Pathways could be a career tech program while in high school, the military, college, or directly to work after graduating high school. A career pathway enables students to further develop knowledge and skills prior to entry into the employment market. Parents are encouraged to log-on and perhaps create an account with [OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG](http://OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG) to assist their children in deciding a career that is right for the student.

## SSC GEAR UP GOALS

1. Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.
2. Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.
3. Increase GEAR UP students' and their families knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation, and financing.

## GEAR UP CONTACT INFORMATION

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