

GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs



January 2012

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GEAR UP Idaho News

Idaho was awarded \$23 million in federal grant funding in October 2011 to help more Idaho students go on to postsecondary education. Idaho was one of 66 out of 236 state and partnership applicants to receive an award. Through this new GEAR UP grant, Idaho will be able to serve 6,000 new students statewide in middle schools where 50 percent of students are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch.

The GEAR UP Idaho program implements statewide services and support to address financial, social and landscape barriers that Idaho students face on their path to postsecondary education. The program is aligned with Idaho's Students Come First reform laws to improve student achievement, increase high school graduation rates and ensure successful entrance and completion of postsecondary programs.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GEAR UP IDAHO 2 SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

Aberdeen Middle School
William Thomas Middle School
Boundary County Middle School
Buhl Middle School
Clark County Middle/Senior High School
Prairie Jr/Sr High School
Culdesac School
Emmett Middle School
Gooding Middle School
Homedale Middle School
Kellogg Middle School
Clark Fork Jr/Sr High School
Lapwai Middle/High School

Meadows Valley School
East Minico Middle School
West Minico Middle School
Mt. Harrison Jr/Sr High School
Notus Jr/Sr High School
Lakeside Jr/Sr High School
Salmon Middle School
Sugar-Salem Junior High School
Robert Stewart Middle School
Vallivue Middle School
Weiser Middle School
Priest River Junior High School
Harold B Lee Middle School

State Department of Education News

HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES APPROVE ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT

The House and Senate Education Committees voted to approve the State Board of Education's proposed rule for students in the Class of 2016 to take two (2) online credits before graduating from high school. There was only one dissenting vote in each committee.

The Senate Education Committee approved the rule based on the commitment that the State Department of Education and State Board of Education would work to run a new rule in 2012 removing the requirement that one of those credits be delivered asynchronously.

The current rule requires students in the Class of 2016 to take two credits online, one of which had to be delivered asynchronously – where students move at their own pace. The other options are synchronous courses – courses delivered in real time through video conferencing or other means – or blended courses that combine face-to-face time and digital learning.

The Committees heard testimony from representatives of the Idaho School Boards Association, Boise School District and Meridian School District who said they would support the rule if the asynchronous requirement was removed. Superintendent Luna said Wednesday he would support the removal of this requirement, based on the feedback from local school districts. Read Superintendent Luna's full testimony online at <http://educationidaho.blogspot.com/>.

GOVERNOR BUTCH OTTER OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 1st IS IDAHO DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

Events Include:

- Launch of Idaho State Department of Education Students Come First Universal Design for Learning Digital Lesson Plan Contest \$108,000 in Awards for the Exemplary Lesson Plan Contest!
- Launch of and Idaho State Department of Education Student Online Art Gallery Show and \$6,000 in Lesson Plan Awards!

The Idaho State Department of Education, in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, is pleased to announce its participation in the first-ever Digital Learning Day campaign. This national campaign, with participation by 37 states, is designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students, exploring how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve-to build the skills needed to succeed in college, a career, and life. Through the work of State Superintendent Tom Luna and the Students Come First Technology Task Force and by hosting a Digital Learning Day on February 1, 2012, Idaho strives to build momentum for a wave of innovation that changes policies, shifts attitudes, and supports wide-scale adoption of these promising instructional practices.

All education stakeholders—districts, schools, teachers, students, librarians, parents, and business and community partners—are encouraged to register to support and participate in Digital Learning Day at <http://www.digitallearningday.org/>

