

Letter from the Publisher - Winter 2022 News

As we close out 2021 and move into 2022, we have an opportunity to reflect on the significant progress we have made. Of course, our strong partnerships between community colleges and school districts, along with community-based organizations, the state GU team, CSCU, and other individuals/providers who are the foundation for our success. Through these efforts, GEAR UP students have successfully transitioned into high school and teams have been busy onsite preparing, implementing, and expanding services.

GEAR UP is part of a movement across the country to provide students, especially first-generation, low-income students, with the tools and supports they need to make the most of their high school experience, learn about college and career options, as well as how to finance getting to those goals, and graduating and enrolling in post-secondary education. We are part of something bigger than ourselves and have the opportunity to transform students' lives.

I know it might be hard to imagine that on some days when you are struggling to get programs in place, engage students & families as well as implement services for the program to be successful; it is my hope that the efforts at the state level in partner meetings and quarterly reports provide you with that valuable perspective as a stakeholder. Together, we are helping our communities to see their future and attain what they imagined.

Warm Regards,
Christina M. Lapierre, GU CT | State Project Director
<https://www.gearupct.com/>

STATE BEAT

Our cohorts have grown in size since transitioning from middle to high school in 2021 and teams are fully prepared and excited to service students & families.

Grade 9 GU Teams are currently located in the following high schools for 2021-2022:

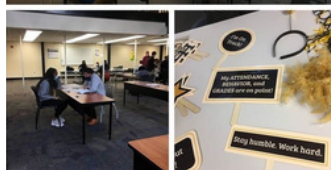
- East Hartford High School & CIBA in East Hartford Public Schools serving 511 students.
- Maloney & Platt High School in Meriden Public Schools serving 662 students.
- Crosby, Kennedy, Wilby, Waterbury Career Academy, Waterbury Arts Magnet, State Street & Enlightenment Schools in Waterbury Public Schools serving 1,649 students.

GEAR UP builds capacity within communities to ensure students have the opportunity, skills, and knowledge to successfully pursue higher education and training that will enable them to achieve their career and life goals.

TOWN BEAT

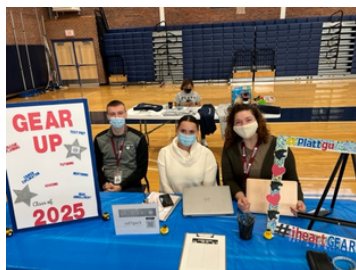
EAST HARTFORD

EH GU has been busy scheduling students for tutoring sessions as well as academic counseling. During the week, the team maintains a schedule for students with Mondays & Thursdays are focused on skill development and time management, a Tuesday study hall was created for athletes and tutoring on Wednesdays. The team has weekly Google Office hours to meet with families on Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. via Google Meet. A Parent-Teacher Night has been scheduled by GU for February 17, 2022 for parents to come in and meet with freshman teachers. Workshops are being planned on the following topics: study skills/mid-term prep, how to review your grades/transcript, affording college, and college awareness/options/pathways.



MERIDEN

Welcome to our newest member to the GU Meriden Team, Juliana Servetnick, At-Risk Coordinator. GU Meriden has been busy developing a workforce collaboration between the partners to promote the variety of certification programs offered at MxCC to Meriden families. Many of the programs offered at MxCC offer certification for low to no cost. A team from Workforce Development will be speaking with families at the January Parent Leadership Council. Workforce Development will be participating in a Community Resource Fair on January 11, 2022, at Platt High School at 6:00 p.m. This is being coordinated by GEAR UP, the GU At-Risk Coordinator, and District-Wide At-Risk Coordinator.



WATERBURY

With several high schools being served, GU teams are busy with after-school homework, tutoring, one-to-one college/career advising, small group tutoring for ELA & Math, along with STEM workshops, Growth Mindset for SEL in-class workshops, identifying college terms through bingo activities, United Way Holiday Card Lesson on building empathy and community awareness as well as working with parents. GU classroom support of all subjects/collaboration with teachers for specific behavior and tutoring plans along with developing plans to destress students to a calm learning environment. Spring 2022 workshops are being developed for the cohort on preparing for upcoming SATs and Why College.

