

2008 - 2009

Annual Report

Two Valleys One Vision/SKY's the Limit



**GEAR UP
PROGRAM**

**UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON**





Dear Reader,

On behalf of the University of Washington’s Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, we are pleased to present this 2008-2009 Annual GEAR UP Report. In this report you will find information about our GEAR UP Programs, accomplishments, service locations, services and brief evaluation results.

We are operating two large six-year GEAR UP grants. The first grant is the Two Valley One Vision, awarded in 2005, serving 3,232 students in 13 school districts. The second grant is the SKY’s The Limit, awarded in 2006, serving 2,512 students in 13 school districts. Both grants are having a significant impact on the preparation of students going to college.

Loueta Johnson, Director
University of Washington GEAR UP
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We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP Office for funding this program that is having an enormous impact on our students in Washington State. We are also thankful to all our community partners that provide valuable GEAR UP services to our students and their parents. These partners include the 13 school districts and 7 community partners.

We hope you will find this Annual Report informative about our GEAR UP services.

Sincerely,

Loueta Johnson, Director
University of Washington GEAR UP

University of Washington
Founded in 1861 in Seattle, the University of Washington is one of the oldest state-supported institutions of higher education on the West Coast and is one of the preeminent research universities in the world. The UW educates a diverse student body of approximately 47,000 students annually, offering over 250 degrees within 150 department programs across 18 colleges and schools.

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What is GEAR UP?

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

U.S. Department of Education

This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school.

UW Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity

The Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity (OMA/D), located on the main Seattle campus, implements the University of Washington's diversity initiatives. OMA/D's mission is to ensure the access and academic success of a diverse student population. As the grant recipient for the GEAR UP Programs, OMA/D administers the program with its main GEAR UP Management Office in the Yakima Valley. GEAR UP is one of many programs OMA/D operates that advances the UW's mission of increasing access for diverse students going to postsecondary education.

UW Local GEAR UP Management

The University of Washington OMA/D manages two large GEAR UP grants serving students in Eastern Washington and Skagit Valley. The GEAR UP Management Office is located in Toppenish, Washington in the Yakima Valley. This GEAR UP Office, consisting of a Director, Assistant Director and support personnel, provides project oversight, program management, budget oversight, monitoring of contracts, collecting of cost share and evaluating of program performance. GEAR UP staff work closely with an Advisory Committee consisting of representation from all the GEAR UP partners.

School Districts

The two GEAR UP grants, Two Valleys One Vision and Sky's the Limit, consist of 14 school districts. Each school district employs a GEAR UP Coordinator responsible for developing and implementing all the local GEAR UP services and activities.

Community Partners

The GEAR UP Program also includes essential community partners that provide valuable services to students and parents. These partners range from nonprofit organizations to private businesses. Their services include workshops on college preparation/financial aid, counseling/advising, college visits and family events.



Oscar Ocampo
Student

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Burlington-Edison
- East Valley
- Goldendale
- Grandview
- Granger
- Mabton
- Mount Adams
- Mount Vernon
- Sunnyside
- Toppenish
- Union Gap
- Wapato
- Zillah
- Yakama Nation Tribal School

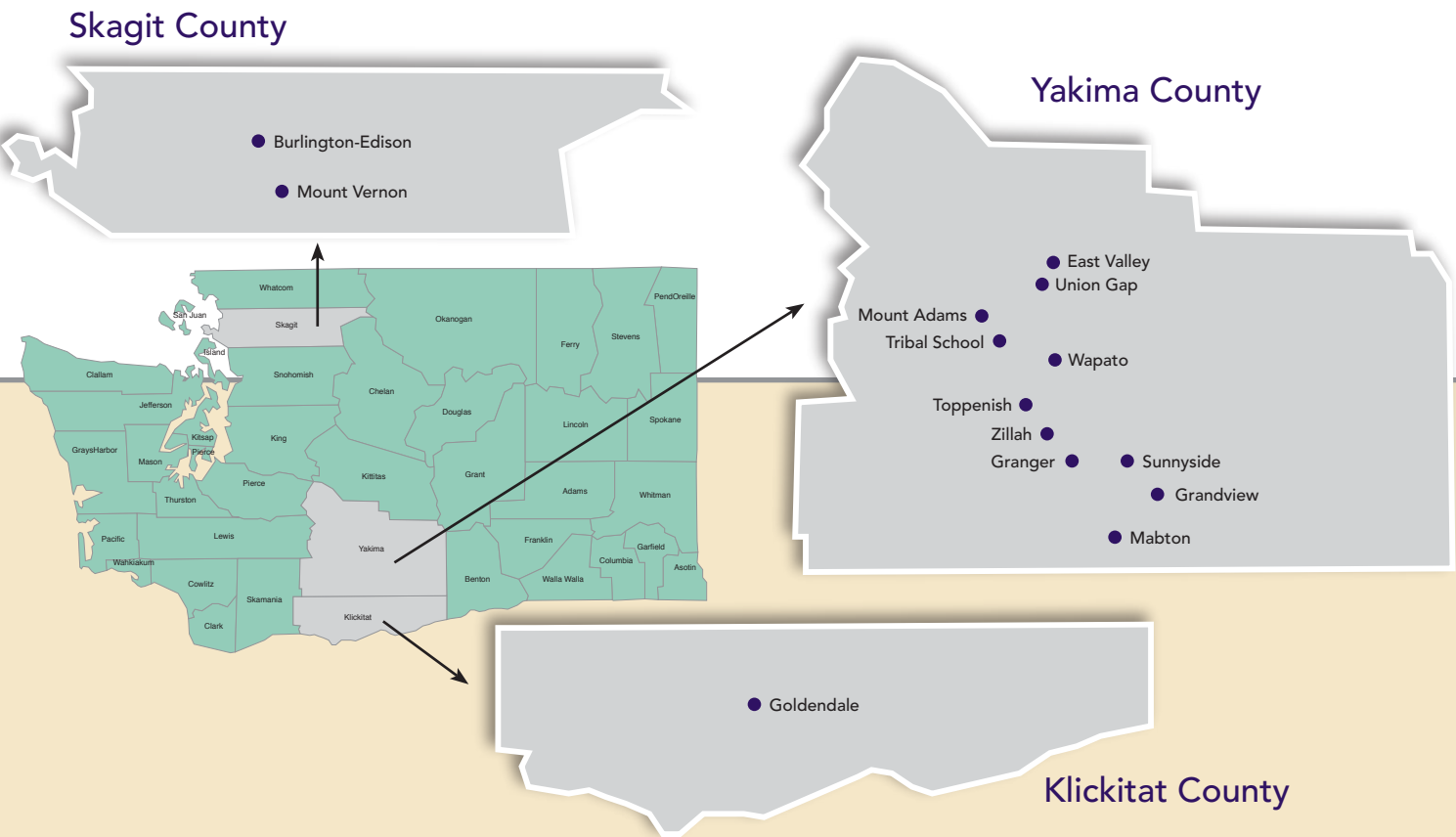
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Digital Learning Commons
- Power of Hope
- NW Communities Ed. Center/
KDNA
- Heritage University
- Skagit Valley Community
College
- RGI Corporation
- Greater Yakima Chamber of
Commerce