- **Districts can sign up for iPad Pilot Project** – Based on feedback from local school districts, the State Department of Education has created an iPad Pilot Project. This project is separate from the one-to-one initiative for Idaho high schools, which will begin to be implemented in Fall 2012. Through the iPad Pilot Project, the Department has acquired three district sets of 36 iPads to help districts begin creating the 21st Century Classroom in any classroom they choose. Districts will be able to keep the sets for six weeks. During this time, administrators, teachers, and students will look to achieve programmatic and pedagogical objectives, to gather a better understanding of the benefits of mobile devices in the classroom, and to generate ideas for the implementation of new technologies in all classrooms. District leaders can complete the application found online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm and e-mail the completed application to amacdonald@sde.idaho.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Macdonald, Education Technology Coordinator, at (208) 332-6955.
- **NSBA site visit in Klein, Texas** – The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is offering a site visit to Klein Independent School District in Klein, Texas in February. This is one of the locations the Technology Task Force visited this fall to learn more about the implementation of mobile computing devices and classroom technology. School leaders and school board members from across the nation who want to see the technology in action in all grade levels are invited to attend. Registration is first-come, first-served and capped at 100, so register early at https://secure.nsba.org/register/sites/2012/reg_welcome.cfm. For more information, please visit <http://www.nsba.org/tlbsitevisits/klein.htm>.
- **2012 National STEM Video Game Challenge** – The deadline to submit ideas and games for the 2012 National STEM Video Game Challenge, an initiative designed to unlock the promise of breakthrough technologies to transform teaching and learning is **March 1, 2012**. The contest is open to students and game designers in four levels: middle school, high school, college and graduate students, and educators. Visit <http://stemchallenge.org/Default.aspx> for more information.
- **Apply to be a NASA Explorer School** – Do you have a favorite school or teacher you think could benefit from free NASA science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training and professional development opportunities? All public school and private schools with grades 4-12 are eligible. NASA Explorer Schools invests in STEM educators to inspire and engage future scientists, engineers and technicians that NASA needs to continue our journey. NES gives educators of grades 4-12 access to NASA's people, missions, research and facilities. We have assembled a comprehensive set of NASA's free classroom materials to help you teach dozens of STEM concepts. To access the Virtual Campus, you must register to become a NASA Explorer. Visit <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/nes2/home/index.html> for more information or contact Jordan Snyder, cc', Goddard's Space Flight Center NASA Explorer School project coordinator.
- **Northwest Professional Educators (NWPE) Teacher Scholarship and Classroom Grants** – Educators can now apply for NWPE Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Grants. Teacher Scholarships (up to \$500) are designed to help educators advance their professional career and pays for conferences, workshops, travel expenses, tuition, and books. Classroom Grants (up to \$500) can help pay for a class project or materials such as software, supplies, calculators, books, lab materials, and technology. Applications for NWPE Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Grants are due by **March 31, 2012**. For more information, please visit www.nwpe.org.

- **PSC Professional Development Grants now available** – Educators can now apply for the Professional Standards Commission’s Professional Development Grant. Grants for up to \$500 will be made available to applicants every three years. We hope teachers will write creative and innovative proposals with their colleagues and for their students. Grant monies cannot be used to obtain credit. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/psc/index.htm>. Applications are due by **April 1, 2012**.

Total Instructional Alignment (TIA)

GEAR UP Idaho will support systemic transition to the academic standards necessary to prepare students for postsecondary programs. Professional development will also be provided to GEAR UP administrators, teachers and staff on how to interpret and effectively implement the Common Core standards through Total Instructional Alignment (TIA).

Total Instructional Alignment is a process that has proven to be a key strategy in creating high achieving classrooms, school, and districts. The TIA process is comprehensive: from standards to student success! TIA skillfully assists teachers and administrators by developing an in-depth understanding of the alignment process: What it means, why it is important for *all* students, what it looks like in schools and in individual classrooms, and most importantly, how to achieve it in *every* school and in *every* classroom.

