

OKANOGAN VALLEY GEAR UP PROJECT

FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

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OVGU GEAR UP

- GEAR UP 8th graders Meet with Career Fair Recruiters
- Transition Programs for GU 9th Graders
- WVC Trains GU Tutors
- Romeo and Juliet Performance a Hit with GU Students
- Bridges Activities Planned for Districts

YEAR 4 KICK OFF EVENTS

Academic Transition Programs

All GEAR UP districts implemented special activities to help 8th graders enter high school as the 2008 freshmen class. "Link Crews" welcomed students in Omak, Chelan and Tonasket. Transition programs help entering freshmen feel comfortable in the high school culture, with tips from seniors (Link Crews) on how to survive freshmen year, and hearing from seniors what they wish they had done as freshmen. The programs provide opportunities for freshmen to talk with teachers and advisors, learn about their schedules and where classrooms are located.

Tutorial Support GEAR UP tutors enrolled in two classes at

WVC Omak to learn how to provide tutoring for freshmen and other students. EDU 130 and EDU 131 ran concurrently. Thirty-four participants are presently completing 33 supervised practicum hours, honing tutoring skills in classrooms across the districts. Thank you, WVC, for your part in preparing GEAR UP students for postsecondary educational opportunities.

Romeo and Juliet in Chelan 406 GEAR UP students from Manson, Chelan, Brewster, Bridgeport, Omak, Tonasket and Oroville districts enjoyed the Seattle Shakespeare Company performance of Romeo & Juliet in Chelan's Performing Arts Auditorium. Students enjoyed talking with the actors after the performance.



GEAR UP STUDENTS GO TO ROMEO AND JULIET





MANSON CAREER FAIR WELL ATTENDED BY 8TH GRADERS

GEAR UP 8th graders from **Manson, Brewster and Bridgeport** joined students from Mansfield, Waterville, and Liberty Bell at Manson High School for the district's 2nd Annual Career and College Fair. Students learned about job opportunities with local professionals from Chelan Fire Department, Chelan PUD, Lake Chelan Hospital, Chelan Fresh, Campbells Resort and North Cascade Bank.

Regional representatives included NC Skills Center, Seattle Area Pipe Trades, IBEW, NWW

Electrical Industry, Land Surveyors, the FBI and DEA, Youth Maritime Program, US Marines, US Army and the US Forest Service.

Students visited with college reps from six education institutions: WSU, CWU, WVC, BBCC, EWU, Whitworth and ITT Technical Institute.

GEAR UP students prepared for the experience by identifying three career areas they intended to investigate. They collected packets of information from representatives, discussed train-

ing requirements and academic preparation for these career fields. Bridgeport students were reluctant to leave when the bus rolled up. They were having too much fun talking with professionals from the trades and doing activities at various table displays.

No students went home empty handed. They were well prepared to complete required classroom presentations to peers in their home districts.

PARENTS FILL PAIRED ESL CONEVYT CLASSES

Bridgeport Parent Training
Instructors Marla Leander and Maribelle Trejo welcomed community members and GEAR UP parents to fall quarter ESL/Spanish Language GED (CONEVYT) classes. 15 new and 13 returning students began ESL classes in the Bridgeport high school library and CONEVYT classes in the high school computer lab. Thirteen parents have students in the

GEAR UP Cohort. ESL class participants are very happy with their new classroom in the high school library.

Tonasket Parent Training
Due to remarkable success and popular demand, Tonasket's ESL/CONEVYT classes are in the process of expanding to a second set of classes taught by instructors Angela Lorz and Michael Goudeau on Tuesday evenings at a

satellite location. Sixty students are enrolled in the paired classes in Year 2 of the program. Offering paired classes of ESL and CONEVYT has proven highly effective for adults learning English while not yet having complete Spanish language literacy.

Research supports that when parents take their own education seriously they are great role models for their children.

Students preparing for college: It's not a dream. It's a plan!

WHATEVER IT TAKES AT OMAK HIGH SCHOOL

Sixteen high school students are providing tutoring services in **Omak School District**. The GEAR UP tutors are placed in classrooms after participating in a WVC tutor training class, EDU130. While curriculum broadens their repertoires of tutoring skills, classrooms environments provide valuable

experience for the tutors in training.

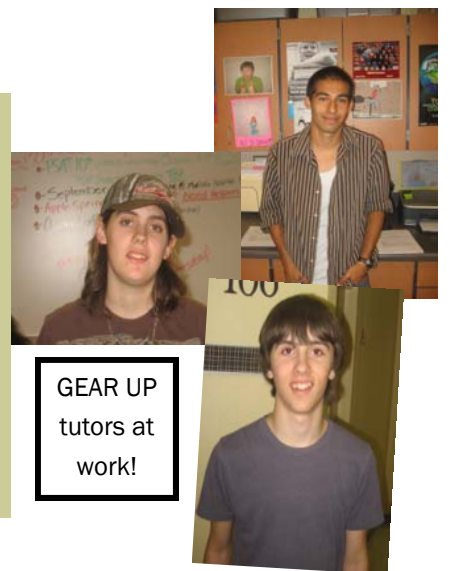
Jessica Smith, GEAR UP tutor advisor, is proud of the tutors for their dedication to the students and teachers for whom they work. "They are . . . giving back and making our learning community a better place!"

A Few Tutor Comments

"I like tutoring because I like productive interaction and watching the students improve."

"I like helping the students complete tasks."

"It is harder than I thought it would be but it has broadened my perspective."



GEAR UP tutors at work!

