## **Toltec schools GEAR UP**

Staff Reports | Posted: Thursday, October 10, 2013 1:00 am

Toltec students at Cambridge Preparatory Academy, Arizona City Elementary and Toltec Elementary celebrated in the 2013 National GEAR UP week, Sept. 23-27 through a variety of positive activities such as wearing college shirts, college door decorating contest, dress as a professional day, and hosting guest speaker Celina Salinas, NAU Outreach Coordinator-Signal Peak Campus/NAU Extended Campus and culminating in a motivational concert by Michael Padilla, a youth motivational speaker and rapper.

GEAR UP is a competitive grant program of the U.S. Department of Education that is focused on increasing the number of low-income, minority, and first-generation students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Toltec School District in a partnership with Casa Grande Elementary, Casa Grande Union High School District, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona Business Education Coalition, received a six-year grant to implement a responsive, creative and research-based effort to get entire classrooms of children and their families ready for higher education. For more information about the activities of National GEAR UP week or information on GEAR UP contact April Ortega, Toltec School District GEAR UP Coordinator at aortega@toltec.k12.az.us.