The primary goal of Total Instructional Alignment is creation of a “PK-20 seamless educational system” through alignment of the following educational components (supported by intensive training and professional development):

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Idaho K-12 content standards to curriculum, instruction and assessment
- School district and P-20 classroom instructional systems; both vertically (between grade levels in a content area) and horizontally (across a grade level in a content area)
- Classroom instructional practices including sheltered instruction connectivity, assessment item development, classroom walk-throughs, PLC's, RtI, and 21st Century technology (and any federal and/or state educational initiative as it comes forward)
- University teacher education program standards, content and delivery
- Standards and expectations for "college and career readiness"

April 11-12, 2012
 April 18-19, 2012
 April 25-26, 2012
 April 27, 2012
 June 4-8, 2012
 June 18-22, 2012
 July 9-13, 2012

Facilitator Training – Moscow
 Facilitator Training – Meridian
 Facilitator Training – Pocatello
 Collaboration Workshop – Pocatello
 Working Conference – Pocatello
 Working Conference – Meridian
 Working Conference – Moscow

For more information about TIA please visit: <http://ed.isu.edu/depts/tia/index.shtml>

Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative

Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative (CCTI) is an online training opportunity for middle and high school counselors that can improve their effectiveness in preparing all students for college — especially those from low-income families who would be first-generation college students.

Course Description: Strategies for School Counselors in Career and Academic Counseling

CCTI is divided into three modules. The modules incorporate a learning community approach, which has proven effective for delivering online professional development for educators. Under this approach, school counselors participate in the online courses as a “cohort” — or group — and in structured online discussions with their colleagues and the instructor during each of the online module sessions. Each module includes:

- goals for learning & online readings
- explorations of online resources for students, such as test preparation, scholarships and interactive college-choice Web sites
- practical online or off-line activities, including building a bank of resources to assist students with career or college choices
- focused online discussion prompts to guide each session’s discussions with other counselors
- short videos of actual counselors demonstrating effective practices
- a culminating project that enables counselors to demonstrate what they have learned during the module, and
- resources counselors can incorporate into their work with students immediately.

Statewide FAFSA Completion Event

Financial aid professionals, along with other volunteers and tax preparers, will be on hand to lend their expertise to students and their families, helping them to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA Completion events are funded through the College Access Challenge Grant and will take place statewide, and are designed to provide free information and assistance to students and families who are applying for financial aid for postsecondary education.

Date: February 4, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Locations (to date): Sandpoint High School
University of Idaho
McCall High School
Boise State University
Salmon High School
College of Southern Idaho
Idaho State University – Pocatello
Idaho State University – Idaho Falls

North Idaho College
Lewis-Clark State College
Weiser High School
Idaho Hispanic Cultural Center
Eastern Idaho Technical College
Idaho Hispanic Cultural Center – Nampa
Idaho State University – Meridian

2012 ACT Test Information

<i>Test Dates</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Scores by Web</i>	<i>Scores by Mail</i>
February 11	ACT	January 13	February 27	March 3
April 14	ACT	March 9	April 30	May 5
June 9	ACT	May 4	June 25	June 30

2012 SAT Test Information

<i>Test Dates</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Scores by Web</i>	<i>Scores by Mail</i>
March 10	SAT	February 10	March 29	April 7
April 18	SAT	Idaho Statewide Test Day		
May 5	SAT	April 6	May 24	June 2
June 2	SAT	May 8	June 21	June 30

Important Upcoming GEAR UP Events

Statewide FAFSA DAY

February 4, 2012
State of Idaho

Dependable Strengths Training

March 20-30, 2012
Pocatello, Idaho

NCCEP/GEAR UP National Conference

February 11-15, 2012
New York City

Dependable Strengths Training

April 5-6, 2012
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Lift Up America Kickoff

February 18, 2012
Boise, Idaho

Lift Up America Finale

April 14, 2012
Boise, Idaho

GEAR UP Idaho Spring Meeting

March 7-9, 2012
Boise, Idaho

Idaho State Prevention Conference
April 19-20, 2012; Pre-Workshop April 18
Sun Valley, Idaho

Dependable Strengths Training

March 19-20, 2012
Boise, Idaho

NCCEP/GEAR UP National Conference

July 14-18, 2012
Washington DC