

GEAR UP Virginia Times

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Message to Our Students...

The weather's cold but we know things are heating up for the GEAR UP class. We know that you're busy completing college applications, attending financial aid workshops, and going on those final college field trips.

You've found success through your academic persistence and hard work. The results of your performance will be seen through your acceptance to college or the beginning of a technical career path.

As you continue your final semester in high school, be sure to maintain your positive attitude with classmates and teachers. The character you are building will help sustain you in all your future endeavors. Enjoy preparing yourself for a future filled with excitement and hope. You are in charge of your own destiny, so stay focused and continue to do your best. ~ SCHEV/GEAR UP Team



Congratulations to the Book Scholarship Winners!

Slideshows



Ellen Long
Smyth County Schools



TaKenya Lee Moody
King and Queen County Schools

Written Essays



LaDawn Noble
Danville City Schools



Xavier Wells
Prince Edward County Schools

Audio Recording



Laken Love
Scott County Schools

Video Essay



Savannah O'Keefe
Smyth County Schools

Important Dates

FEB

12

February 12-15
NCEP/GEAR UP Conference
www.edpartnerships.org

MAR

2

**GEAR UP Quarterly
Reimbursement Due**

MAR

19

**GEAR UP Summative
Report Due**

MAR

31

**GEAR UP Award Application
Deadline**

Unusual Scholarships/Discounts

- ★ **Stuck at Prom Duck Tape Contest** - Create your best prom attire using Duck brand duct tape! Contest begins March 7 and ends June 13, 2012. For more details, visit www.stuckatprom.com.
- ★ **Milk Mustache Scholarship for Athletes** - Deadline: March 9, 2012. For details, visit www.facebook.com/MilkMustache.
- ★ **Twin Tuition Discount** - Twins may be eligible for a tuition discount at a few participating colleges in Virginia and Washington, DC. For details, visit www.matr.vcu.edu/resources/scholarships.

I am the One

If you like our T-shirts, you'll love our Facebook.



“Like” us!

[Find I am the One on Facebook](#)

I am the One is a statewide marketing effort to empower **all** students to plan for and succeed in education beyond high school. Through the campaign, schools receive free fun and informative materials to distribute. All messaging leads to the www.i-am-the-one.com website where counselors and students and their families can find details on college preparation, financial aid and Virginia colleges and universities.

▶▶▶ Regional Highlights

Central



Washington and Lee High students pose for a quick picture during a tour of Virginia State University's campus.



King and Queen Central High students visited the University of Mary Washington to learn about their admissions requirements and application process.



Petersburg High students proudly show off their pink "Find a Cure for Breast Cancer" holiday tree.

Southside



President Obama visits Greenville County High School to promote his jobs plan. Faculty anxiously awaited to shake his hand.



Nottoway students attend the Next Big Step Program at Southside Virginia Community College.



Cumberland High students receive "Scholarship 101" as a part of their celebration of National GEAR UP week.

Southwest



Gate City High students participate in a chemistry magic show during their visit to Northeast State Community College.



Marion Senior students celebrate National GEAR UP Day with a GEAR UP logo cake.



Big congratulations to Lacey, Patrick County High student, for placing 14th in the nation during the SkillsUSA Nail Tech Championship!

Don't forget to apply!

Applicants must be members of the 2006-12 GEAR UP cohort.

GEAR UP Scholarship and Achievement Grant Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for a GEAR UP Virginia Scholarship or Achievement Grant, a student must:

- Have been a member of the original 7th grade GEAR UP class in 2006-07.
- Have a signed student information release form on file with SCHEV.
- Be an active participant in GEAR UP program activities.
- Graduate with a high school diploma from a participating GEAR UP high school by August 31, 2012.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above by the end of the first semester of their senior year. Must maintain a 2.0 or above through graduation.
- Submit a complete GEAR UP award application and all other required materials to the GEAR UP office by March 31, 2012.
- Be accepted and enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree, diploma, or certificate program at an eligible institution no later than the second fall semester following high school graduation.
- Successfully complete a 2012-13 FAFSA.
- Be eligible for and awarded the federal Pell grant. Pell grant eligibility is not required to be considered for the Achievement Grant; however, financial need will be considered when choosing recipients.



Six Required Application Materials

1. GEAR UP 2012 Award Application
2. Official High School Transcript
3. Copy of Entire Student Aid Report
4. Resume
5. Recommendation Form
6. Essay

*** Application Deadline: March 31, 2012 ***

All materials must be postmarked/mailed (preferred) or faxed by this date.
Faxed transcripts will not be accepted.

For more information and application materials, visit www.gearupva.com.

March Madness Approaches...

By: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

And we don't mean basketball. It's time to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Many schools have first-come, first-served policies in place for their limited pools of aid money, and filing your FAFSA before the priority deadline will help ensure you receive the aid you are eligible for. For most 4-year colleges in Virginia, March 1st is the priority deadline, but be sure to check SCHEV's list of financial aid deadlines because some schools (such as ODU and Radford) have earlier priority deadlines, while most 2-year colleges have later deadlines.

