



ENMU-Roswell
GEAR UP
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs



SUMMER
2017

COLLEGE MATTERS INSTITUTE

GEAR UP Hosts Summer Camp at NMSU



GEAR UP students representing Dexter, Lake Arthur, Early College High School, Roswell, and Goddard High School attended the College Matters Institute presented by the FOCUS group from Milwaukee Wisconsin. This high energy workshop was a hands-on learning experience to prepare our students for the next step in their educational careers. Students had the opportunity to participate in mock college fairs, create personal statements, practice college interviews, and gather the general knowledge of what college admissions offices are looking for in the students they want for their schools. Workshops went from 9 in the morning to 9 at night, as the students were kept very busy and involved. In addition to educational activities, students also participated in many fun activities, including a night time scavenger hunt on the campus and a very difficult adventure course that put the students in a fun team building event. If that was not enough, from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. each night, students were given a GEAR UP 'After Dark Twitter Challenge' where they had to complete tasks via Twitter in their rooms.



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WOW! FOCUS HAS DONE IT AGAIN! The GEAR UP 2017 Summer Camp was outstanding! Our students spent 4 days and 3 nights at the NMSU campus engaged in activities presented by FOCUS. These activities developed leadership skills through team collaboration. Not one of the students who attended had a dull moment as each one was actively involved in trust activities that were assets in building self-esteem. A great time for all who attended. **—Jo Trammel from Roswell High School**

What a great, outstanding group of students that came to the College Matters Institute. The students enjoyed the activities especially the GEAR UP after Dark Twitter Challenge. The one activity that stood out to me, was the college fair where students were able to ask “recruiters” practice questions. I was very impressed with their assertiveness and the questions that they asked. The FOCUS staff went out of their way to make sure that each student felt included. **—Casey O’Dwyer from Roswell High School**

Thanks to GEAR UP’s effort in watching out for the fellow students this summer of 2017. Many students got the opportunity to receive the “knowledge nuggets” for later on when we graduate. By getting FOCUS to come to Las Cruces students were able to take home the experience from this summer camp that will be useful for any college. Making it a camp where we were able to meet new people, get information, and have a great time. This camp trumps all other camps and prepares students. Many students like myself are able to say, “I got to experience a unique opportunity”. It also revives a student to not be afraid to talk to people because once students get older their circles of trust become smaller. “Motion creates emotion,” “Don’t spend on something, invest on something”, “Do not leave your groceries at the store take them with you at home!” , were some of many great talks that we as people were exposed to that will make us better people in today’s society and get us further in pursuing a career. **—Joel Ramos from Roswell High**



For those Chaves county students who stayed home, they lost a golden opportunity to be ahead of the game in college readiness. The 47 who spent three days in Cruces are now ready to pick their college and are prepared to collect scholarship money like it was falling out of the sky. I have no doubt these students will be ready to attend college in the fall of 2018. **—CW Hamilton from Goddard High School**

Students gained valuable information about selecting a college that “fits” them along with hands-on experience attending a “mock college fair”. Students were prepped with information they need to learn during a college fair and were then given the opportunity to practice during the “mock college fair” in which the chaperones set up a university booth and provided information to the students based on their inquiries. The student group was then critiqued on their performance during the “mock college fair” so they are better prepared when they attend real college fairs this fall. Overall, the students gained a valuable amount of information and experience to apply to their senior years and beyond. FOCUS instructors did an AMAZING job!!! **—Nanci Morley from Goddard High School**



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One thing that I liked about this college experience is how the advisors and teachers were as engaged in the activities as us. I also enjoyed how they taught us how to manage our money wisely. I believe that in today's society, one of the biggest problems that people come across are financial problems. I am very glad that I learned the difference between the things that I need from the things that I want. I know that everything that I learned during the duration of this camp I will use in the future. This program was very beneficial and I will be sure to recommend it to other students. - **Maria (Jazmin) Pando from Lake Arthur High School**

What an awesome experience for this group of young adult to become leaders in their schools, The young adults got to enjoy how to work as teams doing different obstacles and team building activity that they really enjoyed. The FOCUS staff was very energetic; the students had to be on their toes moving from one activity to another. – **Tim Shea from Lake Arthur High School**



There were two activities that struck me as being very valuable for the students. The first was a mock college fair. Students visited several different colleges and tried to make an impression on the recruiter. They also needed to beware of a shady on-line university. Several of the students did a very good job impressing the recruiters. Students also learned that visiting the recruiter in a group was not a good idea, as it is easier to make an impression individually. The second activity that was a fantastic exercise, was a budgeting experience. Students were assigned a monthly income, then they had to secure lodging, transportation, food, fuel, utilities, insurance, furniture, appliances and health care. Most of these expenses had different options. Some students were very frugal and had a lot of money left at the end of the month. Several students ran out of money before they paid all their required expenses. One of the girls expressed to me that this was a stressful experience. Regardless of whether the individual students ended up with disposable income at the end, or if they ran out of money or ended up in debt, this exercise was great, because it gave them a taste of real life. Another thing that was great about the GEAR UP camp is that all the activities were fun and engaging for the students. -

Michelle Huckabee from Early College High School



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I enjoyed coming to the college matters institute as both a parent and GEAR UP advisor. The FOCUS staff goes out of their way to keep students engaged and involved in all the activities they provide. The activities that FOCUS offers for students is priceless and valuable information. I thought the FOCUS on life session was beyond beneficial for the students. Students were given profiles which included a monthly salary and they had to create a budget for housing, groceries, insurance, etc. I think that it gave students a much better perspective of the expenses they should expect to encounter as an adult. **-Regina Davis from Dexter High School**

This year's summer camp at NMSU was very empowering. Everything from the workshops to the activities included valuable life lessons. We learned a lot about college such as financial aid information, scholarships, budgeting, and communication skills. I liked how the facilitators were able to keep the entire group involved and engaged all three days. Compared to past camps, I feel that this year the students all bonded well. We all made new friends and memories. Overall, this GEAR UP trip was one for the books. **-Raquel Trevizo from Dexter High School**



In the 2017 GEAR UP camp in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the FOCUS leaders were very informative and showed that they cared about our futures. They provided students with really useful advice, and ways to better yourself to get into college. They provided so much more information about scholarships, loans, grants, and financial aid than I have ever received from anybody before. FOCUS leaders also taught us about budgeting and how things we "need" are more important than things we "want". The overall experience was pragmatic and it educated us on important information that high school does not provide us.

-Katelynn Sills & Brooke Elliott from Early College High School



Thanks to the Chaperones



Jo Trammel– Roswell High School
Casey O'Dwyer– Roswell High School
C.W. Hamilton– Goddard High School
Nanci Morley– Goddard High School
Tim Shea– Lake Arthur High School
Regina Davis– Dexter High School
Michelle Huckabee– Early College High School
Brian Shea– ENMUR GEAR UP



GEAR UP Scholarship Application Link

[https://www.roswell.enmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/
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