Toltec School District students join GEAR UP

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Toltec Elementary School District #22 students at Cambridge Preparatory Academy, Arizona City Elementary School and Toltec Elementary School participated in the 2013 National GEAR UP week. The event took place Sept. 23-27 and included a variety of positive activities such as wearing college shirts, a college door decorating contest and dress as a professional day.

Presentations were given by hosting guest speaker Celina Salinas, NAU Outreach Coordinator-Signal Peak Campus/NAU Extended Campus and an exciting 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 fully prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

The Toltec Elementary 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 as well as their families ready for higher education.

For more information about the activities of National GEAR UP week or for additional information on the GEAR UP program, contact April Ortega, Toltec Elementary School District GEAR UP Coordinator at aortega@toltec.k12.az.us.