



WSU GEAR UP Programs

North Wichita GEAR UP, Southeast Wichita GEAR UP, South Wichita GEAR UP, and West Wichita GEAR UP are federally funded projects. The overall goal of each project is to increase the number of high school graduates who are prepared for post-secondary enrollment. For each program, Wichita State receives \$740,000 annually from the U.S. Department of Education for six years with a required \$740,000 match. The projects also track students through their first year of college.

Each project serves a cohort of 925 students from seventh grade through high school graduation who attend schools in the Wichita Public School District. Project components

include career, academic, and personal counseling, early intervention programs, cultural activities, mentoring, Saturday and after school tutoring, workshops and trainings for parents and professionals.

Each GEAR UP has three main goals:

- Increase the academic performance and preparation of students for post-secondary education.
- Increase the high school graduation rate and post-secondary education enrollment rate of students.
- Increase students and their families' knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing.

North Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: North High School and West High School

Staff: Riccardo Harris (director), Francesca Chavira, Lavell Jackson, Michael Lewis, Schreen Williams

Contact Information: (316) 866-8904

South Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: South High School and Southeast High School

Staff: Riccardo Harris (director), Danya Burks, Diane Criner, Ervin Garnes, Kelly Payton

Contact Information: (316) 866-8904

Southeast Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: Coleman Middle School, Jardine Middle School, Truesdell Middle School

Staff: Wilma Holloway (director), Charlotte Edwards, Karen McNamee, Barbara Pickens, Christy Royal

Contact Information: (316) 973-5127

West Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: Hadley Middle School, Hamilton Middle School, Mead Middle School, Marshall Middle School, and Pleasant Valley Middle School

Staff: Janice Wright (director), Joy Barnes, Lee Hurst II, Candra Jones, Shaunita Phillips, Tom Wilcox

Contact Information: (316) 409-9267

North Wichita GEAR UP

Rising Star



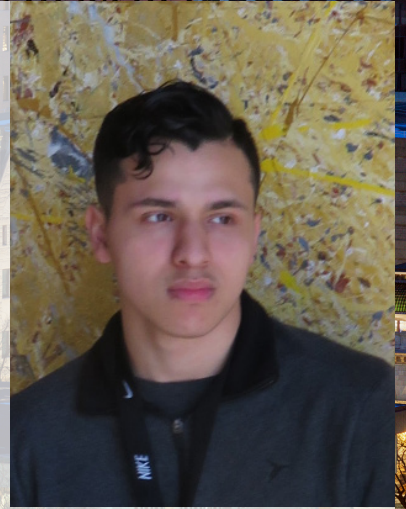
Irene Campos

Irene Campos is a junior at West High School and a participant in the North Wichita GEAR UP program. She ranks among the top 10 percent of her class. She is interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice. Irene may at times appear to be quiet and reserved, but if given the opportunity, she always commands the attention of everyone around her. When faced with a difficult problem, she analyzes the situation, evaluates her options, and offers sound advice to encourage her peers and resolve the issue. One of her goals is to leave a positive legacy for others to follow. She welcomes every occasion to get to know people, meet them where they're at, and take them to the next possible level. She is a natural leader by choice and by consensus.

According to Irene, she summed up her Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) summer experience like this: "Being chosen to represent GEAR UP was such a surprise for me. I felt very honored to be able to represent such an amazing program. I was not expecting to meet so many people from all over the country at this conference. I got to connect and interact with outstanding individuals. I learned how to make a difference and put my ideas to work. I am able to achieve so much if I put my ideas to work. Thank you for this opportunity."

South Wichita GEAR UP

Rising Star



Miguel Schlesinger

Miguel Schlesinger is a junior at Southeast High School and is a participant in the South Wichita GEAR UP program. At an early age, he recalls his parents telling him that he was going to college. After failing three classes in the fifth grade, his parents decided that he should be held back. As embarrassing as it was at the time, Miguel used this as an opportunity to start over. With renewed confidence and a sense of purpose, he decided to focus on creating a path to success. He often remembers his parents' advice to strive for success not just hope for it. He joined the GEAR UP program during the second semester of his sophomore year and was able to participate in many of the events and services provided.

He sums up his experience like this: "I admire the dedication GEAR UP has to its students, promoting careers and connecting with students to help them think about the future. As a student who has a plan for the future, it is sad to know that there are others who haven't considered one. Last spring, I went on a week-long trip to Texas touring college campuses. In addition to connecting with other GEAR UP students from different schools in Wichita, I had an opportunity to speak with Riccardo Harris about what I wanted to accomplish in the future and I left that conversation feeling fully supported and thinking what a blessing GEAR UP is to me."