EDUCATION ACCESS & OUTREACH

To increase college participation through pre-college access and outreach programs that include K-16 partnerships and encourage underrepresented students who are traditionally non-college bound to pursue and successfully complete a post-secondary education that meets the mutual needs of the university, public school system, and community.

Mark Your Calendars!

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<td>February 13</td>
<td>FAFSA FEB&lt;br&gt;Roy West Center&lt;br&gt;Ogden High &amp; Ben Lomond High&lt;br&gt;Weber State University Campus (Ogden &amp; Davis)&lt;br&gt;Second Baptist &amp; St. Joseph’s Church</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>FAFSA FEB&lt;br&gt;Roy West Center&lt;br&gt;Ogden High &amp; Ben Lomond High&lt;br&gt;Weber State University Campus (Ogden &amp; Davis)&lt;br&gt;Second Baptist &amp; St. Joseph’s Church</td>
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Tell me all about it

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Office News

Expect the Great Conference
Weber State University was selected to host the 2012 Expect the Great Conference on Nov. 3, which drew in 248 students from across the state of Utah and 100 different vendors. At the event, workshops and tours were made available for students and their parents to capture the feel of a college atmosphere and what to expect while pursuing a higher education.

ImPACT Grant
Congratulations to the Student to Student program for being awarded the ImPACT Grant for the third year in a row. This grant will be an essential piece in allowing the program to carry out events for under-represented students throughout the Weber, Davis and Ogden School Districts.

Betty Sawyer Recognized
At the Achievement/Founders Dinner for the Iota Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Mrs. Betty Sawyer was recognized with the Social Justice/Civil Rights Award, for her 30+ years contribution within the community and being an advocate for social justice and equality.

Asha Jones Spotlighted
National College Access Network (NCAN) named Asha Jones as one of their most powerful Twitters of 2012. Through the social media site, Asha has been connecting with students and peers by informing them of important information that will benefit their success in working towards higher education.

Director's Message
Dear colleagues and partners,

Happy New Year! We hope 2013 is starting off well for you. We are excited for the many upcoming activities planned to support potential under-represented students. Now serving over 15 target schools and nearly 2,000 students annually, we are fortunate to have the support and collaboration with so many great partners at Weber State University, our local school districts and in the community. I also want to recognize the commitment and leadership that our program directors and their staff provide in assisting students to better prepare for college. These past few months, we have had the opportunity to dialogue more closely with our school district partners on how we can continue to cultivate and enhance our partnerships. Thank you again for your time and willingness to share your thoughts and recommendations with WSU educational outreach programs. Additionally, new initiatives are on the horizon in regards to increasing college access to the community through the Gateway to Education initiative, assistance to students in completing the financial aid application, and a broader offering of summer college preparation opportunities.

Thank you again for your continual partnership!

Ruth Patiño Stubbs, Director
Welcome on board
We will like to welcome to the TRiO Talent Search team, three new members who each bring unique and creative ideas to the program. Rebecca Tierney has come on board as the new director and has already made an impressive impact to the program and department. She understands the need of providing outreach support to underrepresented populations. She is in the works of increasing outreach services to Spanish speaking families and participants who live significantly below the poverty level.

Along with Rebecca, we are pleased to have two new high school advisors, Damian Choi and Gerald Gansey. Together they bring in a combined 30 years of experience in working within the education system, and are eager to help students reach their educational dreams.

Multicultural Youth Conference
On May 17th and 18th, Student to Student will host the Multicultural Youth Conference at Weber State University for 9th—12th grade students. This year’s conference will provide students with an opportunity to have a collegiate experience and learn the expectations for educational success. More details concerning the event and registration process will be provided at a later date.

Advocate Initiative
To prepare high school students for entering into college, 10 college advocates have been going out to assigned high schools within the Weber, Davis and Ogden School Districts to assist students with the admission process for universities throughout the State of Utah. Through the help of the advocates, students are gaining the opportunity to pursue a higher education and achieve their career goals.

Rigor T-Shirt Campaign: “I’ve Got This”
Encouragement is the best motivator when it comes to seeing students achieve success in school, and what better way to do this than with a campaign with the slogan “I’ve Got This”. Each student who is enrolled in a rigorous curriculum will receive a t-shirt and certificate that will stand as a motivator to continue to excel in their classes and pass their AP exams.

