



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

SEPTEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

## 8 WAYS EDUCATION IMPROVES YOUR LIFE



1. **MORE JOB SATISFACTION** Individuals with a college degree are more likely to rate their work as important or very important.
2. **MORE MONEY** Individuals with a college degree earn an average of \$22,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.
3. **LESS UNEMPLOYMENT** Someone with a 4-year degree is one third as likely to be unemployed than someone with only a high school diploma.
4. **MORE BENEFITS** Jobs that require a college degree are more likely to offer health insurance and retirement plans.
5. **BETTER HEALTH** College graduates are more likely to exercise and report better health.
6. **MORE LIKELY TO VOTE** 30% more college graduates voted in the 2008 election than those with only a high school diploma.
7. **LIVE LONGER** People with a college degree live almost 9 years longer than those without a high school diploma.
8. **VOLUNTEER MORE** College grads are 20% more likely to volunteer in their communities.

*Sources: College Board, 2013; U.S. Census, 2010; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Individuals with a college degree earn almost a million dollars more over a lifetime than someone with just a high school diploma.

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** College is only a 4-year degree with classes taken on campus.

**REALITY:** College can be a lot of different things - it just means continuing your education after high school. Certificate and training programs at community colleges and trade schools can take less than a year. Associate's degree programs usually take two years. Many schools now offer courses online, so that students don't even have to be on campus. The common element: learning and training keeps going after high school!

## WHY START NOW?

You might be thinking that it seems way too early to start talking about college when your student is in middle school. But the choices your student makes now will help pave the way for success in high school, college and career. In fact, the research shows that a student's academic achievement in middle school makes a big difference on college readiness when they graduate.

One of the best things you can do now is to learn more about the options for education after high school and encourage your student to do well in school and explore their interests. Reading this newsletter is a good start! Information will be distributed monthly, with additional events and resources listed below.

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- Read up.** Read these monthly parent newsletters and go over them with your student.
- Offer encouragement.** Encourage your student to do well in school and explore outside interests in sports, clubs, and volunteer work.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

Visit [oregongearup.org](http://oregongearup.org) to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

**COLLEGE.** It's not a dream, it's a plan.