



CSULB & NLG

**GEAR UP**

**GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS  
FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

LONG BEACH GEAR UP

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've embarked upon together. Guided by values of **growth, purpose, community** and **trust**, the Long Beach GEAR UP team remains steadfast in our dedication to educational equity. This annual report serves as a testament to the milestones we've reached. Whether you are a donor, a volunteer, a partner organization, or a dedicated advocate, your involvement made a tangible difference in the lives of countless students and families. Your support is the reason GEAR UP remains one of the largest and most effective programs focused on increasing the college and career readiness of low-income students nationwide. Let's celebrate our collective achievements and carry forward the lessons we've learned.

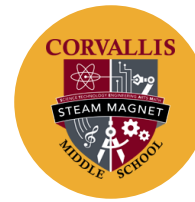
*Dominica J. Scibetta*  
Dr. Dominica J. Scibetta



## OUR MISSION

Long Beach GEAR UP works to increase high school graduation and college enrollment rates for the classes of **2027** and **2028** in the Norwalk La Mirada community.

Our team collaborates with students, families, and school staff, to provide holistic educational services that promote academic excellence, career fulfillment, and personal growth.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Long Beach GEAR UP is dedicated to life-long learning.

This year, we invested over 40 hours of professional development to learn more about academic mentoring, team culture, continuous improvement, emotional intelligence, student learning outcomes, data and evaluation, preparing schools for change, and much more!

Aside from trainings, our team members individually pursued additional experiences to advance personally and professionally.

A big congratulations to three members of our team, **Patricia De Leon, Adela Enriquez, and Ruthie Mendez**, who will be embarking on their graduate school journey this fall. They are pursuing degrees in educational leadership, student counseling, and social work. And last spring, Director, **Dominica Scibetta** completed her doctorate from UCLA in Educational Leadership.

We recognize the hard work of **Hiroko Harper** and **Jocelyn Jaime** who recently submitted a mini-grant application to support GEAR UP summer bridge programs. If awarded, these funds will expand program access to a low-income community that has not yet been exposed to summer services.

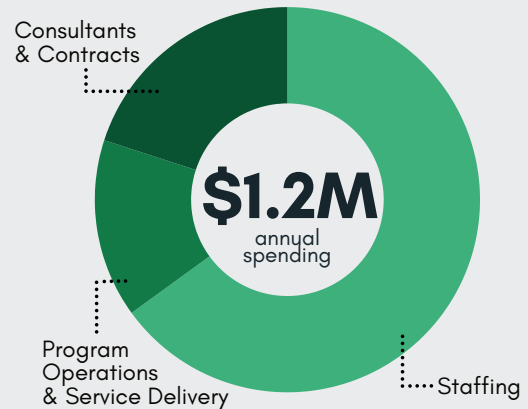


# FISCAL MANAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Long Beach GEAR UP partnerships are critical to the management and success of our program.

We partner with representatives from across the K16 education pipeline and community organizations to expand educational and career opportunities for students from low-income families or schools with low college participation rates.

\$1.2 million is awarded from the US Department of Education annually



## Celebration Luncheon 24

In March, GEAR UP celebrated the leaders who made our partnership so successful when serving Corvallis, Los Alisos, and Waite Middle School. A special thank you to the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District, City of Norwalk, CSU Long Beach, Study Smart Tutors, Upward Solutions, and the Plus Me Project.



## Partner Highlight

### NLM Community

Financial support from corporate sponsorships have helped bridge funding gaps and enhance educational opportunities for our students.

**Chick-Fil-A** and **Mountain Mike's Pizza** have not only provided discounts and donations of food/hospitality but also, offered event or facilities space in support of our students and families.



### CSULB Community

**Long Beach State Athletics** and **CSULB Carpenter Performing Arts Center** have contributed with ticket donations to sporting and musical events, which have brought students, their families and communities together.



**GEAR UP matches every federal award dollar-for-dollar**

With **over \$3 million raised**, we will reach our goal of \$8.5M by 2028.