Presenting at NCAN 2012 Conference
During the 2012 NCAN Conference held in Las Vegas, Asha Jones had the opportunity to present a workshop on “Undocumented: The American DREAM Revised”, Drawing insight from her work within the Student to Student Program, Asha was able to teach 30+ attendees about the terminologies used while working with undocumented students, an overview of the Federal DREAM Act and state laws, and the revision of the American Dream. From the presentation, all those in attendance were able to better understand the necessary steps of how to better assist those who are undocumented and how to connect them to already available outreach programs offered throughout the state.

FAFSA Feb
Through Weber State, the EAO office will be coordinating another FAFSA Feb event to assist students and their parents to fill out a free FAFSA application, at no cost. This event will be held throughout the month of February at the following dates and times.

Feb. 12 - West Campus (Roy) 1-4pm
Feb. 13 - Ogden High School & Ben Lomond High School 4-7pm
Feb. 23 - *WSU Ogden Campus 9am-12pm or 1-4pm
(Elizabeth Hall Rm 213)
*WSU Davis Campus (Rm 222)
9am-12pm or 1-4pm
Feb. 24 - Second Baptist
St. Joseph’s Church

For more information, visit http://www.weber.edu/fafsahelp or call 801.626.7006.

Senior Retreat
At this year’s Senior Retreat, students were treated to an overnight retreat held at the Weber School District North Fork Environmental Center on November 20th - 21st. Students were involved in leadership and team building activities, and workshops that discussed the importance of higher education. Several of the workshops discussed financial aid, admissions and scholarship opportunities available to the students.

Latino In Action Conference
For the first time, Latinos in Action and Student to Student will partner to host this year’s LIA Conference at Weber State on March 6. Approximately 1100+ Latino students (8th - 12th grade) from across the state of Utah and parts of Idaho will be in attendance.

The primary focus of LIA is for Latino youth to continue their education through college, and not stopping after high school graduation. At the conference, there will be workshops, speakers and activities that will motivate the youth to be contributors within their own community through the accomplishment of obtaining a post-secondary degree.
**Recognition**

Congratulations to Sheldon Cheshire for being chosen to spear head the Ogden GEAR UP Partnership program as the new coordinator. He proceeds Betty Sawyer in the position, as she was named the Director of the WSU State GEAR UP Partnership.

**ACT Prep Course**

To prepare students for the ACT test, three ACT prep classes were offered to any high school student, free of charge, at Weber State University. Through these prep classes, students took a mock ACT test to see exactly where they were on the national scale and how they could improve the score received. After receiving their individual scores, follow up classes on each subject were provided to ensure each student was prepared with essential study tips for the big day.

A total of 100+ students within the Ogden, Davis and Weber school districts participated, making these prep classes a huge success.

**Farewell**

Best of luck to KyLee Rock and Noel Jernigan who both served as College Access Advisors for the State GEAR UP Partnership. Both have been invaluable to the program and will be greatly missed. Their hard work in starting the GEAR UP program within the Weber, Davis and Ogden School District has been phenomenal in every way, and we wish them both success in their new roles. Noel will be teaching at Layton High School, while KyLee will welcome her second child in a few short months.

**College Access Advisor**

The State GEAR UP Partnership is seeking for a part-time College Access Advisor. The advisor will be responsible in going out to assigned schools within the Weber and Davis School Districts to recruit students into the program. Advisor will also conduct workshops, events, and do assessments of program participants. To be considered for the position, applicant(s) must have a Bachelor’s degree; but a Master’s degree is preferred but not required. To apply, visit www.jobs.weber.edu or call 801.395.9547 for more information. (Requisition #08164)

**Learning to Succeed**

On December 6, students involved in the M.E.S.A club (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement), had the opportunity to meet and listen to Mark Eaton discuss 4 Commitments of a Winning Team. During his presentation, he provided students information on how to succeed in the professional field, and what will become of them if they work hard to accomplish their goals.

