

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, the 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, rigorous academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships to prepare the students it serves to enter and succeed in higher education; and

WHEREAS; GEAR UP embraces public-private partnerships, enlisting the resources of government, business, and community groups to support students living in poverty as they prepare to enter postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin GEAR UP, a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Programs, 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 highest potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 20 through 24, 2021, as

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 7th day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State