

Heart of Texas GEAR UP



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OUR VISION

Empowering the class of 2026 to **pursue** a rewarding **trajectory**.

OUR MISSION

The Heart of Texas GEAR UP supports and empowers the class of 2026 to fulfill their potential in order to achieve post high school success.

GEAR UP STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Norma Trejo is one of the essential members of our GEAR UP team! She is the Site Manager - Central and has worked for GEAR UP for 11 years on three different grants. She loves working with students to help them set goals and reach their full potential. Norma is also a mother of four and three of them are Aggies!

Heart of Texas GEAR UP employees are devoted to empowering students to fulfill their potential to achieve post-high school success. Our staff consists of a range of area coordinators, site managers for Hearne and Bryan ISD, on-campus outreach specialists, and student workers. Each GEAR UP team member plays an essential role in creating relationships and opportunities for the class of 2026.

Norma's advice to current students: "Never, ever, give up on yourself. No one can do you, but you. Set higher goals than what others expect of you."

Thank you for all you do, Norma!

GET INVOLVED WITH GEAR UP!

Aggie Homework Helpline (AHH)

AHH is offered to all GEAR UP students including regular and on-demand tutoring via Zoom.

Mentoring

One-to-one mentors are paired with students to help keep them on track towards graduation.

College Visits / Educational Field Trips

Increase student awareness and exposures to post-high-school options including college visits, high school visits, and educational experiences.

College Readiness / Career Activities

Activities take place throughout the year to prepare students for after high school by increasing self-advocacy, self-determination, financial literacy, college knowledge, and goal setting.

Work-Based Learning

Students have the opportunity to gain valuable work skills through: volunteerism, job shadowing, internships, etc.

Counseling and Advising

GEAR UP staff is on campus to offer counseling and advising to all GEAR UP students throughout the year.



If you are interested in participating, reach out to a GEAR UP staff member!

(979) 862-1104

gearup@tamu.edu



FINANCIAL LITERACY

As students continue their journey through high school, it is crucial that their knowledge on financial literacy grows with them. When creating a budget students must know how to differentiate between a need and a want. Once this distinction is clear, it will be easy to know when and how to spend your money!

PARENTS CORNER

As your student approaches the end of their first year in high school, you might have noticed that there are a lot of new changes and questions that are arising. Lending a helpful ear is crucial during this time because students need to feel heard and understood through this journey. Encouraging curiosity about life and the future allows for growth to happen. Parents, be patient and involved in your student's activities. Give them the opportunity to begin figuring out who they are and support their interests!

NEED VS. WANT

NEED: a required purchase to pay bills for the essentials, items you “must have” each month (rent, utility bill, groceries, etc.).

WANT: something you would like to purchase after you have paid for your Needs (entertainment, new clothes, going out, etc.).

FREE State & National Test Prep for Bryan ISD

Edgenuity

Study Guide Courses

- Self-enroll by logging into Classlink (go.bryanisd.org)
- Select the Edgenuity icon on your dashboard
- Search the study guides available for your grade and enroll!
- Access student manual in u.tamu.edu/edgenuity



Progress Learning

USA Test Prep

- Access Progress Learning app from ClassLink (go.bryanisd.org)
- Locate and select the Progress Learning app
- Click "Practice Test" icon to take domain-specific tests!
- Get started!



SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

Thinking about the future is scary, especially when thinking about post-secondary education.

There might be a lot of uncertainties about what the future looks like but focusing on the present is one of the most valuable lessons students can learn. So, what can students do in the present to help set them up for success in the future?

Join Extracurricular Activities

Joining various clubs not only builds up your resume but it allows you to discover your interests!

Practice Networking

Another great skill that will really come in handy in the future is to build connections. You can also do this by joining club!

Community Service

Just like extracurricular activities, community service will help build a solid resume. However, it will also teach you necessary life skills about compassion and service!

Attend Tutoring Sessions

It's important to know where our strengths and weaknesses lie. Do not be afraid of asking for help or seeking help. Tutoring will only benefit you!

Pick Up Good Studying Habits

Study habits are important because they help increase your confidence and lower your anxiety in school. They also teach you discipline which is necessary in any and every job!

