

Palomar College
GEAR UP Partnership Program
1140 W. Mission Road
San Marcos, CA 92069-1487



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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GEAR UP SUCCESS IS TRULY OUTSTANDING



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GEAR UP SUCCESS IS TRULY OUTSTANDING

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER- 2017
PALOMAR COLLEGE GEAR UP 1140 WEST MISSION ROAD, SAN MARCOS, CA 92069

GEAR UP

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

allocates resources to improve academic performance, increase high school graduation rates, and provide early college awareness and preparedness for all students!

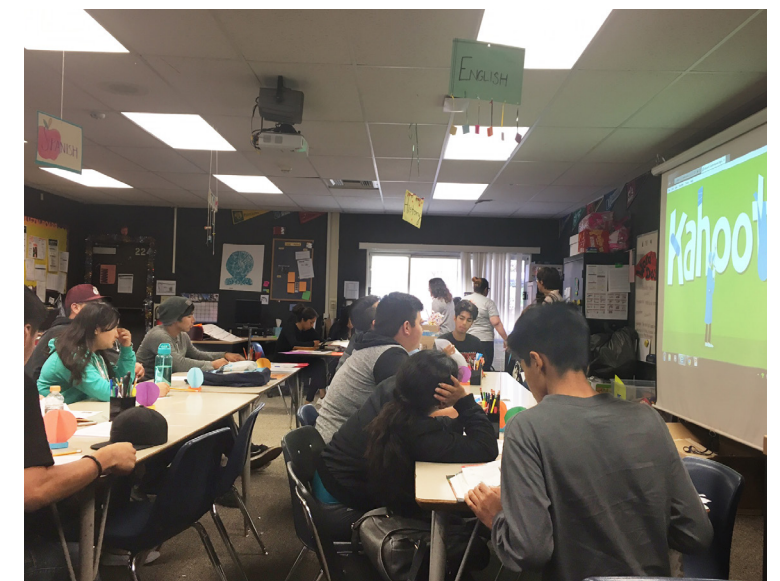


WINTER & SPRING EVENTS

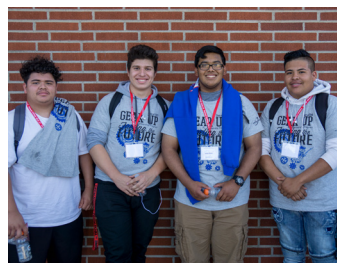


Every year, **NACAC** (National Association for College Admissions Counseling), offers the opportunity for students to interact with admissions representatives from a wide range of postsecondary institutions. 11th grade EUHSD and SMUSD GEAR UP students got a chance to meet college representatives and inquire about admissions procedures, financial aid opportunities and much more! NACAC serves as a great tool to help students make a decision about the college and career that is right for them.

Workshops. Each year the GEAR UP Program hosts a variety of workshops to help students prepare for their future college careers. These workshops offer students step-by-step guidance and practical support in preparation for exams such as the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. Workshops are also designed to assist students in applying for financial aid, as well as completing college applications. Students are able to develop valuable skills and confidence in their test-taking abilities and receive essential support in preparing for college.