**OVER \$3 MILLION IN 3 YEARS**



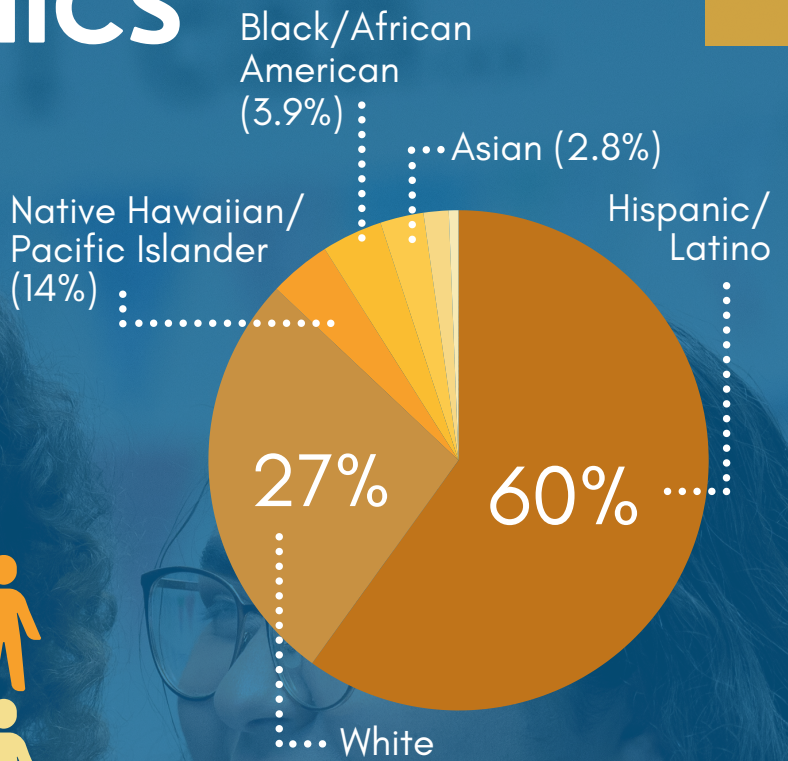
**Top 5 Contributors**



# PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

## Race & Ethnicity

GEAR UP serves 1600+ students, with more than half identifying as students of color.



## Gender



54% Male Students  
46% Female Students

## Grade



827 8th graders  
753 9th graders

**270** are involved or have attended a GEAR UP Parent & Family service  
**PARENTS**

## 8000+ HOURS OF SERVICE DELIVERED

- Tutoring Assistance & Afterschool Academies
- Socio-Emotional Workshops & Support
- Individualized Academic Mentoring
- College & Career Workshops
- Academic Planning & Grade Review
- Financial Aid & Literacy Workshops

# OUR IMPACT

Report includes analysis of 15 success indicators along 3 years.

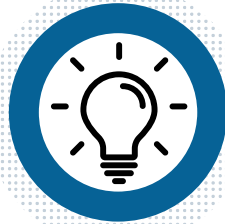
**Strengthening the K16 pipeline to provide the entire community the opportunity to succeed.**

## Improve Academic Performance



**77%**

Report catching-up or moving ahead in school



**67**

MORE 8th graders scored proficient on CAASPP Math



**52%**

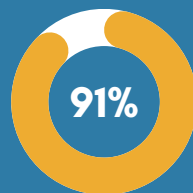
Received in-class or individual tutoring



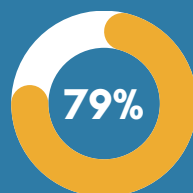
**70%**

Passed Pre-Algebra, raising math grades by 6%

## Improve Educational Expectations & Aspirations

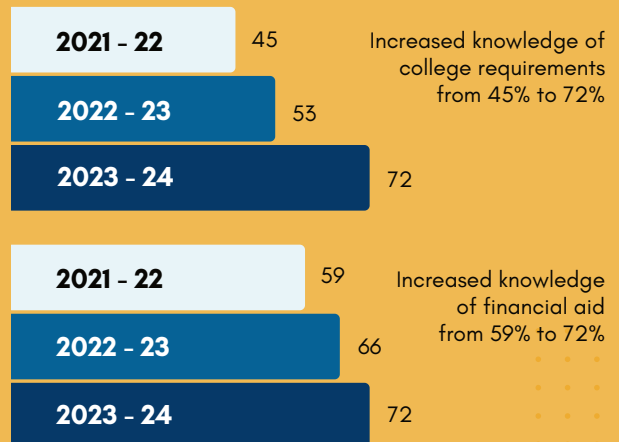


91% of all GEAR UP students attended at least 1 college preparation workshop



79% expect to go to college, a 20% increase from last year

## Improve College Knowledge



## Improve High School Graduation & Postsecondary Enrollment Rates

**92%**

Average daily attendance rate

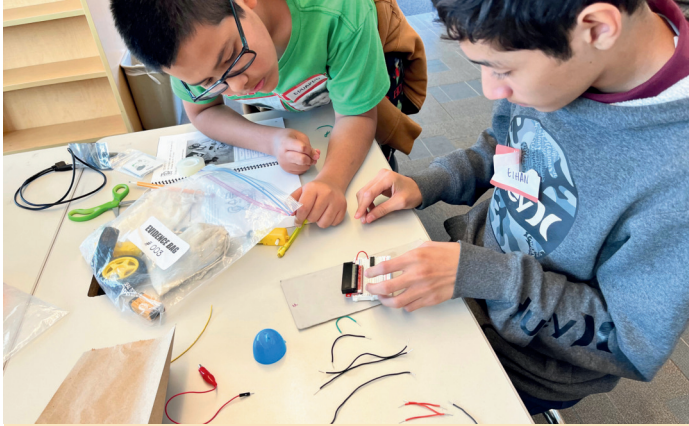
**69%**

Received individualized GEAR UP advising & mentoring



# CAREER EXPLORATION ACADEMIES

In partnership with corporations, GEAR UP designs 5-week after-school academies focused on career exploration. Students receive hands-on training, solve real-world problems, connect with leading professionals, and visit job sites.



