



Oregon  
University  
System

## Media Alert

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### Office of the Chancellor

P.O. Box 751  
Portland, OR 97207  
PHONE (503) 725-5700  
FAX (503) 725-5709  
www.ous.edu

**Contacts:** Kristin Strommer, GEAR UP: Cell – 541-224-2348  
Di Saunders, OUS: Work – 503-725-5714; Cell – 971-219-6869

**Sources:** Stephanie Carnahan, GEAR UP Program Manager: Cell – 541-359-6755  
Anne Stephens, GEAR UP: Cell – 541-968-7189

### Oregon rural youth GEAR UP for college success at 3-day Monmouth event

*GEAR UP Student Leadership Event engages rural middle school students from across Oregon*

**WHEN:** Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm to Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm  
*Note: this is not a public event but members of the **media are welcome** and invited.*

**WHERE:** Western Oregon University (WOU), Monmouth, Werner University Center, Columbia Room (call for specific locations of various events over the 3-day period).

**WHAT:** The 2009 GEAR UP Student Leadership Event will bring more than 100 rural middle school students – and about 20 teachers/community members – from across Oregon to gain pre-college leadership and academic skills this week at a three-day training sponsored by the federally-funded Oregon GEAR UP program. GEAR UP has partnered with *Quantum Learning* to provide students with specific tools that they can use in school and in life to overcome obstacles and succeed both interpersonally and academically, and to provide teachers the skills to improve outcomes even for the most challenged students. The students will be introduced to the WOU campus and college life through tours, scavenger hunts, and student presentations.

GEAR UP students attending the Leadership Event are from **Irrigon, Cottage Grove, Lincoln City, Myrtle Creek, and Glendale, Oregon.**

**WHO:** GEAR UP – which stands for **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs** – is a federally-funded program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enroll and succeed in college. More information about the Oregon GEAR UP program is available online at **gearup.ous.edu**, or by calling one of the contacts or sources listed above.

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