**Touring Ogden High School**

On November 6, Weber staff members were invited to tour the newly renovated Ogden High School. During the tour, all staff members were given the opportunity to be part of a discussion with Principal Stacy Briggs to review goals, and implement a plan on how to encourage students to become college ready after their high school graduation.

**Recruiting Process**

Gearing up for a new year, the State GEAR UP Partnership has been pushing hard in recruiting students to meet the 408 enrollment program goal. To draw students to be part of their large team, advisors have been meeting with students and their parents to explain more about what the program can offer them in connection to pursuing a post-secondary education after graduating from high school.

Through recruitment efforts, staff members have set up information tables during parent teacher conferences within the Davis School District area. As students and their parents passed the tables, they were given take away items such as candy, flash drives, handkerchiefs and other miscellaneous items for visiting the table and wanting to know more about the program.

**New Addition to the Team**

Please welcome David Paskett to the State GEAR UP Partnership team. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge of outreach efforts, and is eager to continue the success of the program.

**Being Called to Tutor**

Tutors within the GEAR UP Programs and Ogden Districts Smaller Learning Communities are making a scene as they go out to various schools within the Weber, Davis and Ogden School District to tutor GEAR UP participants in numerous subject matters. Each tutor is equipped with the knowledge needed to ensure that each student is excelling in their classes, and getting the help they need to succeed in high school.

With the assistance and support of tutors, GEAR UP students are seeing a difference in their work and study habits within the classroom. Tutors are readily available to help students throughout the school hours, and will make sure that learning is made fun for all those involved!

To become a tutor, visit www.jobs.weber.edu (Requisition # 07983).

**Sand Ridge GEAR UP Highlighted at Recent School Board Meeting**

KyLee Rock (GEAR UP Advisor), Anneke Petersen (Sand Ridge Counselor), and Baby Tee P. Eteuati (student) presented at the Weber School District Board Meeting to share the benefits of having the GEAR UP program at their school. The support that has been rendered from the school partners have been an essential key to the success of all GEAR UP efforts.
Meet our New Staff Members

Rebecca Tierney
Director, Educational TRIO Talent Search
Having grown up around the world, Becky grew to love different cultures and to enjoy learning new things on how to help underprivileged individuals achieve their educational goals. Prior to WSU, Becky was a counselor at Roy High School and also has extensive experience managing federal grants.

Damian Choi
Advisor, Educational TRIO Talent Search
Damian has more than 10 years of experience coordinating and providing direct services to families and adolescents through local government agencies, community clinics, non-profit organizations, and schools based initiatives. He offers an extensive systems knowledge and a strong commitment to the community.

Gerald Gansey
Advisor, Educational TRIO Talent Search
Prior to working for WSU, Gerald worked for The State of Utah Juvenile Justice System. He is a WSU alumni and received a Bachelors of Integrated Studies with concentrations in Child & Family Studies, Sociology, and Criminal Justice.

Dale Payne
Academic Support Specialist
A family man with 15+ years experience in education and community outreach roles. He is a graduate of Concordia University Irvine in Business Administration, with post graduate studies in Business Education from Cal State Fullerton.

Sydney Foust
Marketing Specialist
Sydney is currently pursuing her Bachelors degree at Weber State University in Public Relations and Marketing. After completing her degree she hopes to work in the recreational industry as a PR manager. She loves hiking, snowboarding, and spending time with her two dogs.

Shelby Sakamoto
Ogden GEAR UP Office Specialist
Originally from Lancaster California, Shelby is pursuing a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. After completing her degree, she will love to become a second grade teacher because she enjoys to interact with younger children and creating a fun environment for them to learn in.

Madahi Mejia
Office/Data Specialist
Since moving to Utah to pursue a degree in Medical Lab Science, Madahi has been experiencing a lot of new things in her life. Hailing from Guatemala, she loves Latin music and teaching others about her culture; as well as interacting with other’s and getting to know them.

David Paskett
College Advisor
Originally from California, David graduated from the University of Utah with a Political Science degree. He has worked with the GEAR UP program for the past six years in various capacities, and understands the value of providing outreach to students and their families in pursuing a higher education.

Connect with Us
Stay connected with us by visiting our department website and Facebook Page to receive updates of upcoming events and news!

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