

Activity Ideas from the Field: Community Partnerships

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ACTIVITY NAME: Community Partnerships

AUDIENCE:

- ☐ All Students
- ☒ All GU Students
- ☐ DREAMers
- ☐ English Language Learners
- ☒ Families
- ☐ First Generation Youth
- ☐ Rural Schools
- ☐ Students with Disabilities
- ☐ Underrepresented Minorities
- ☐ Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- ☐ Youth In Foster Care
- ☐ Other: _____

GRADE LEVEL: 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐
10 ☒ 11 ☐ 12 ☐
Other: _____

SERVICE TYPE:

- ☐ College Applications
- ☐ College Goal Washington
- ☐ College Visits
- ☐ Comprehensive Mentoring
- ☐ Counseling & Advising
- ☒ Educational Field Trips
- ☒ Family Events
- ☒ Financial Aid & Financial Literacy
- ☒ Job Shadowing
- ☐ Rigorous Academic Curriculum
- ☐ Student & Family Orientation
- ☐ Summer Programs
- ☐ Tests & Test Preparation Workshop
- ☒ Tutoring & Homework Assistance

THEME:

- ☐ Advisories
- ☐ Attendance
- ☐ Career Exploration
- ☐ CCSS
- ☐ Collective Impact
- ☐ College Bound Scholarship
- ☐ College match/selection
- ☐ College-Going Culture
- ☐ Community College
- ☐ Credit Retrieval
- ☐ Dropout Prevention/ Reengagement
- ☐ Early Warning Systems
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Essays
- ☒ Family engagement
- ☐ Games
- ☐ Graduation Requirements
- ☐ Guest Speakers
- ☐ Health/Wellness
- ☐ Leadership for college readiness
- ☒ Partnerships
- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Social & Emotional Learning
- ☐ STEM
- ☐ Supporting undocumented students
- ☐ Test preparation
- ☐ Transitions
- ☐ Using data and evaluation
- ☐ Working in rural schools
- ☐ Other: _____

GOAL: Increase mutually beneficial community partnerships with local businesses, organizations and schools, thus creating positive partnerships between GEAR UP and other local resources. Increase student participation in community service projects, thus creating a positive impact on our community and student extracurricular activities.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW: Ongoing community outreach and engagement for all GEAR UP events, field trips and programs. Researching and promoting local community service opportunities for youth and making arrangements for students to participate.

PREP TIME: Ongoing, daily outreach

MATERIALS NEEDED: Email, phone, letterhead, printing capabilities, ability to visit local businesses

COST: No cost except for staff time and dedication

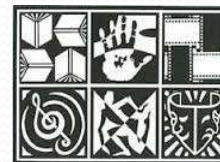
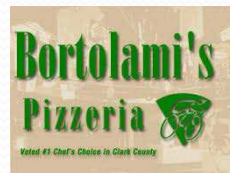
PROCEDURE: GEAR UP Staff communicates with local businesses, organizations and schools on a daily basis via email, phone or in person contact. GEAR UP staff promotes local businesses who provide us with in-kind donations at our events. This requires a lot of community outreach, public relations and public speaking skills. We are rejected often and have to brush it off and move on to the next opportunity.

Community Service – GEAR UP staff has to keep up to date with local community service and volunteer events, communicate with local agencies that offer opportunities for youth to volunteer. We often need to provide transportation to the event. We promote within our schools. Often, a GEAR UP staff has to sacrifice a Saturday or an evening to chaperone the event with students.

Community Outreach

Community Partners and Community Service

GEAR UP Vancouver



Community Partners

The key to our success!

- Continual community outreach and communication
- Emails, phone calls and in-person visits – selling GEAR UP!
- Donation request letters
- Thank you cards from students or letter
- Promotion at events
- Follow-up

THE RESULTS:

More family and student involvement!

Community Agencies excited about helping!



GEAR UP VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT #37



April 22, 2015

Greetings;

Vancouver Public Schools has been lucky enough to receive a federal grant through the Department of Education to help our low-income and first generation students reach their dreams of college or post secondary education. GEAR UP or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs is now in the 4th year of our 2nd 6 year grant cycle at Fort Vancouver, Hudson's Bay and Skyview High Schools. We support the class of 2017 at each of those schools through in-school academic support and extracurricular enrichment activities.

GEAR UP's vision is that all students are academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter and complete the postsecondary program or institution of their choice. We strive to increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increase high school graduation and postsecondary participation rates and increase students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and finances. You are welcome to view the GEAR UP website at www.gearup.wa.gov for information about our grant and our programs. This year, we have provided ongoing tutoring and advising for students, taken students on college campus visits and career site shadowing, sponsored Career and College Fairs at each school, piloted a leadership program offering skills training and community service projects and provided training and education about post secondary options to parents and families, just to name a few of our efforts.

The GEAR UP program is 100% grant funded with strict guidelines on how we spend our funds. We are also required to match 33% of every grant dollar we spend, so our community partners are key to helping us meet this match expectation. Please see the attached letter of request for Fred Meyer. We are hoping Fred Meyer is able to help us with our final Family Event of the year.

We are always happy to promote our sponsors at our events and within the halls of our schools. If a company provides us with a resource, we always give them credit for doing so. We want this to be a mutually beneficial partnership. Our intention is for such partnerships to improve your business and the GEAR UP Program.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

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April 2015

To: Burgerville

Dear Burgerville Team:

Thank you very much for your contribution of Burgerville Gift Cards to the Vancouver Public Schools GEAR UP Program! The gift cards will be given to our HERO Leadership Students at our Recognition Dinner on June 4, 2015. These students have gone above and beyond the expectations of your average student with school and community outreach and involvement. Thank you Burgerville for providing us with a fun reward for these outstanding students. Community partners like you help us support our students and families. We couldn't do it without you!

Please let me know if there is any documentation you require verifying your contribution to the GEAR UP Grant. Your donation help us meet our annual grant match requirement, thus ensuring the continuation of the program in our schools. You are a vital part to our program success and we want to make sure your organization benefits as well. For your records, our Vancouver Public Schools Foundation Non-profit tax ID# is 91-0971800.

Again, thank you for your support!

Best Regards,

Nina Stemm
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**THANKS YOU FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PROGRAM!**

**OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS HELP
OUR STUDENTS SUCCEED!**

Community Service

Getting our Students Involved!

- Coordinating with local volunteer agencies
- Promotion at schools
- Arranging transportation
- GEAR UP staff involved

THE RESULTS:

Students gain valuable experience and job/life skills

Build up their résumés for job/college applications

Develop character through community involvement and making a positive impact



EARTH DAY!
April 2105



WILDLIFE REFUGE!
February 2105

