

**ARIZONA GEAR UP**

**15451 N. 28th Avenue Suite 216**

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May XX, 2015

Dear Family of <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your child has been selected as an Ambassador Student at the Northern Arizona University (NAU) GEAR UP Summer Leadership Academy (GUSLA), which takes place from **June 14 through June 19, 2015** on the NAU campus in Flagstaff, Arizona. This is the first year for the GUSLA Ambassador Student Program (GASP), which provides an opportunity for students who attended GUSLA in June of 2014 to return in a leadership role. GASP is designed to build on the important skills learned last year, and provide increased opportunities for the development of your child’s leadership skills. Student Ambassadors will have an enhanced curriculum, and will learn strategies to help guide and support first-time GUSLA attendees.

Over 200 GEAR UP students from across the state who attended GUSLA 2014 were eligible to apply to be one of only 20 Ambassadors selected for participation in 2015. GASP applications, which included a teacher recommendation and student essay, were carefully evaluated by a selection committee. Your child’s application was impressive and resulted in selection for this great opportunity! Your child is receiving a GEAR UP Scholarship to attend, so there is no charge for participation. Transportation to and from NAU will be provided by your school district and your GEAR UP Coordinator will provide details about pick-up and drop-off times and locations. If an unexpected and unavoidable conflict arises, and your child will not be able to attend, it is important that you let the GEAR UP Coordinator at your school know immediately so that another child, who was placed on a ‘wait-list’ for GASP can be selected to attend in his/her place.

Next Steps:

1. In order for your child to participate in GASP you must obtain a ***Health and Safety Information and Authorization Packet*** from you GEAR UP Coordinator. This entire packet must be completed and returned to the GEAR UP Coordinator at your child’s school **by June, 1, 2015.** You will see that parent/guardian and student signatures are required on clearly marked areas of the packet – it is important that all signatures are included.
2. Please ask your GEAR UP Coordinator for a copy of the GUSLA/GASP Parent Handbook. I encourage you to read the handbook before GASP begins – it will give you important information about the program.

If you have additional questions, please contact me or your school’s GEAR UP Coordinator. I look forward to welcoming your child to GASP in June!

Sincerely,



John “Tie Guy” Acedo GUSLA/GASP Program Director