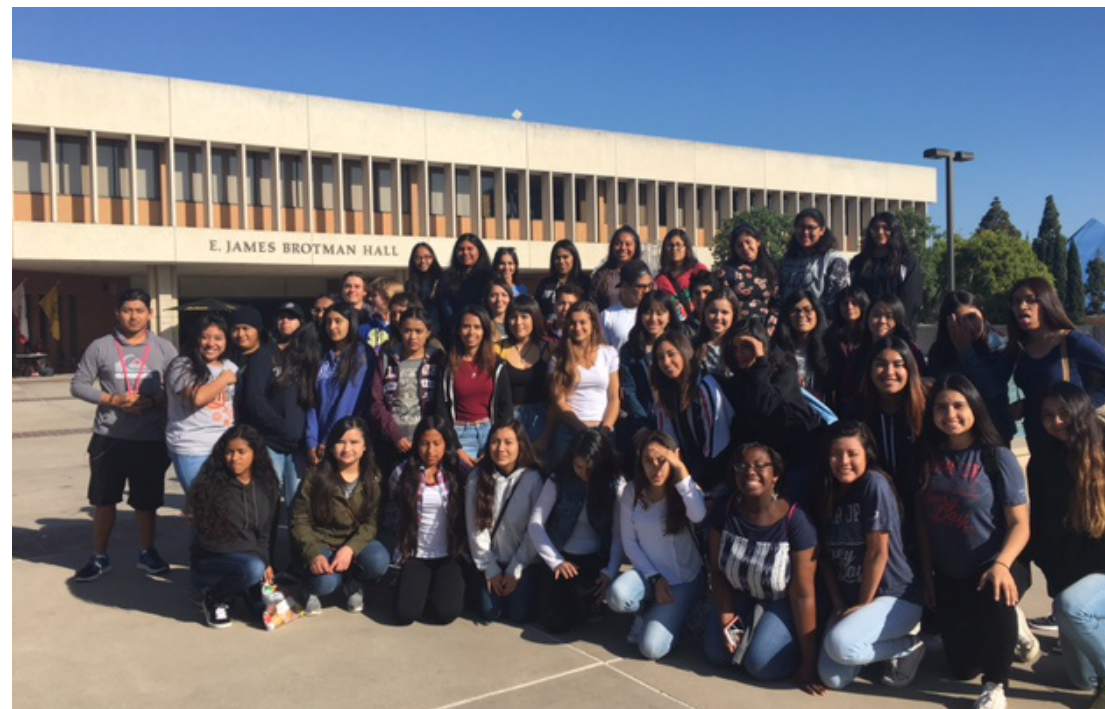


WINTER & SPRING EVENTS



Palomar College Field Trips; During the 2016-17 Fall and Spring semesters, Palomar College GEAR UP hosted potential 11th and 12th grade SMUSD and EUHSD Palomar bound students to Palomar College. Students were given the opportunity to explore the different majors and career paths Palomar College has to offer. Students had the opportunity to learn about the AA programs, certificated programs, and the transfer process at Palomar College. Additionally, students were taken on an informative campus tour where they had the opportunity to experience college life and resources provided by campus departments and organizations.

Spring Break Programs are a great way for students to have a fun and rewarding, alternative spring break experience. This year, the Palomar College GEAR UP Program took students to visit different college campuses. SMUSD students visited CSU Los Angeles and CSU Fullerton on Thursday, April 6th. EUHSD students participated in a trip to UC Irvine and CSU Long Beach on Wednesday, April 12th. Students toured the campus, heard an admissions presentation, listened to a student panel, and much more. We would like to thank all of the students that participated in our spring break programs!



CONGRATS, GRADS!

Dear GEAR UP Class of 2017,

Your college and career journey commences with your high school graduation today! Since middle school, you have grown, developed, and "geared up." Now the world is ready for you, and you are prepared for future successes! Continue to use GEAR UP strategies for the professional, educational, and career goals you will pursue and achieve.

Thank you for allowing GEAR UP staff to walk alongside you and your high school journey. All the best to you in your future endeavors.

Calvin One Deer,
Director, GEAR UP



Picture taken at the Palomar College graduation ceremony. Left: Joseph Burton, PC Former Foster Youth student now graduate and transferring to CSUDH. Center: PC GEAR UP Director, Calvin One Deer. Right: Ms. Nina Deerfield, Palomar College Governing Board member.

PC GEAR UP serves many foster youth students in high school. Any foster/former foster youth student who attends college can find special support services, like the PC FYRST Program at Palomar College.

GEAR UP SUPER 17 HIGHLIGHTS

DLA HIGHLIGHTS



Sandra Torres is known amongst her peers for being optimistic, ambitious, smiley, relentless, and driven. Through her high school career and the guidance of GEAR UP, she has learned how to find balance between facing new challenges and understanding her priorities.