GEAR UP Service Areas

Serving 14 School Districts in Washington State



School Districts		
Burlington-Edison	Mabton	Union Gap
East Valley	Mount Adams	Wapato
Goldendale	Mount Vernon	Zillah
Grandview	Sunnyside	Yakama Nation Tribal School
Granger	Toppenish	





Type of Services Provided by GEAR UP

The GEAR UP Program provides a range of services to help middle and high school students prepare for and succeed in college. These can range from tutoring, college field trips and SAT preparation to financial aid information. The program also provides information and workshops for parents on topics ranging from financial aid and scholarship information to the courses students must take in high school to prepare for college. Each local GEAR UP Site Coordinator designs and provides services based on the needs of their students and parents. Services provided by the school districts include the following general categories:

■ Tutoring/Homework Assistance

- In-school academic support
- After school programs

■ Computer Assisted Labs

- Before and after school academic support
- In-school academic support
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) class

■ Workshops

- Career fairs
- Employment preparation
- Financial aid
- Pathways of Academic and Work Skills (PAWS) class
- Computer Technology/Digital Imaging Workshops
- Power Lunch Guest Speaker Workshops

■ Counseling/ Academic Planning

- High school course planning
- Financial aid counseling

■ Educational Field Trips

- Scientific laboratories
- Museums
- Work sites

■ Summer Programs

- Academic instruction
- College preparation support
- Tiger Success Summer Academy
- Power of Hope Summer Camps
- Summer Leadership Camps

■ Mentoring

- Academic and social support
- Role models

■ College Visit or Shadowing

- Visiting universities/colleges
- Visiting technical schools

■ Job Site Visit/Job Shadowing

- Career exploration
- Workplace visits

■ Cultural Events

- Exposure to theaters
- Learning about local cultures

■ Family Events

- Financial aid/scholarship workshops
- University/college visits with students
- Family math nights

■ Parent Training

- Parent Academy
- Advance Training

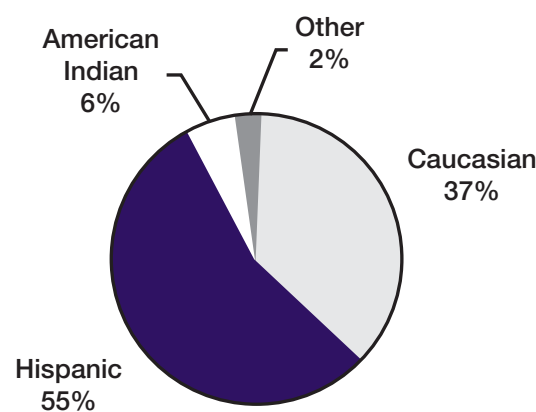
Students Served

Two Valleys One Vision / GEAR UP

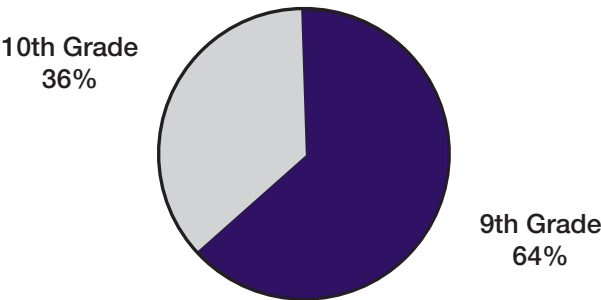
The Two Valleys One Vision GEAR UP Program provided services in 13 school sites in the 2008-2009 school year as illustrated below:

School District	School Building	9th Grade	10th Grade	Total
Burlington-Edison	Burlington-Edison HS	310	300	610
East Valley	East Valley Central HS	0	225	225
Goldendale	Goldendale HS	113	102	215
Grandview	Grandview HS	255	0	255
Granger	Granger HS	136	0	136
Mabton	Mabton JR/SR HS	73	0	73
Mount Adams	Mount Adams HS	79	0	79
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon HS	0	461	461
Sunnyside	Sunnyside HS	446	0	446
Toppenish	Toppenish HS	233	0	233
Union Gap	Union Gap School	73	67	140
Wapato	Wapato HS	335	0	335
Yakama Nation	Yakama Tribal	0	24	24
Total		2,053	1,179	3,232

