

# 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 serves students from underserved communities, who may be the first generation to go to college, and their families; 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 provides supports such as tutoring, advising, career exploration, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, and information about financial aid and scholarships to improve access and success in postsecondary education and training; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Washington GEAR UP currently serves 41,000 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 20, 2021, as

### **GEAR UP Week**

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

Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021

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

Governor Jay Inslee

