

WHEREAS; regardless of age, background, income, or ZIP code, every Wisconsinite deserves the opportunity to access a high-quality and affordable education, from early childhood to postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS; funded through the United States Department of Education, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a competitive grant program designed to increase postsecondary representation of students experiencing poverty, students of color, students from underserved communities, and students who may be the first person in their family to go to college; and

WHEREAS; GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year grants to states, local educational agencies, and degree-granting institutions of higher education to deliver support and resources to students and their families that help fulfill their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS; GEAR UP includes services such as tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships and embraces public-private partnerships to support students as they prepare to enter postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin GEAR UP, which is administered by the Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs Team of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), utilizes the priority model to identify 2,500 middle and high school students across eight high-need districts and serves them until the end of their first year of college; and

WHEREAS; by focusing on underserved communities, Wisconsin GEAR UP helps students build strong academic foundations to ensure greater opportunities for academic and career success; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins DPI in reaffirming its commitment to providing quality education to students of all backgrounds and helping them to achieve their greatest potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 25 through 29 2023 as

NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 13th day of September 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State