Student Ethnicity



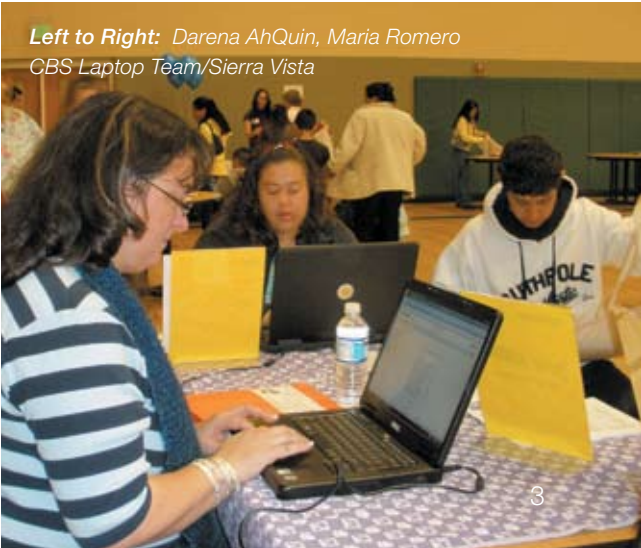
Grades Served



Source (University of Washington GEAR UP Evaluation Report, RGI Corporation 2009)



Left to Right: Gilbert Correa, Noemi Correa & Jessica Raigoza



Left to Right: Darena AhQuin, Maria Romero
CBS Laptop Team/Sierra Vista



Left to Right: Sabino Licona (red cap) and student Jose Licona UW School of Medicine, listening for the heartbeat w/stethoscope

Left to Right: Rodolfo & Maria Delgado, Rudolfo, Jr and Ashley Valdez

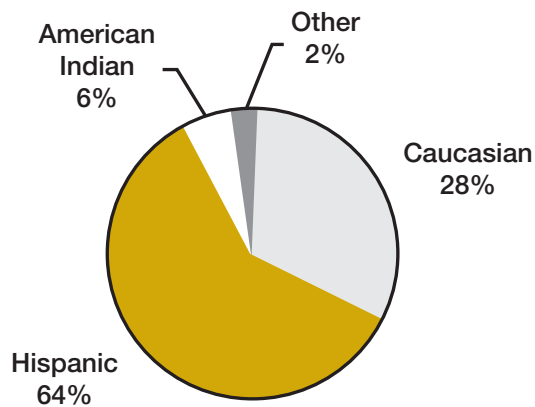
Students Served

SKY's the Limit / GEAR UP

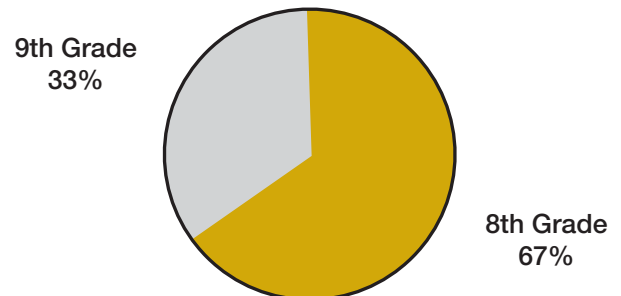
The SKY's the Limit GEAR UP Program provided services in 15 school sites in the 2008-2009 school year as illustrated below:

School District	School Building	8th Grade	9th Grade	Total
Burlington-Edison	Allen Elementary	54	0	54
Burlington-Edison	West View Elementary	30	0	30
East Valley	East Valley Central HS	0	196	196
Goldendale	Goldendale MS	75	0	75
Grandview	Grandview MS	238	0	238
Granger	Granger MS	117	0	117
Mabton	Mabton Jr HS	70	0	70
Mount Adams	Mount Adams MS	63	0	63
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon HS	0	522	522
Sunnyside	Harrison MS	229	0	229
Sunnyside	Sierra Vista MS	242	0	242
Toppenish	Toppenish MS	230	0	230
Union Gap	Union Gap School	73	0	73
Wapato	Wapato MS	259	0	259
Zillah	Zillah HS	0	114	114
Total		1,680	832	2,512

Student Ethnicity



Grades Served



Source (University of Washington GEAR UP Evaluation Report, RGI Corporation 2009)



1st Row Standing L to R: Marilyn Baluca, Elmy Baluca, Mary Ann Dosono, Dianna Sampson, Loueta Johnson, Maria Romero, Darena AhQuin, Romie Gonzalez, Lorena Silva
2nd Row Standing L to R: Leslee Graves, Cherie Bergevin, Jose Mesa, Karen Manuel, Ador Baluca, Conan Viernes, Andy Pascua



Standing: Darena AhQuin, Carol Lucei with grandson, Maurice

GEAR UP Services Provided

The GEAR UP Program provided a range of services from tutoring to college educational field trips for students. The following table illustrates the specific number of GEAR UP services provided for each student per month from July 2008 to June 2009. Students may have received more than one service. These activity categories have been established by the U.S. Department of Education, GEAR UP Program.

Two Valleys One Vision Services by Month

Activity	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Computer Assisted Lab	73	0	419	541	595	628	652	758	136	654	710	620
Family Events	0	131	105	361	214	67	45	49	6	217	36	0
Workshops	35	358	301	176	262	255	764	1492	351	0	174	0
Educational Field Trips	102	17	63	177	17	51	40	79	45	93	255	21
Summer Programs	142	474	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	115
Job Site Visit/Job Shadowing	26	0	0	9	2	9	20	2	0	0	6	0
College Visit or Shadowing	23	15	72	66	692	94	21	101	9	122	27	9
Counseling/Academic Planning	67	357	1703	1371	1333	1386	1446	1354	34	934	1784	754
Mentoring	46	531	542	653	560	611	685	551	257	624	1154	732
Tutoring/Homework Assistant	56	97	654	895	788	786	797	711	301	860	756	639
Cultural Events	37	16	0	92	7	12	20	56	16	20	24	14
Total	607	1,996	3,859	4,341	4,470	3,899	4,490	5,153	1,155	3,524	4,926	2,904

