



# Arizona GEAR UP

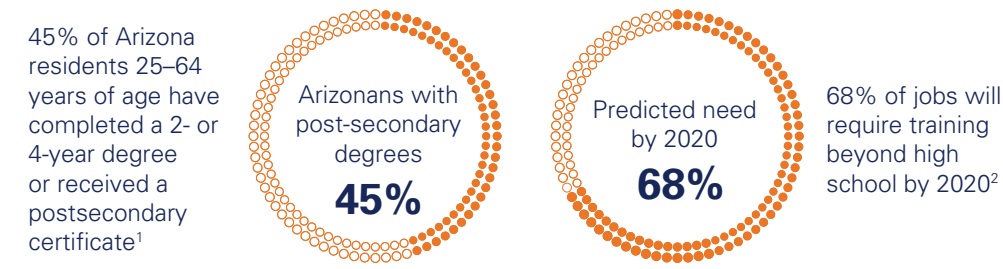
**Strengthening the Education Pipeline**

*Arizona GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a project of Northern Arizona University, made possible by a grant from the US Department of Education and dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal resources from partner organizations.*

# Arizona GEAR UP | Strengthening the Education Pipeline

Every child deserves access to a quality education and the opportunity to earn a college degree. Arizona’s economic prosperity depends on increasing the number of residents with degrees or workplace credentials. Since 2000, Arizona GEAR UP has strengthened the pipeline leading to educational attainment on behalf of the state in two ways:

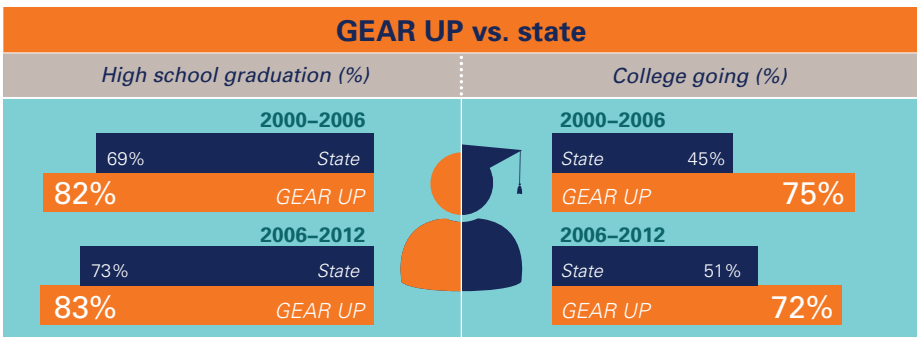
- **One, by increasing high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment for thousands of students from diverse communities across Arizona:** GEAR UP provides college awareness and readiness services to all students in an entire cohort (graduating class) beginning in seventh grade and continuing through high school and into the first year of college. Cultivating the motivation, knowledge, and skills needed for entire cohorts to succeed along the pathway to college creates a sustainable, high-expectations culture in partner schools that benefits subsequent cohorts of students.



Sources: 1) [expectmorearizona.org/progress/](http://expectmorearizona.org/progress/), EEO/AA Statement 2) [cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020](http://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020)

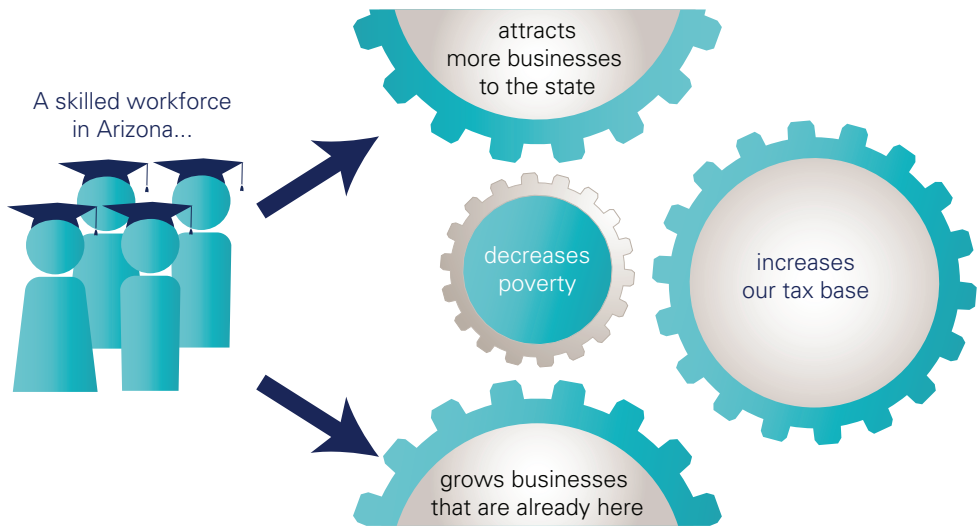
## GEAR UP works! | Outcomes/evidence of success

Under NAU’s first two grant cycles (2000–2006 and 2006–2012), GEAR UP students graduated and entered college at rates far exceeding the state averages, as verified by student-level data and independent evaluations. These outcomes, shown in the below graphic, were attained despite low-income and other disadvantages of the student populations in the communities that GEAR UP served.

