



# GEAR UP Utah

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness  
for Undergraduate Programs

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## **Purpose/Mission**

GEAR UP provides services to low-income students to help them graduate from high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. It is a seven-year (2017-2024) federal, statewide grant program with partners at Utah State University, Weber State University, Utah State University Eastern, and the San Juan Foundation.

## **Learning Outcomes.**

- Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
- Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
- Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparations, and financing.
- Increase GEAR UP students' success in their first year of attendance at an institution of higher education.

## **Programs and Services.**

- College Readiness Services for Students – We provide specialized services including academic counseling, tutoring and homework help, mentoring, college campus tours, and career exploration.
- College Transition and First-Year Services – We assist students with their transition from high school to college including ACT prep and wavers, financial aid and college application assistance, orientation and registration support, summer melt reduction, and a summer bridge program.
- Parent Support – We provide workshops to parents to assist them with supporting their student with homework, financial literacy, applying for financial aid, and college visits.

## **Key Metrics.**

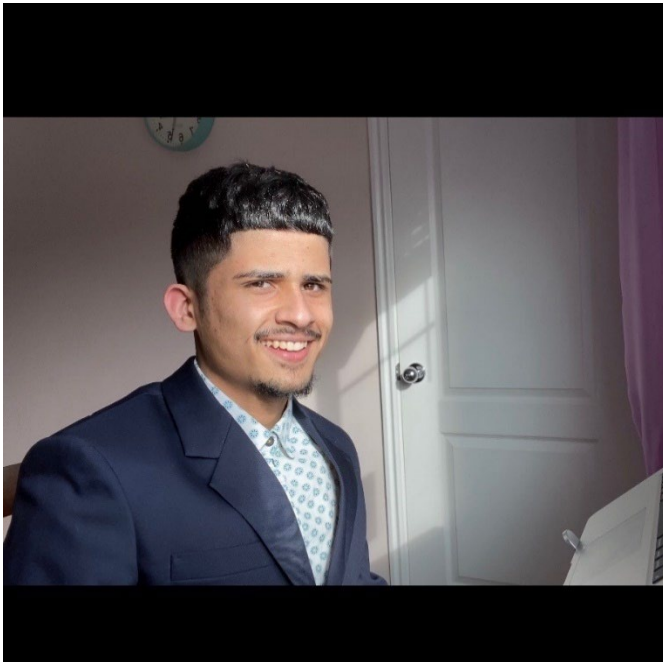
- Serve 16 school districts in 55 schools statewide.
- 8211 students served 2017 to present
  - o 41% are minority students
  - o 78% are first-generation students
- 96% high school graduation rate
- 56% college enrollment rate

- Total direct service hours provided to students and families 2017 to present.
  - o 219,509 hours provided to 7790 (95%) of students
  - o 7,864 hours provided to 4485 (55%) of parents and family members

### Impact.

- We serve all high schools in the UVU service region, except for Park City.
  - o 2326 students served in Utah County
  - o 428 students served in Wasatch, North Summit, and South Summit
  - o 1873 students at East and West High Schools in the SLCSO
  - o Total 4127 students served
- Students from all regions who start as college freshmen each year (current grant)
  - o 2018/19=16 (first year of grant)
  - o 2019/20=497
  - o 2020/21=629
  - o 2021/22=506
- For the 2021/22 school year, we had 97 GEAR UP students enroll at UVU.

### Student Experience



My name is Ashis Dhakal. I'm an ethnic minority who grew up in the refugee camp in Jhapa, Nepal. Coming to America has been the best decision and getting to be a part of the GEAR UP program has opened many doors. GEAR UP has been helpful in so many ways, it has allowed me to explore my opportunities through GEAR UP. I'm glad to be part of GEAR UP program and I want to thank everyone who has supported me through the program.

Also, Ashis is an alum now at the University of Utah and the state GU student of the month. He is a young entrepreneur who met Mark Cuban because he started a coat drive that ended up going viral and received sponsorship offers from Patagonia and gathered over 100 coats.