SKY's the Limit Services by Month

Activity	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Computer Assisted Lab	120	26	532	751	720	801	837	772	223	842	722	456
Family Events	0	14	253	236	125	17	102	180	21	241	323	0
Workshops	79	23	473	657	578	641	737	427	347	136	3	1
Educational Field Trips	168	29	203	104	316	16	0	67	103	277	59	163
Summer Programs	208	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
Job Site Visit/Job Shadowing	9	0	108	3	0	0	0	0	1	101	12	5
College Visit or Shadowing	78	1	232	19	11	22	33	23	280	190	46	41
Counseling/Academic Planning	82	267	1146	980	920	1008	1179	1448	235	1090	980	348
Mentoring	105	137	719	667	455	573	627	808	139	900	718	300
Tutoring/Homework Assistant	76	42	380	720	805	838	827	990	231	832	764	649
Cultural Events	16	4	96	49	168	112	103	60	0	12	3	10
Totals	941	654	4,142	4,186	4,098	4,028	4,445	4,775	1,580	4,621	3,630	2,074

Source (University of Washington GEAR UP Evaluation Report, RGI Corporation 2009)

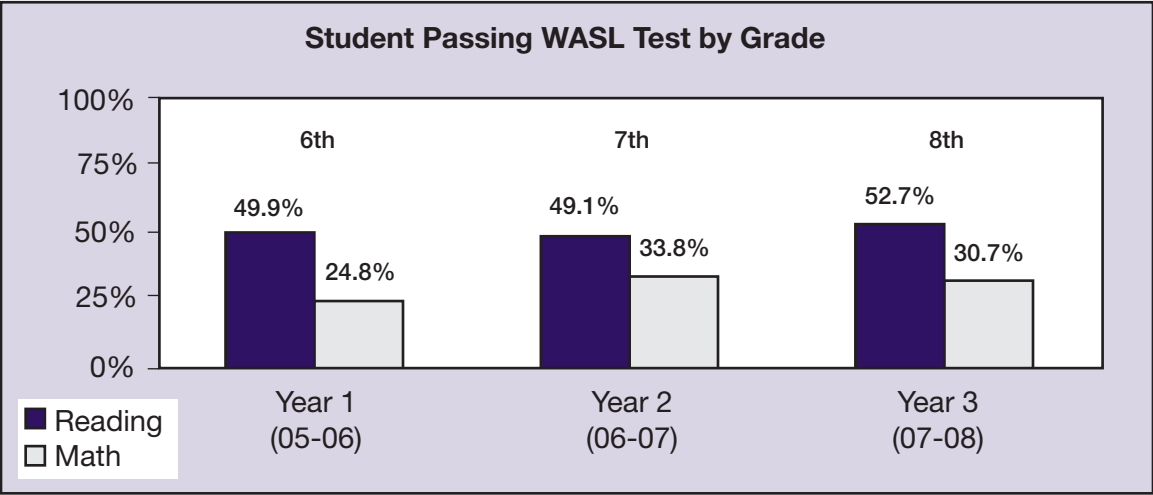
Academic Achievement

The GEAR UP Program is designed to increase Student Academic Achievement in addition to conducting other activities that prepare students to apply to college. There are different academic measures that may be used to assess the Students Academic Achievement. For the purpose of this report, we will illustrate academic achievement by using the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test results in Math and Reading. This is only one measure of the many that are used by schools. Please note that even though the Two Valleys One Vision students were in the 9th grade, the state does not test students in this grade level.

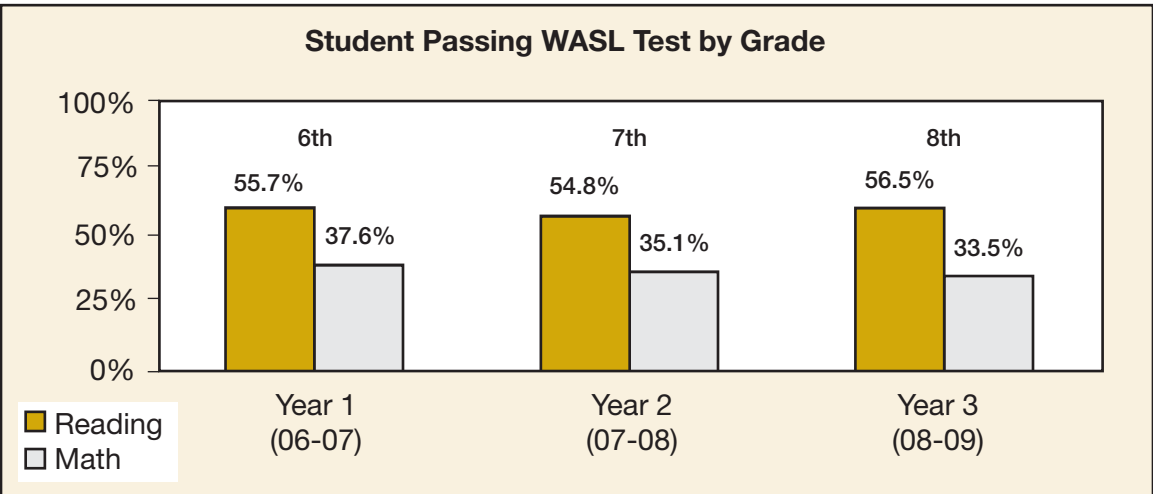
The following graphs illustrate the overall averages of the participating schools in Student Academic Achievement for both GEAR UP grants using WASL test data.