## STEAM Academy

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) concepts by solving various real-world problems in storybook form. **15** students coded a video game, programmed a 3D printer, and took home a FREE laptop.



## LEGO Engineering

**86** students learned engineering concepts by constructing different objects out of LEGOs.



## F.A.D.E (Fashion & Design Entrepreneurship)

**42** students learned about fashion, design, and entrepreneurship, and created their own fashion brand online storefront.



## R.A.C.E (Racing & Automotive Career Exploration)

**25** students explored careers in the automotive industry, learned about infrastructure/city planning, and got hands-on experience in auto design. Additionally, students went on a field trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum.





*We support every student in our cohort from middle school, throughout their matriculation to John Glenn High School and Norwalk High School, and into their first-year of college.*

## High School Bound Summit

GEAR UP focuses on critical points of transition throughout students' educational journey. This year, we hosted over **150** students and their families at the High School Bound Summit, a half-day event that included student and family workshop tracks, a resource fair, games, entertainment, and more. Attendees gained skills and knowledge to succeed at John Glenn or Norwalk High School.



## Future Fair

GEAR UP believes that finding your purpose and discovering your calling starts now! Our Student Success Team worked closely with each of our **850** 8th graders to complete a 3-part college and career exploration portfolio, My Big Future. Over several months, students identified their values, interests, and motivations and designed a path towards their dream career. The Future Fair was an opportunity to showcase their career aspirations, network with career professionals, and learn about what's next when planning their career.



# PARENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

*Going to college is a family affair.*

GEAR UP utilizes a collaborative and integrated approach when helping the adults at home become more engaged in their student's education. Since 2021, family participation has **tripled**, delivering over **800** hours of services to nearly **300** parents/guardians. Our team offers workshop series, targeted academies, college visits, and community outreach events.

## My Story Matters: Plus Me Project

In partnership with the Plus Me Project, parents were introduced to the power of storytelling through "My Story Matters" Journal, using personal stories to advocate, support, and inspire their students and communities.

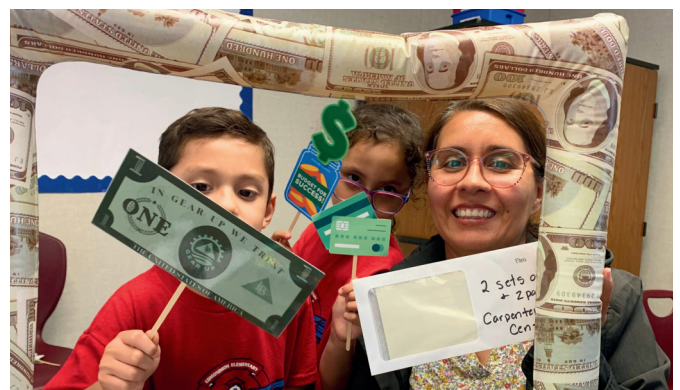


## Supporting English Learners

In collaboration with the Parent Organization Network and NLMUSD, we enrolled 27 parents/guardians in a 6 week series to help them understand the English language reclassification process, their role in their child's reclassification, and ELPAC results and reclassification criteria.

## Financial Literacy & College Saving

In partnership with LBS Financial Credit Union, parents learned about budgeting, credit scores, and how they can start saving for college today.





**Laura Tarango**  
GEAR UP Parent

*"I loved the GEAR UP College campus tour and all the information provided. I'm excited to learn more and to continue to be involved to help my student."*



## Cerritos College Parent Summit

In March, 15 parents visited Cerritos College to learn about Dual Enrollment, Cerritos Complete, and Career Technical Pathways. They enjoyed a lunch provided by the Cerritos Culinary Arts Program and received a campus tour.



## Creating Community

Monthly meet ups bring together GEAR UP parents, school and community representatives, and local community colleges/universities. We partnered with **Chick-Fil-A**, **LB State Athletics**, and the **Richard & Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center**, who all helped expand cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families.

## Supporting Transition

The 4-part Transition to High School workshop series helped families learn about A-G, NLMUSD graduation requirements, advocacy, parent teacher conferences and social emotional support.



# LOOKING AHEAD

*The future is bright for Long Beach GEAR UP!*

GEAR UP Summer Scholars Program

LB State Sports Clinics

College Field Trips

Future Fair - Building a Better Tomorrow

Carpenter Performing Arts Center Cultural Enrichment

National GEAR UP Week, hosted by CA State Senator Archuleta

College Affordability Summit

Give Back to GEAR UP Events

## Contact Us



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