She is an active member of Upward Bound, an alter server and lector at her church, and a member of both MEChA Link Crew and the World of Wellness Club in school. She has plans to further her academic prowess at a four-year university of her choosing and even has ambitions to double major. GEAR UP has worked very closely with Sandra in structuring and proofreading her essays so her applications look competitive. Sandra has been the Inspirational student of the month, attended a leadership conference in Washington D.C., attended the Jenna Leadership Conferene, is the secretary for World of Wellness Club, is an ASB representative for MEChA, President for MEChA, and student ambassador for GEAR UP. She plans to use her degree to become an Immigration Lawyer.

SMHS HIGHLIGHTS



Valeria Solache Mauricio is an outstanding student who has constantly been involved with GEAR UP, after school programs, and her community. She has overcome many obstacles in her life, which have made her stronger and prepared her for a successful future. Her

mother has been her most vital role model. She expresses that her mother's hard working ethic made her dream big for herself and choose to pursue higher education. That dream is slowly becoming a reality as she takes on the next step of her life to attend a four year university.



Abigail Arrioja was born in Mexico but came to San Diego when she was 1 year old. She is easily described as ambitious, humorous, optimistic, caring, and kind. Juggling work and responsibilities during the first semester as a senior was challenging but it helped

Abigail learn how to balance time and prioritize. Abigail goes to Center of Faith church in Escondido where she is a member of the praise team, a youth leader, and a member of a praising dance group called pandero. She wants to attend a 4-year university, study abroad, get a job and buy a car. Abigail describes her senior year was really busy and overwhelming but says that GEAR UP always helped to keep her on track especially when college applications came around. GEAR UP helped her narrow down her choices for college and gave plenty of guidance. Abigail was a student speaker at GEAR UP California Initiative Conference and has been on Varsity soccer 4 years. She has plans to graduate with a Bachelors degree in Sociology from one of these schools: Biola, Point Loma Nazarene, Grand Canyon, Pepperdine, CSUSM, and CSU Fullerton.



Deyanira Lopez is a creative, outgoing, and intelligent student who aspires for success. Deyanira is actively involved in the SMHS Baile Folklorico, President of Knight Zone, AVID, and one of SMHS GEAR UP's most active students. Her vibrant personality has captured the

attention of many students along with the GEAR UP staff. Her characteristics make her a great leader and role model. She will be attending California State University San Marcos in the Fall and plans on pursuing a career in Nursing.

EHS, Super 17 participants



MHHS HIGHLIGHTS



Sekaye Knutson was born in Northridge, California. He has been actively involved in the community by being a leader at North Coast Church, an AP ambassador, president of the college ambassador's club, and track and field captain. Knutson is a hopeful, passionate, imaginative,

understanding, and ambitious student pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering. He described his senior year as rough due to personal issues and continuously getting sick, plus, dealing with the stress of AP classes and college applications. One of his accomplishments was being athlete of the week and student of the month. One of his favorite things about GEAR UP was last year's spring break field trip "My favorite part of GEAR UP was last year's spring break field trip. Visiting each campus was not only fun, but informative, helping me in my applications decisions." - Knutson.



Erika Bautista has been actively involved at MHHS by being part of the M.E.ch.A club, link crew, international club, AVID, band, and ASB. Outside school, she is part of her church choir. One of her personal struggles she have had to overcome was being a reclassified student and

joining honor courses in middle school. She is an enthusiastic, successful, motivated and funny student who wants to pursue a degree in biochemistry in order to become a Dermatologist. She described her senior year as stressful yet worth it and exciting. Some of her accomplishments were opening a new club (international club), winning the Princeton Price award, and becoming the secretary of M.E.ch.A and AVID. Her favorite things about GEAR UP were night trips and the three-day trip during spring break. "All these trips helped me look at universities that my parents wouldn't have the time to take me to. I also made wonderful friendship with people I wouldn't think I would get close to." -Bautista