Two Valleys One Vision



SKY's the Limit

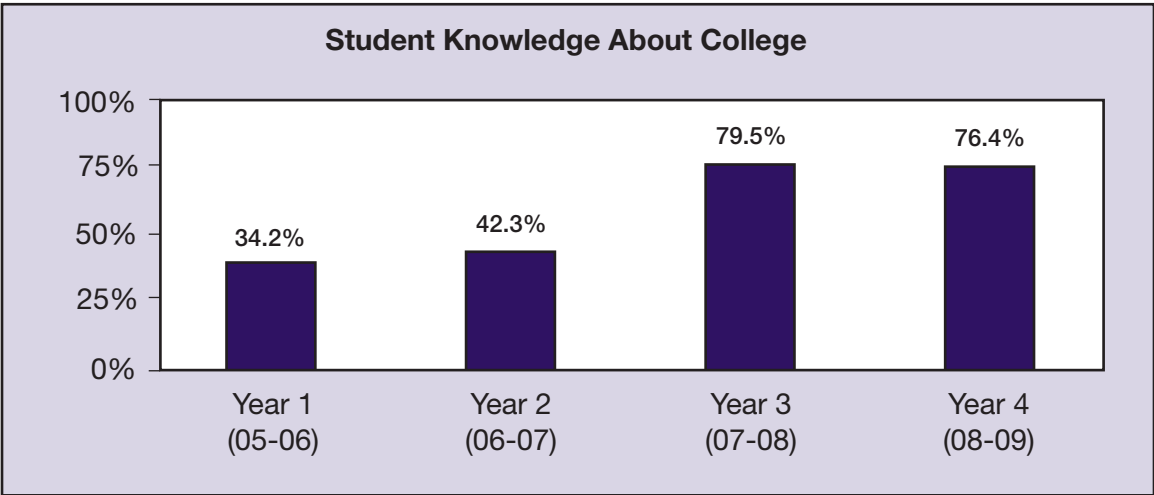




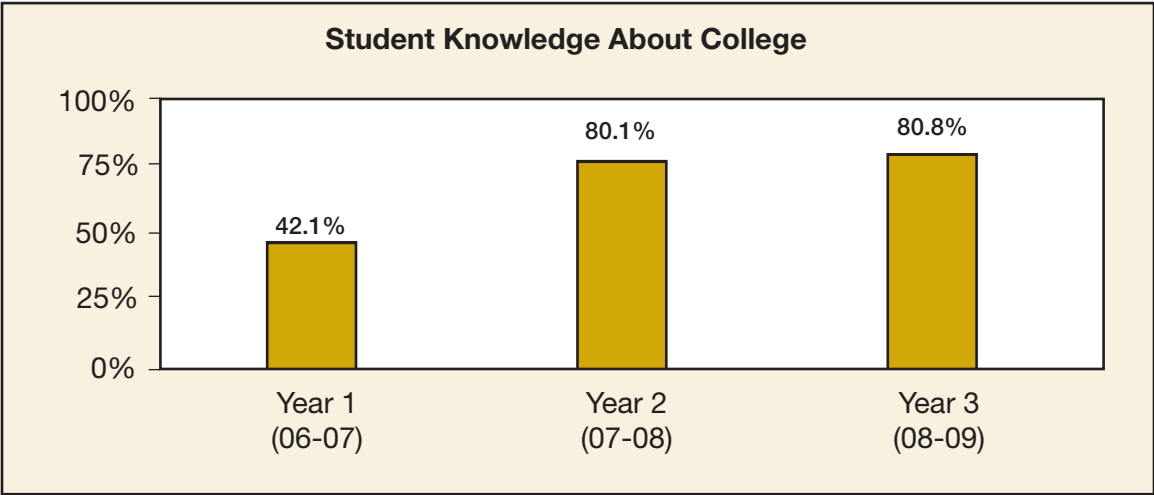
Student Knowledge About College

One of the goals of GEAR UP is to expose students to postsecondary opportunities and to inform them about college requirements and expectations. This is achieved by providing students a range of activities from college visits to college fairs at schools. Every year our evaluators, (RGI Corporation), assess the students’ knowledge about college by asking them to complete a survey. The survey results for the last few years demonstrate an increase in students’ knowledge about college.