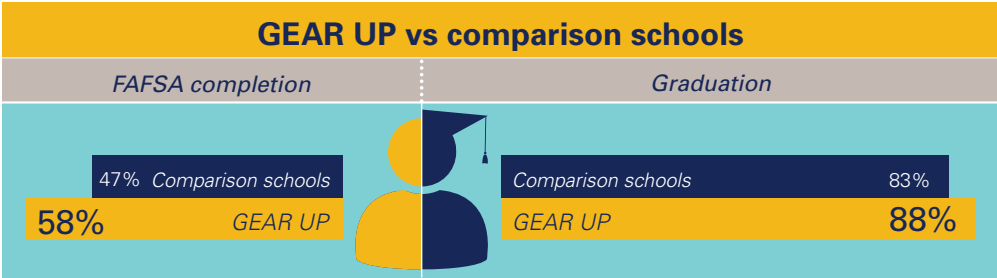


- **And two, by leveraging resources to support Arizona’s education priorities and expanding capacity to make local and state initiatives possible:** GEAR UP advances broader and shared aims with a variety of partners committed to improving Arizona’s educational outcomes—ensuring that the state’s strategies to achieve its educational attainment goal extend beyond GEAR UP communities alone succeed. These partnerships and collaborations leverage resources, build capacity, support priorities, and make a variety of local and state initiatives that both current and future students benefit from possible.

*Arizona’s economic future depends on producing more college graduates*



Similarly, a matched comparison-group research study shows that GEAR UP students served under the 2012–2019 cycle beat the odds relative to FAFSA completion and graduation, as shown in the graphic below.



\*In 2012, the GEAR UP Evaluator worked with staff at the AZ Department of Education to identify 20 high schools similar to the 12 GEAR UP high schools in baseline academics, graduation rate, student to teacher ratio, locale, school letter grade, social economic and ethnic composition, and Title I status for purposes of a statistically valid comparison.

# GEAR UP Communities 2000 – 2019

26

Communities

67

Schools

12k+

Students

## School Districts

### 2000 – 2006

- Alhambra Elementary
- AZ State Schools for the Deaf & Blind
- Flagstaff Unified
- Kingman Unified
- Mesa Unified
- Phoenix Union
- Pinon Unified
- Santa Cruz County
- Yuma Elementary
- Yuma Union

### 2006 – 2012

- Coolidge Unified
- Crane Elementary
- Flagstaff Unified
- Globe Unified
- Miami Unified
- Murphy Elementary
- Phoenix Union
- Yuma Union

### 2012 – 2019

- Bullhead City Elementary
- Casa Grande Elementary
- Casa Grande Union
- Colorado River Union

- Cottonwood–Oak Creek Elementary
- Douglas Unified
- Holbrook Unified
- Humboldt Unified
- Kingman Unified
- Mingus Union

- Mohave Valley Elementary
- Toltec Elementary
- Winslow Unified
- Yuma Union



# GEAR UP Strategy

Multiple overlapping services and interventions promote the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed for students to succeed in postsecondary education.



*"When I met my GEAR UP coordinator at the age of 12, little did I know that she would be a lifelong friend and role model ... without my [GEAR UP] advisor, I would never have known about the scholarships available to me."*

– Jacob Williams

*"GEAR UP really gave me a feel for what I would experience and what to expect when I went to college. It also kept me on track and let me know that attending college is possible."*

– Allysa Begaye

*"GEAR UP made a huge impact in my school. Our graduating class was the largest the school has ever had, and it was mainly because of the support our GEAR UP counselors provided throughout our four years of high school."*

– Jesus Franco

# GEAR UP Grant

GEAR UP is a highly-competitive grant program of the US Department of Education, authorized by Congress in 1999 under the Higher Education Opportunity Act to help level the playing field on college access for low-income students. Now in 44 states, its purpose is to significantly increase the number of students from low-income communities who graduate high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The Department awards six- or seven-year grants to states and to partnerships between universities and economically disadvantaged schools. Successful applicants must match the federal award, dollar for dollar.

- 2000** NAU is awarded a six-year, \$12.6M State GEAR UP grant under Governor Jane Hull, as well as a six-year, \$9.1M Partnership grant.
- 2006** Governor Janet Napolitano names NAU as the applicant for a new six-year state GEAR UP grant, subsequently awarded at \$16.9M.

**2012** Under Governor Jan Brewer, NAU is awarded \$30 million in federal funds to administer Arizona GEAR UP 2012–2019.

**2019** Arizona Governor Doug Ducey recognizes GEAR UP as uniquely qualified to partner in achieving Arizona’s postsecondary attainment goal and names NAU as applicant to compete for a new GEAR UP grant on behalf of the state.

## Our Partners

Arizona Community Foundation	Expect More Arizona
Arizona Governor’s Office	Maricopa Community College Foundation
Arizona Business and Education Coalition	National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education	Parametric Technology Corporation
Arizona Department of Education	Quantum Learning Network
Arizona State University	The New York Times Knowledge Network
ACT, Inc.	USA Funds
Big Brothers Big Sisters–Flagstaff	University of Arizona
City of Phoenix	Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
College Success Arizona	

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