Even if you miss the priority deadline for a school you are interested in, go ahead and send your completed FAFSA to them. A completed FAFSA is required for most federal and state financial aid programs, so even students who don't think they will be eligible for federal grants should fill it out. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete and file your application.



FEBRUARY is
Financial Aid Awareness Month!

I've Filed My FAFSA. Now What?

By: SCHEV

Once you complete your FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). It's your job to review the SAR and make sure the information you submitted was entered correctly. The SAR will also tell you whether your application is complete or if there are parts missing. If your SAR indicates that your application is incomplete, make sure you review your application again and take care of problems right away.

Additionally, the SAR is sent to up to ten colleges of interest you selected when you completed the FAFSA. Those schools may contact you if they have questions, need more information, or want to send you an award letter that describes the financial aid package they can offer you. Make sure you check your email carefully for any communications from colleges. Consider setting your email filter to ensure that any messages related to your financial aid situation aren't accidentally sent to the junk folder. We hope you'll be receiving good news soon!

\$UPER \$ATURDAY

February 4 and February 11, 2012

Super Saturday is a free event, open to the general public, that offers one-on-one assistance with completing the FAFSA. All college-bound and returning college students, parents, and adult learners are encouraged to attend. Attendees should at least bring identification information (social security number, driver's license), 2011 W-2 forms and 2011 federal tax return documents, and asset information.

Super Saturday Events at GEAR UP Schools

February 4

- ★ Charlottesville High School

February 11

- ★ Cumberland High School
- ★ Gate City High School
- ★ George Washington High School
- ★ Grayson County High School
- ★ Greensville County High School
- ★ Gretna High School
- ★ Holston High School
- ★ Hopewell High School
- ★ Marion Senior High School
- ★ Meadowbrook High School
- ★ Northwood High School
- ★ Nottoway County High School
- ★ Patrick County High School
- ★ Patrick Henry High School
- ★ Prince Edward High School
- ★ Pulaski High School
- ★ Randolph Henry High School
- ★ Twin Valley High School
- ★ Washington and Lee High School

FREE assistance completing the FAFSA
FREE financial aid workshops
Plus, a chance to win a \$ 100 book scholarship!

Check with schools for specific times and other event details. There are over **40 more sites** (colleges and high schools) throughout Virginia. If your GEAR UP school is not listed above, there may be another site in your area hosting the event. Also, GEAR UP schools that are not hosting an event may be providing transportation to the nearest site.



VISIT WWW.VASFAA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Super Saturday is sponsored by the Virginia Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators and funded in part by the State Council of Higher Education's federal College Access Challenge Grant Program.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HEADS UP! Resources

- ★ **Google's 6 academic scholarships and 3 travel scholarships.** As part of Google's ongoing commitment to advancing computing and technology, they are providing scholarships to encourage students to excel in their studies and become active role models and leaders. Deadline: **February 20, 2012**
<http://www.google.com/intl/en/jobs/students/proscho/scholarships/uscanada/>
- ★ **The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program** wants to reward students who have succeeded both inside and outside of the classroom, and who may not be able to attend college without financial aid. Deadline: **February 29, 2012**
<http://www.buickachievers.com/>
- ★ **Through the Looking Glass** and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors or college students who have parents with disabilities. A total of 15 - \$1000 scholarships will be given out for Fall 2012. Scholarship requirements and applications are available on Through the Looking Glass' website at www.lookingglass.org. Postmark deadline: **March 5, 2012.**
- ★ **The Virginia Council on the Status of Women** in collaboration with the Science Museum of Virginia announces the **2012 STEM Essay Contest**. The purpose of the Council is to help women reach their potential and maximize their contribution to society and the Commonwealth as wage earners and citizens. The awardee will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to an institution of higher education. To enter, young women should be in their junior or senior year in high school and hold at least a 2.5 GPA. Entries should follow the guidelines and be submitted to council.women@dss.virginia.gov. Deadline: **February 20, 2012 by 3 p.m.**
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council_women/index.cgi

Visit our website at www.gearupva.com for spring 2012 college open house dates and other resources.

GEAR UP VA SCHOOLS

Charlottesville High School
Council High School
Cumberland High School
E. C. Glass High School
Freedom High School - Prince William
Galileo Magnet High School
Gate City High School
George Washington High School
Grayson County High School
Grayson Highlands School
Greensville County High School
Gretna Senior High School
Grundy High School
Heritage High School - Lynchburg
Holston High School
Hopewell High School
Hurley High School
J. I. Burton High School
Central High School - King and Queen
Marion Senior High School
Martinsville High School
Meadowbrook High School
Northwood High School
Nottoway County High School
Patrick County High School
Patrick Henry High School - Washington
Petersburg High School
Prince Edward County High School
Pulaski County Senior High School
Randolph Henry High School
Rye Cove High School
Sussex Central High School
Twin Springs High School
Twin Valley High School
Washington and Lee High School
Woodbridge Senior High School