Prepare for Standardized Test as Early as Possible

Preparing early for standardized tests will only help you in the long run. As Benjamin Franklin said: "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today!"

TYPES OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Four-Year University/College

Attending a four-year university/college is a great option for those seeking a higher education degree. At these institutions, students can choose from a wide range of majors available to cater to their academic interests / needs and earn a bachelor's degree! Our most notable local university is Texas A&M University!

Junior/Community College

Junior/Community colleges are a great option for those students who want to go into higher education but might be unsure of what degree to pursue or are looking for a more affordable option. You can earn an associate degree from these schools and potentially transfer your credits to a four-year university/college! Check out our local school, Blinn College!

Trade School

Trade Schools are designed to train individuals for specific skill jobs. These schools provide hands-on training to prepare students for actual work in their desired job field. From electricians to dental hygienics, trade schools are a great option for those who want to hone in and nurture a specific skill of choice! A great option for those in the area is Texas State Technical College!

FINANCIAL AID EXPLAINED

Loans

A loan is money that you borrow to pay for school that you eventually have to pay back to whoever you borrowed it from. Loans accumulate interests that must also be paid off.

Scholarships

A scholarship is a grant or payment given to a student to support their education. Usually it is given to students based on their academic achievement.

Grants

Grants are similar to scholarships but are mostly based on financial need. As is the case for scholarships, grants are money that you do not have to pay back.

Work-Study

Work-Study is a form of aid awarded to students based on financial need. The student must work part-time to earn the awarded money.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

High school can be rough at times, but it is important to know how to prioritize your needs and to take care of your physical and mental well-being. But, how can we do that?

SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF

When we set goals, we are encouraging ourselves to work hard towards success! However, there must be an equal balance of "work vs. play." Make sure that you are thinking about how you want to grow as a person and set goals for yourself!

Learning how to build strong connections is powerful. We all need good people around us to keep us steady. So, make sure to make time for your friends and family!

FOSTER GOOD FRIENDSHIPS

Your brain needs sleep to get recharged and to regenerate. Maintaining a good sleeping schedule will support your development and growth!

GET SOME SLEEP

GEAR UP FELLOWS

Mrs. Vickie Young-Weatherspoon

Mrs. Gina Rodriguez



Mrs. Weatherspoon is our first Hearne ISD GEAR UP Fellow! We are so excited to be partnering with Mrs. Weatherspoon to support her classroom with tutoring, college visits, and goal setting.

Mrs. Rodriguez is our first Bryan ISD GEAR UP Fellow! We are excited to be partnering with her to support "Stress Free Fridays" social and emotional learning with the class of 2026!

Heart of Texas GEAR UP

August 2021 to July 2022

Students participated in

On average, each student spent **286** minutes in a **GEAR UP** activity

954

college readiness activity

942

career activity

420

parents have participated in at least 1 GEAR UP activity

Average amount of minutes students participated in activities:

College Readiness - **110** minutes

Tutoring - **195** minutes

Counseling and Advising - **35** minutes

Career Activity - **91** minutes

516

activity encouraging enrollment in rigorous coursework

18

mentoring

467

counseling and advising

721

tutoring



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Center on Disability
& Development

STAY IN TOUCH: GEAR UP REMIND 101

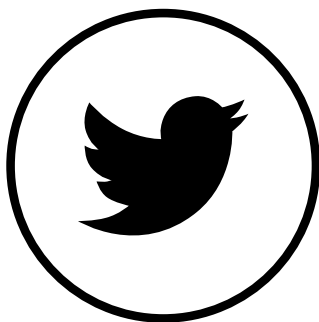
Sign up to receive updates from
GEAR UP right on your phone!

Use the QR code or text the
message @fh73b2 to the number
81010 or (424) 835 - 7453.

The updates will include
information regarding college
knowledge, college terms, career
readiness, as well as general
reminders and motivational texts.

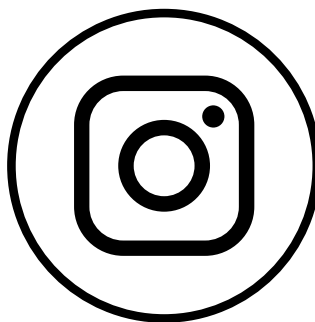


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