SCHOOL QUEST YIELDS HIGHER GPA'S

Oroville School District has begun a new class this year called "School Quest" under the direction of Maria Griffin, Dean of Students, and Dawn Miller, GEAR UP site director. In the past, these students have struggled with attendance, grades, and discipline and were not on track to graduate. The goal of the class is to give the students the skills and support they need to get back on track and graduate. The students are taking responsibility for their academics, attitudes, and relationships. Mrs. Grif-

fin and Mrs. Miller use strategies from *Why Try, 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens*, and *How to Get Good Grades*, to motivate and empower these students to succeed in school and in life. GPA's have improved 60%, attendance has improved 64% since last year fourth quarter. Last year the students had 41 F's in fourth quarter; and this first quarter they had only 10, anticipating higher marks at semester. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Griffin have developed lasting relationships with each student.



Oroville's School Quest Students

ACTIVITIES JUMP STARTING STUDENT CAREERS

Magellen Software at Manson
GEAR UP students are able to access the Magellen website to use software for identifying personal interests and evaluating aptitudes and skills they have at this point in their academic life. The web site lists 3000 jobs with associated descriptions, working conditions, skills and training requirements. Students access the site in preparation for career fair participation and other career development activities.

All of Manson's GEAR UP stu-

dents will take the aptitude test in the near future. In depth interviews with students will be facilitated to discuss career opportunities when they receive their test results.

10th Grade Events

Each GEAR UP district will host a 10th grade cohort event during which CWU Bridges mentors help students imagine the world of tomorrow. Students will consider new, cutting edge job opportunities, will contemplate how they would want to be remem-

bered at the end of a long, successful career, and will be helped to think 'out of the box' about opportunities they might pursue. Mentors will share personal stories, challenges and strategies to achieve success on campus.

10th Grade Event Schedule

December 12 Chelan and Manson
December 16 Oroville and Tonasket
December 17 Brewster
December 19 Omak and Bridgeport
Presentation times have been set for Chelan, Oroville, Bridgeport and Omak.

The Future. get ready

What will YOU think of next?

Okanogan Valley GEAR UP

WSU COMPETITION: IMAGINE TOMORROW

The Second Annual High School Energy Competition for Washington students takes place on May 29-31, 2009 at Washington State University, Pullman. Teams of students will compete to win more than \$100,000 in cash prizes by answering the question, "How would you power your future?"

Student teams will seek new ways to shift the public mindset, reshape governance and policy, reengineer technologies and redesign communities and ways of life. They will learn to think critically about complex issues, gather and analyze information, collaborate and bring their ideas to life in a supportive academic

environment. Opportunities in all subject areas may be investigated including social studies, sciences, art and design. 150 student teams of three to five students from Washington school districts will spend 3 days collaborating with WSU professors and staff in a meaningful learning experience and adventure.

Homeboy Goes to Harvard Presentation Schedule

- ◆ December 17
 - 8:30—9:30 a.m. Oroville
 - 2:00—3:00 p.m. Omak
- ◆ December 18
 - 8:47—9:30 a.m. Bridgeport
 - 1:20—2:30 p.m. Brewster
- ◆ December 19
 - 9:45—9:45 a.m. Manson
 - 11:00—12:50 a.m. Chelan

We are on the web!
www.cwu.edu/~ovgearup/

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Julie Blohm Grinolds
 CWU—Wenatchee Valley College campus
 1300 5th Street
 Wenatchee, WA 98801
 Phone: 509-963-3961
 Fax: 509-66-2601
 E-mail: grinoldj@cwu.edu

OKANOGAN VALLEY GEAR UP

Students in hard hats examine water bugs at the Tripod fire area in June



BRIDGES SUMMER TECH CAMPS

Tonasket, Omak & Oroville
 GEAR UP students from north valley schools collaborated with science professionals from the US Forest Service to evaluate the changes in forests and streams following the “Tripod Fire” of two summers ago. Approximately 45 students spent two days investigating stream dwelling insects, identifying plant species and evaluating changes in the forest since this major fire. Students won’t forget spending time in the woods with nets, hammers, waders, scopes and lenses, and with

the professionals who showed them so much about what’s out there. Hopefully, this experience helps them understand that the processes occurring in the natural world affect them, and that decisions they make now and as adults will affect these processes.

Brewster and Bridgeport
 Bridges mentors were an integral part of Tech Camp, providing positive role models for GEAR UP students, both in character and in being college students. Camp participants participated in

many challenging activities including archery, high and low ropes courses.

Each night students viewed slide shows of the day’s activities and journaled about their experiences. Fun activities included a water balloon fight, hiking, soccer and scrap-booking. Professors from WVC and CWU gave workshops on entomology and archaeology.

OKANOGAN VALLEY GEAR UP

Tentative Campus Visitation Schedule

- 09/27 EWU & GU
- 10/01 National College Fair in Spokane
- 10/25 Exploring Your Horizons Conference in Spokane
- 11/05 WSU
- 11/16 EWU
- 11/19 SCC Beauty & Culinary
- 12/19 ITT/SCC/EWU
- 02/03 Whitworth & GU
- 02/19 WSU Tri-Cities
- 02/24 Shoreline CC Mechanics
- 03/10 WSU Pullman
- 03/20 GU
- 03/25 BBCC Spring Tours
- 04/06 CWU
- 04/21 WVC
- 04/29-31 Seattle Colleges & Capital
- 5/15 WWU Discovery Day
- 05/17-18 PLU, City College, Devry, Digi Pen



Tech Camp participants with Bridges mentor

Students at Camp Zaneka Lache

