

**2023 Arizona GEAR UP Convening of Partners Agenda**

**Thursday, October 5, 2023**

**5:30 PM – 6:00 PM:** Registration Opens (Lobby of High Country Conference Center)

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM:** Dinner/Arizona GEAR UP Model Overview & Alignment with Achieve60AZ Action Plan (Humphreys)

- **Panelists:**
  - Arizona GEAR UP (Moderator): Andrea González Sotelo, Assistant Director
  - Center For the Future of Arizona: Dr. Amanda Burke, Executive Vice President
  - Education Forward Arizona: Rich Nickel, President, and CEO
  - Helios Education Foundation: Grace Smith Kaus, Director Postsecondary Success Initiatives

**Friday, October 6, 2023**

**8:00 AM – 8:30 AM:** Registration / Continental Breakfast / Networking (High Country Conf. Center Lobby)

**8:30 AM – 9:20 AM:** Opening Remarks/ NAU President José Luis Cruz Rivera Welcome (Humphreys)

**9:20 AM – 9:35 AM:** Break (return to Humphreys)

**9:35 AM – 11:00 AM:** Arizona GEAR UP Update (Humphreys)

**11:00 AM – 11:15 AM:** Break/Room Change

**11:15 AM – 12:20 PM:** Concurrent Sessions #1 (Select one of the sessions below to attend)

| Room    | Session Title/Organization  | Presenters                 | Description  |
|---------|---|----------------------------|--|
| Abineau | Arizona Business & Education Coalition – Early Career Exploration/Advising/Planning | Deb Raeder, Larissa Hofman | The ABEC project is designed to help younger students understand possible career aspirations and seamlessly transverse from middle school into high school, into postsecondary education or training, and successful entry into the workforce with the understanding of personal aspirations guiding the way. This includes providing students with an understanding of the importance of making rigorous course selection in high school that ensures preparation for postsecondary education and future careers. |



| Room    | Session Title/Organization   | Presenters   | Description   |
|---------|--|--|---|
| Fremont | Center for the Future of Arizona – Beat The Odds School Leadership Academy                                   | Peter Boyle, Becky Hiner   | The BTO Academy is a locally delivered, research-based executive leadership training for aspiring and current school leaders across Arizona. The curriculum is the nationally recognized National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) Executive Development Program that draws on the strongest leadership development practices from education, business, and the military. NISL’s research- and evidence-based curriculum is delivered to groups of 10-30 aspiring and current school leaders who come together over 12-18 months for in-depth job-embedded executive development. |
| Doyle   | Be A Leader Foundation – Postsecondary Transition Programming  | Soilo Felix, Jessica Solis, Betsy Muñoz, Kerri Warren                            | BALF focuses on increasing the number of Arizona students who are supported through the often-daunting financial aid and college application/enrollment process. BALF accomplishes this through Postsecondary Transition Programming currently impacting over 1,000 high school seniors attending Maricopa County high schools.   |
| Rees    | ICF - Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Exploring the 5E High School Program and Sustainable Future Initiatives | Johnvae Campbell, Ph.D., Chuck Dervarics, Samira Rajeshyal, Vanessa Morales, ICF | <b>*This session is open only for attendees from our 5E High Schools (Amphitheater, Buckeye Union, Coronado, Tonopah, and Youngker).</b> Participants representing 5E high school partnerships will engage in a session led by program evaluators, ICF. Together, the team will delve into the achievements of the GEAR UP grant program, exploring its impact on college-access outcomes. 5E high school teams will also participate in conversations culminating in a focused dialogue on the formulation of sustainability objectives.   |

**12:20 PM – 12:30 PM:** Break/Room Change

**12:30 PM – 1:40 PM:** Lunch / Keynote Speaker – NCCEP VP of Programs Betty Paugh Ortiz (Humphreys)

**1:40 PM – 1:45 PM:** Break/Room Change

**1:45 PM – 2:50 PM: Concurrent Sessions #2 (Select one of the sessions below to attend)**

| Room             | Session Title   | Presenters   | Description   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Abineau          | Education Forward<br>Arizona - High<br>School/First Year<br>Postsecondary Support             | Ruben Saenz,<br>Diana Figueroa,<br>Teena Olszewski,<br>Laura Rosensweet,<br>Jennifer Murphy,<br>NJ Utter | Provide student supports to help increase statewide postsecondary access and enrollment. Recruit and train AdviseAZ AmeriCorps members to serve students in low-income, Title 1 designated high schools across Arizona.   |
| Fremont          | Center for the Future -<br>Arizona Pathways to<br>Prosperity                                  | Maya Watts,<br>Aaron Ball,<br>Julie Valenzuela   | Expand Quality Career Literacy and Guidance to Middle Grades Students. Expand Possible Futures to a minimum of 4 additional schools each year for the 7-year grant lifecycle, focusing on schools across the state serving a high percentage of underrepresented students.                  |
| Doyle            | Arizona K12 Center –<br>Professional<br>Development for Math<br>Instruction                   | Donnie Dicus   | The Arizona K12 Center was founded in 1999 and rooted in the belief that when teachers learn...kids learn. AZK12 provides teachers with evidence-based high-quality professional development to enhance math instruction and student learning using collaborative and reflective processes. |
| Rees             | Arizona GEAR UP<br>Discover Guide and<br>Middle-Grade Program                                 | Jasmine Dean   | In this interactive session, participants will discuss effective utilization of the Discover Guide to enhance the development of ECAPS (Education and Career Action Plans) and cultivate a robust college-bound culture within middle-grade settings.                                       |
| 1899<br>Ballroom | Arizona GEAR UP<br>Senior Launch Guide,<br>supported by the<br>Helios Education<br>Foundation | Daniel Pulu  | In this interactive session, participants will discuss effective utilization of the Senior Launch Guide by sharing best practices by schools and college-access professionals.  |

**2:50 PM – 3:00 PM: Break/Transition**

**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Closing Plenary (Humphreys) - Arizona GEAR UP Works: GEAR UP Student-led Presentation/Testimonials**