**[Insert School Logo]**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: [Name]**

**[Date] [Insert Contact Information]**

**[Name of School] Celebrates National GEAR UP Week Starting September 20**

City, AZ – [Name of School] will participate in National GEAR UP Week, September 20 – 24, 2021. This week commemo- rates the continuing success of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), a col- lege-access program, which provides students and families support and resources to achieve college success. Since its inception in 1999, GEAR UP has improved educational outcomes for millions of students living in underserved, low-income communities across the United States, including nearly 15,000 students served by Arizona GEAR UP.

[Name of School] will celebrate in the following ways:

[Provide Bulleted List of Activities/Events]

[Include Quote From Principal] Example: "Student success is our number one priority at [High School]. In 2019, Arizona GEAR UP selected our school to receive specialized services to amplify what we could ever hope to accomplish on our own. The partnership is invaluable, and our students and families benefit tremendously."

Students like [Insert highlights, success stories, or student or parent quote about the program.] National GEAR UP Week provides a time to celebrate these accomplishments in our community.

On a state level, Northern Arizona University has led the Arizona GEAR UP program since 2000. The project has helped increase high school graduation rates, helped create a college-going culture and increased the college-going rate among Arizona students.

Current grant goals include:

* Increase academic performance and postsecondary preparation.
* Increase high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates.
* Increase educational expectations for students and increase knowledge of postsecondary options for students and their families.

In addition to $32 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Arizona GEAR UP receives a dollar-for-dollar match in services and resources from local and state partners. These partnerships leverage resources, build capacity and support grant priorities to help level the playing field in college access and attainment.

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