Two Valleys One Vision



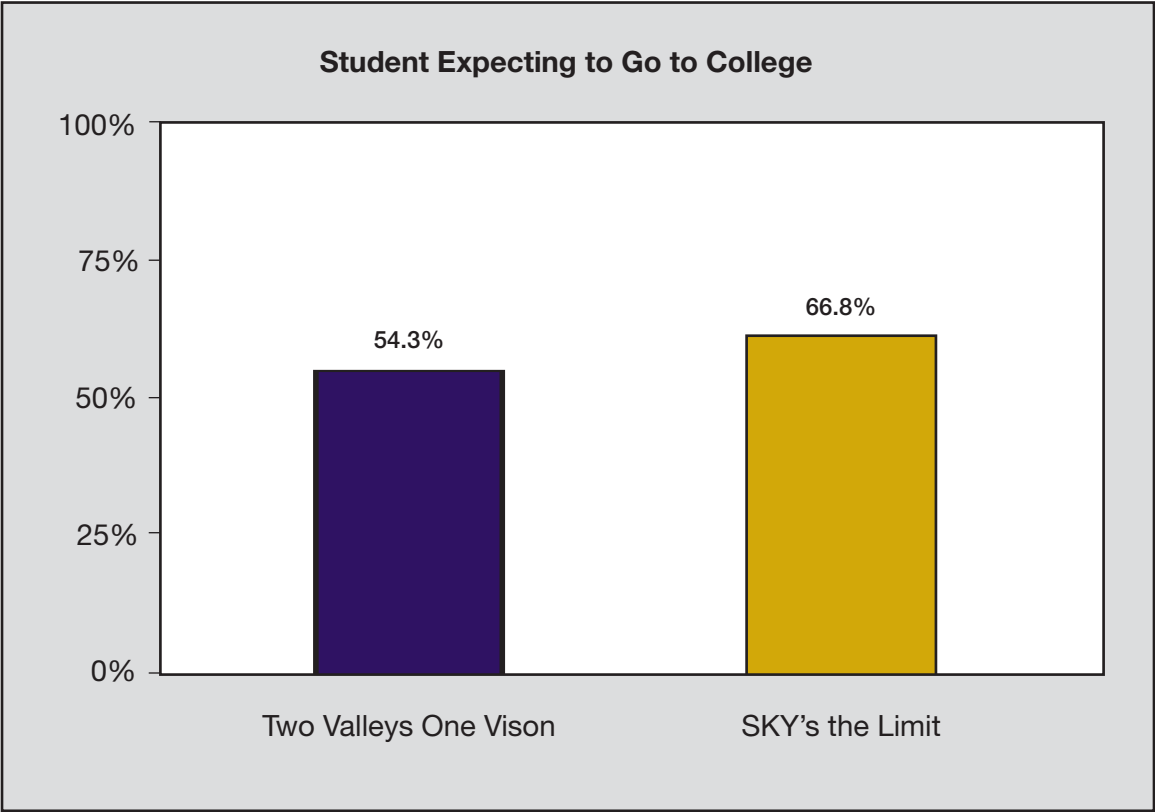
SKY’s the Limit



Students Aspiring to Obtain a 4-Year College Degree

Another goal of the GEAR UP Program is to raise expectations of students' ability to attend and succeed in college. This is conducted by providing a range of activities from visiting colleges to exposing them to careers and role models that have college degrees. Every year our evaluators (RGI Corporation) assess the students' expectations about going to college. The results for the last year are demonstrated below.

Two Valleys One Vision



College Visits

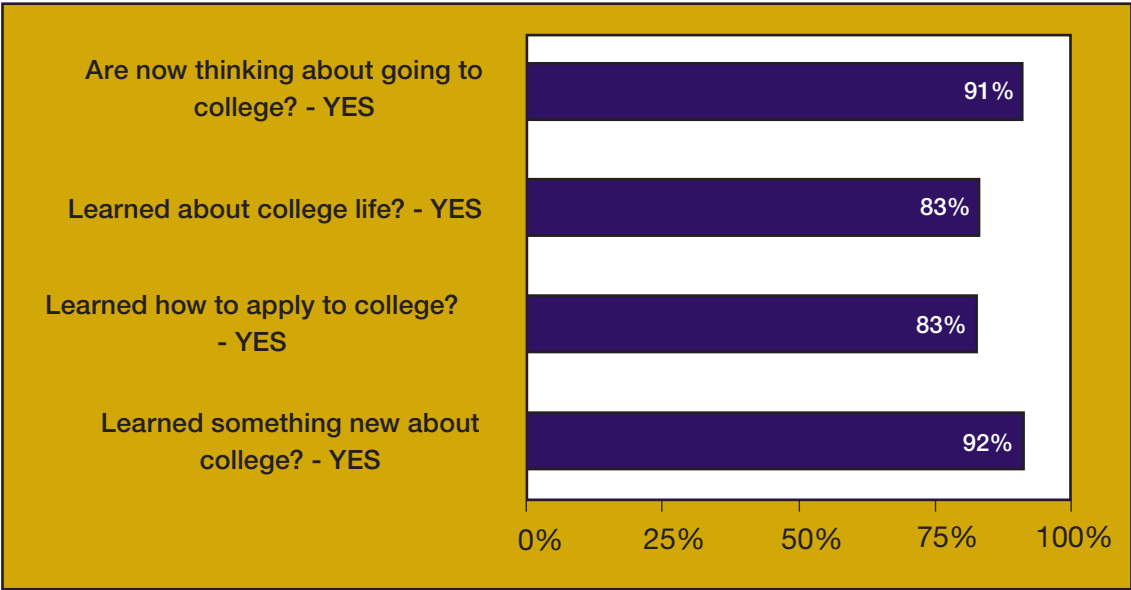
Cohort Events

The GEAR UP Program is required to provide Annual Cohort Events which offer all students in the program an opportunity to participate in the same event. One of the events that occurred for all students in the first year of the program was to visit a local college campus. In 2007 and 2008, both GEAR Programs visited Columbia Basin College.

GEAR UP developed a Student Handbook with teaching lessons for students to learn about college. Teachers used the handbook before the event to complete a pre-visit learning activity. The students then took the handbook on their visit and used a list of questions to interact with presenters. Upon returning back to school, students completed an essay about what they learned and their future plans.

Students completed a college visit evaluation survey on the bus ride back to their schools. Findings indicated that the visit was a positive learning experience. Many students did not know that Columbia Basin College existed or that it was an option for them. Many students also commented that this was their first time going to Pasco, Washington. The following are the evaluation results.

Learning about College...



Source (College Visit Report Cohort Event, RGI Corporation June 2007)