GEAR UP SUPER 17 HIGHLIGHTS

EHS HIGHLIGHTS



Ana Velasco Pacheco is an independent, caring, and empowered young lady. Ana Velasco actively participates at Escondido High School such as Key Club, Junior Varsity Soccer, Girls Inc., Future Farmers of America, and MEChA. Not only is she involved in school but in her

community as well, she is one of the few female accordion artist that you will see around North County San Diego. Ana has been through a rollercoaster ride in her high school years, although, the ride has been rough she did not let her obstacles overcome her. With such determination she will be the first of her family to graduate and to go college which makes her mom so proud! Ana, is a natural leader and will be majoring in Business which she will succeed!



Miguel Soto is a friendly, honest and creative individual. One of Miguel's biggest accomplishment this semester include maintaining an excellent academic standing while receiving cougar awards of excellence. Not only has he received awards, but he was

recognized as a student of the month. After high school, Miguel will continue his education by attending a four year college in order to continue being a positive role model in his community. Miguel applied to: CSUSM, SDSU, CSULB, CSUF, UCSD, UCI, UCLA, UCB

OGHS HIGHLIGHTS



Vanessa is a very hardworking young lady and is the oldest of three. Some of the leadership roles that she has been involved in have been President of M.E.Ch.A for the past 2 years and was also part of the school girls soccer team. Vanessa has always pushed herself and

challenged herself by taking rigorous courses such as multiple AP classes and dreams to be the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. Vanessa desires to study medicine and become a doctor. She has taken advantage of all of the opportunities available to her and is very grateful to have been a part of GEAR UP for the last 7 years. She is one of few students who doesn't waste anytime and every time she comes to see us, she is seeking to apply to more scholarships to help relief some of her financial struggle. Vanessa has demonstrated through her hard work and dedication that she is a caring, responsible, persistent and ambitious individual and she has proven her abilities by overcoming the many barriers of an undocumented/DREAMER student.



Carlos defines himself as a "Resilient, different and rebellious" individual. Carlos is a very passionate person not only as a student but also as a community member. Carlos is very involved politically in the community. This passion started at home where the immigration crisis

affected his family greatly. He is involved in organizations such as Youth Activists for Change and North County Immigration task force. He is committed to helping individuals in need within the community. He wants to go to college to become a leader in the community in the future. Carlos wants to attend San Francisco State University and wants to expand his world views and experiences.

SPHS, Super 17 participants



SPHS HIGHLIGHTS



Kortney Ponce will be attending Yale University to not only study pre-medicine but to also play division one level softball. She plans to major in Bio-chemistry. After Yale, she hopes to attend medical school in hopes of becoming an orthopedic surgeon and one day running

her own private orthopedic practice specializing in child sport injuries. The GEAR UP program has helped her greatly with the college process including SAT practice tests, workshops, and also after school tutoring programs. Kortney has been involved in the California Scholarship Federation, Interact Club, National Honor Society, and Associated Student Body government in which currently serves as the school's elected ASB President. If she could change one thing in this world it would be to make the world a kinder place.



Daniel Martinez grew up in Escondido and developed into a mature, polite yet humorous individual. He suffered the loss of his father yet in spite of this has persevered by becoming an athlete and becoming an Inspirational Student of the Month at EUHSD. He has played football

during his high school career and actively served his community by participating in church activities. His final year of high school has been exciting yet stressful. Some of the stress has been relieved by the help provided by GEAR UP when he was completing his FAFSA and by the information that GEAR UP was able to supply concerning college requirements. He was able to take advantage of the opportunities he got by going on several college trips and participating in various activities GEAR UP offered him. Daniel will be attending Greenville University in Illinois where he will also be playing football while completing his undergraduate degree. He hopes to earn his degree and looks forward to working in a job that he enjoys.