



# Montana GEAR UP

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

## 2006-2007 MONTANA GEAR UP Annual Summary

Montana GEAR UP is finishing the second year of a six-year, \$18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of students from low income communities who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. This is Montana's second statewide GEAR UP grant. The program's three goals are to promote early college and career awareness; financial aid awareness, planning, and scholarships; and improved academic support and rigor. The program serves an entire cohort of students beginning in the seventh grade and follows the cohort through high school. Grant funds are also used to provide scholarships.

### 2006-2007 Quick Facts

- ✓ Served 1,585 students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 25 schools (65% American Indian, 32% Caucasian, and 3% other).
- ✓ Conferred \$300,000 in scholarships to 15 GEAR UP seniors from the 1999 state grant.
- ✓ Sponsored 182 school personnel from all 25 schools in professional development, such as Ruby Payne's *Framework for Understanding Poverty*, the State Reading Conference, the Montana School Counselor Association, computer aided design, and Indian education. Total funding for professional development events exceeded \$181,500.
- ✓ Funded ACT's EXPLORE test at 19 GEAR UP schools for 540 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- ✓ Hosted the GEAR UP Annual Fall Conference, *Believing in Achieving*, with an emphasis on raising the educational expectations of students and educators.
- ✓ Offered academic enrichment summer camps at MSU-Northern, Carroll College, Dawson Community College, and Montana Tech serving over 150 GEAR UP students.
- ✓ Trained 25 teachers at 11 GEAR UP schools, serving 582 students, to use technology to introduce new concepts in the classroom setting and to deliver differentiated instruction to individual students; the training was funded through a \$50,000 grant from the National Council for Community & Education Partnerships and the AT&T Foundation.
- ✓ Awarded \$32,600 to 163 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program sponsored essay contest.

### GEAR UP Activities for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cohorts

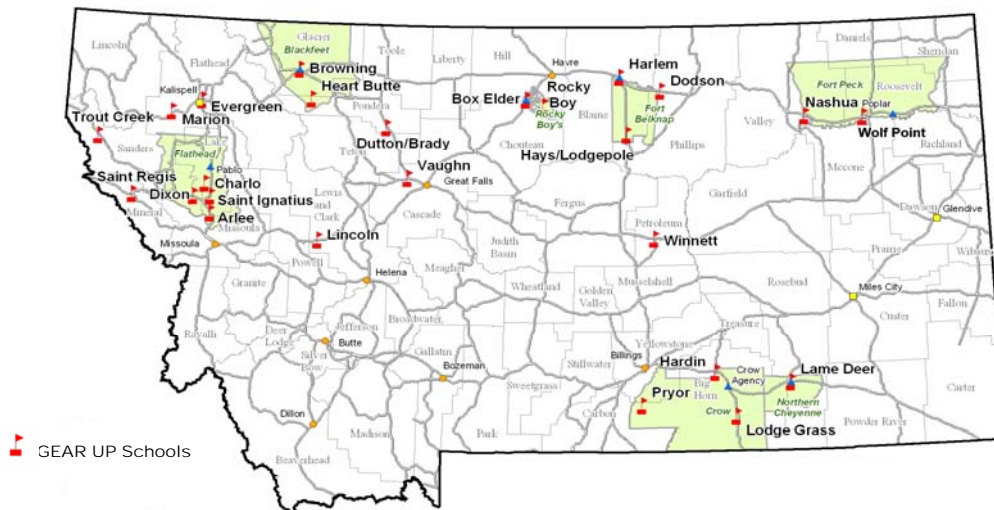
Number of students served April 2006 – March 2007:

- Tutoring & academic enrichment services: 1583
- Workshops: academic, college/career, & financial: 977
- College visits/college student shadowing: 678
- Counseling: academic, career/college, & financial: 644
- Educational field trips 387
- Computer assisted lab: 318

### Student & Parent Survey Highlights

- 92 percent of students and their parents believe the student will pursue postsecondary education.
- Educators identified "ways to improve student learning" as the top professional development that would have the most impact on improving education at their schools.
- 66 percent of the 2006 Montana GEAR UP graduates are pursuing postsecondary education (n=406).

### Montana GEAR UP Schools



Montana GEAR UP believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Montana students, regardless of economic background, and strives to empower them to realize that ambition. Montana GEAR UP brings this message to middle and high schools, students, their parents, and the community.

- Montana GEAR UP mission statement