Career Fairs

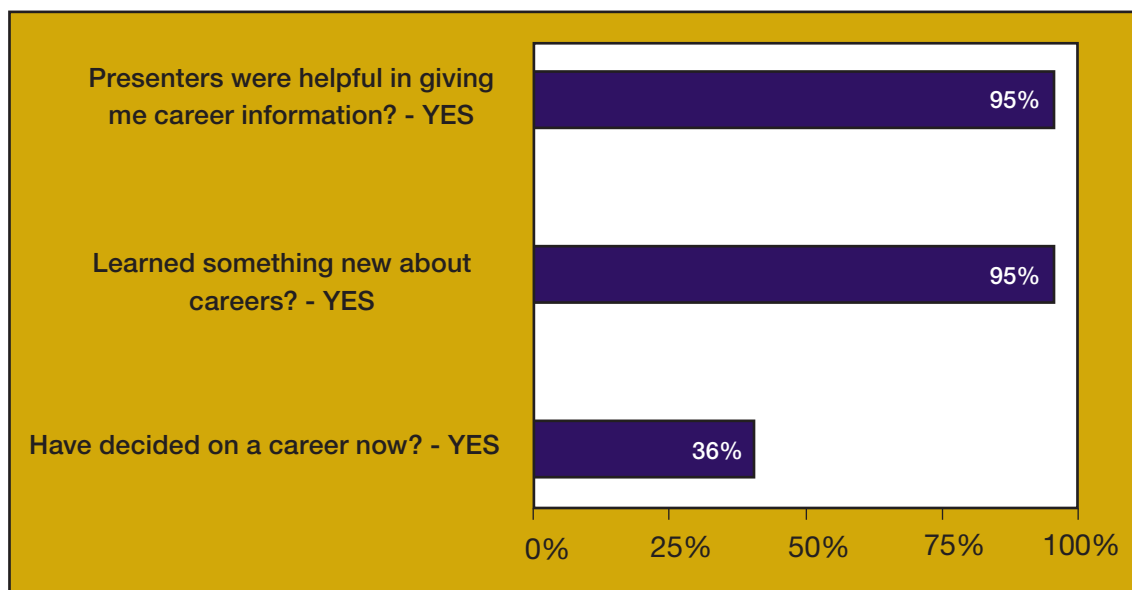
Cohort Events

The GEAR UP Program offered regional career fairs in the Yakima Valley for eighth and ninth grade students. These career fairs were conducted on the campuses of Yakima Valley Community College – Grandview and Heritage University. The goal of the career fair was to expose and introduce students to a specific career of their choice. Many local business professionals volunteered time to share their experiences in their professions.

GEAR UP developed a Career Student Assessment Booklet which each student completed before the Career Fair. Based on the GEAR UP students' career assessments and their interests, professionals were asked to present four, thirty minute sessions at each Career Fair. Students were assigned two career sessions of their choice and randomly assigned two others to expose them to different careers.

During the Career Fairs, students were provided a Student Handbook with questions to ask each presenter about their career. Each presenter was also asked to provide information about the type of education needed, hours, pay and to share a typical work day in their profession. The Student Handbook also included an activity to be completed after the Career Fair at the schools. The following are the evaluation results.

Learning About Careers...



Source (University of Washington GEAR UP Career Fair Report, RGI Corporation 2008)

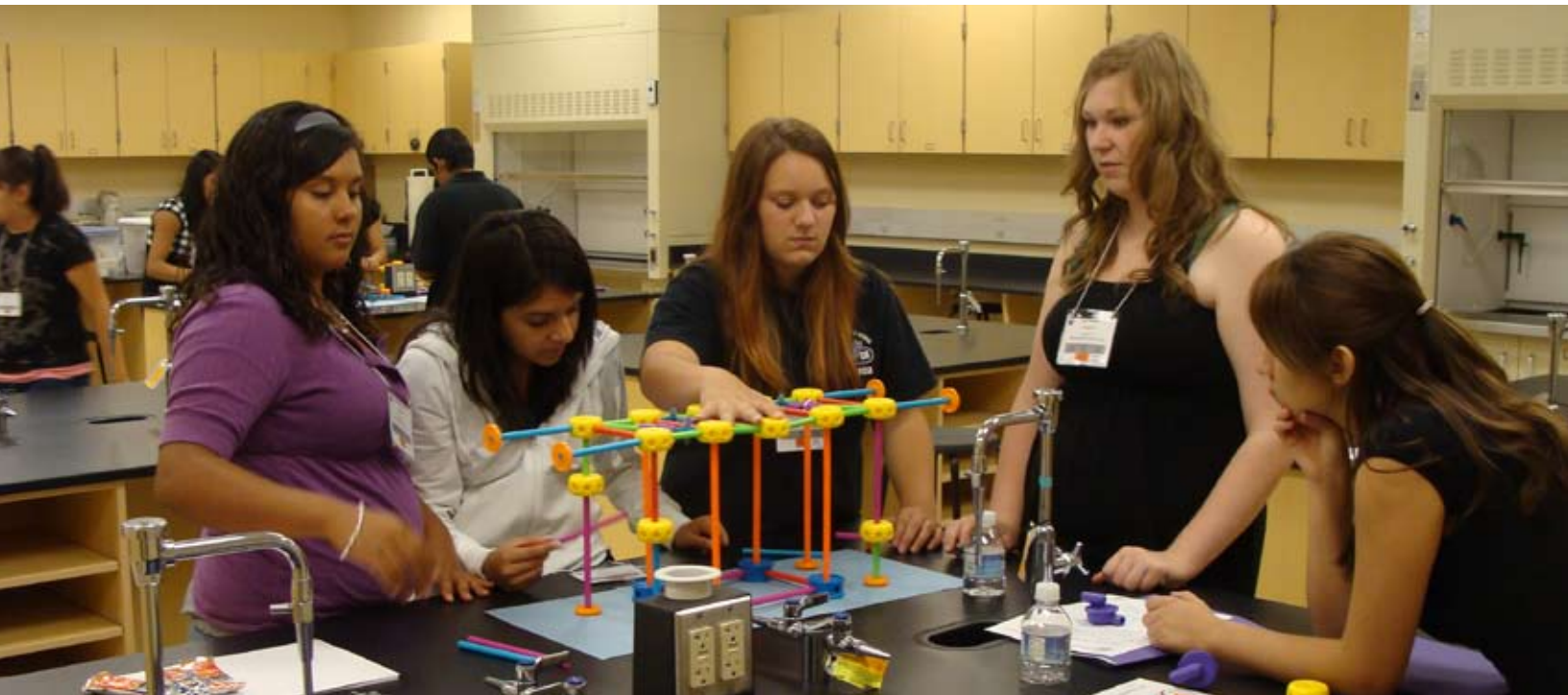
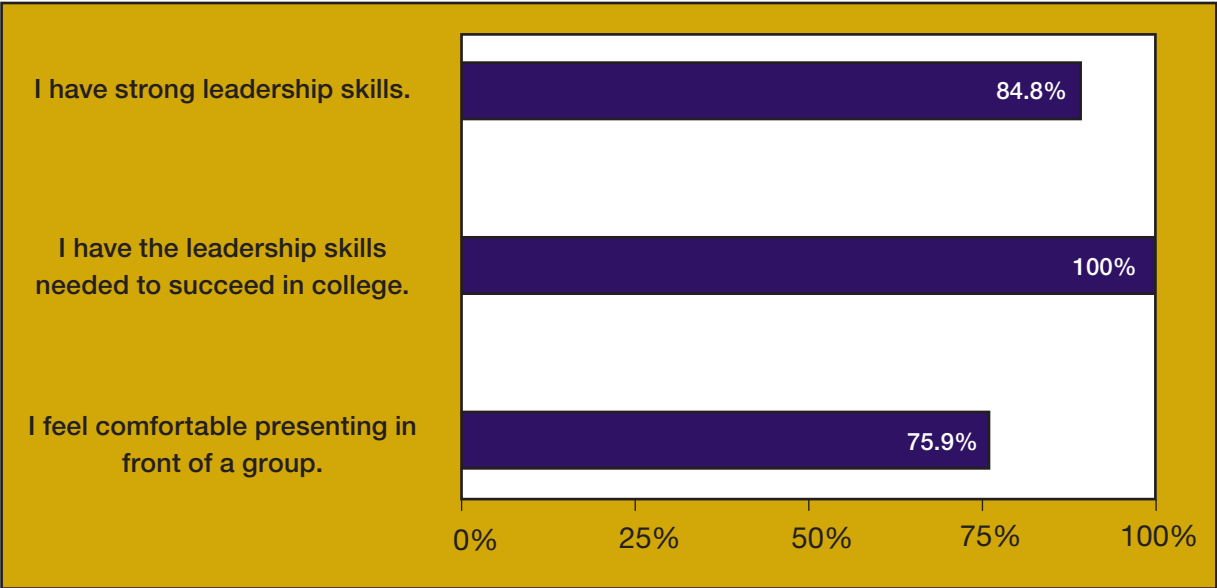
Summer Student Leadership Camp

