

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally-funded program designed to increase the number of students who stay in school and succeed in postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP focuses on students from low-income and underserved communities who might be the first person in their family to go to college; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year grants to states or partnerships to deliver support and resources to students and their families, starting no later than the 7th grade (middle school), through high school and onward to fulfill their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP includes interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, and financial education to improve access and success in higher education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP is built around public-private partnerships to support students as they prepare to enter and succeed in education beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, Washington GEAR UP currently serves 35,000 students in sixth grade through their first year of postsecondary education, and has enabled thousands of students since 1999 to achieve their dreams of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to providing a quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their highest potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 21-25, 2020, as

GEAR UP Week

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 21st day of August, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