Cohort Event

GEAR UP also offered a Summer Student Leadership Camp in 2009 for all students. The Summer Camp was conducted on the campus of Heritage University in Toppenish. The purpose of the leadership camp was to increase the students' knowledge about leadership, self-awareness, self-confidence, communication, teamwork skills, goal-setting and college.

The program included a specialized curriculum with instructors working in small groups to maximize learning and student interaction. The evaluators administered a post student survey to measure the students' learning as a result of the Summer Camp. The results demonstrate strong evidence that students increased their leadership skills. The following graph illustrates the evaluation results.

Post Summer Leadership Camp Survey

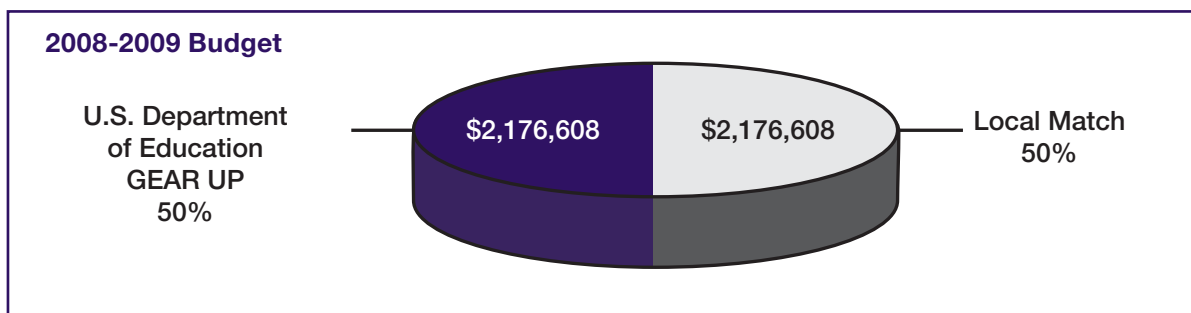




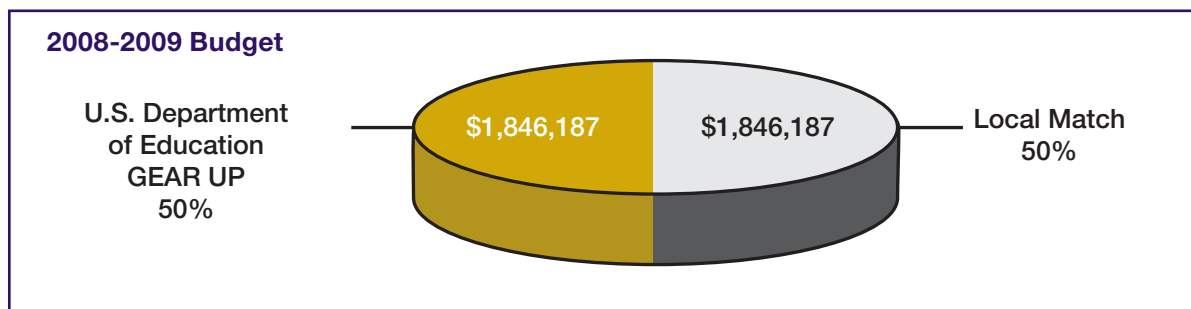
Financial Resources

The UW GEAR UP Programs are funded by two large federal U.S. Department of Education grants. The first was awarded in 2005 and the second in 2006. These are both six year grants. Each grant must also match local dollars up to the equal amount of the grant received. The following provides the funding amounts for each grant.

Two Valleys One Vision Grant - \$4,353,216 million



SKY's the Limit Grant - \$3,692,374 million





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