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## GEAR UP NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

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*"Luck is great, but most of life is hard work."*

*– Iain Duncan Smith*

### **STAFF NOTE**

March is another busy month for many of us! There is a lot to juggle, but if you prioritize and keep a sense of urgency, anything is possible! Many of you are now in the final stretch of your school year and may be feeling overwhelmed, but there is still much more to accomplish!

Here are some tips to help ease you through the month of March:



#### **Get active!**

- Boost your energy with an exercise of choice! A simple stretch will do just fine, but keep your body moving! It is also important to eat well and stay hydrated!



#### **Manage your time!**

- It is important to make sure you are running the clock – the clock should not be running you! Use a planner/calendar to help keep you organized and on track.

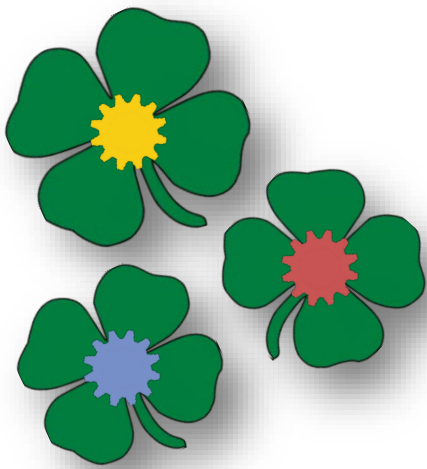


#### **As always: Take time to rest!**

- As important as it is to stay on task, it is just as important to make sure you well rested and taken care of. If you can, sneak in a nap or a few extra hours of sleep, but do not over sleep!

Cisco Tapia, GEAR UP New Mexico Public Relations & Outreach Coordinator





## **GEARING UP FOR THE ACT**

The ACT is undoubtedly an important part of the college-going journey. Scores can determine the school you attend and even the classes you take.

Most importantly, however, the ACT can also determine which scholarships are available for you. Nonetheless, scores are critical to a student's postsecondary opportunities.

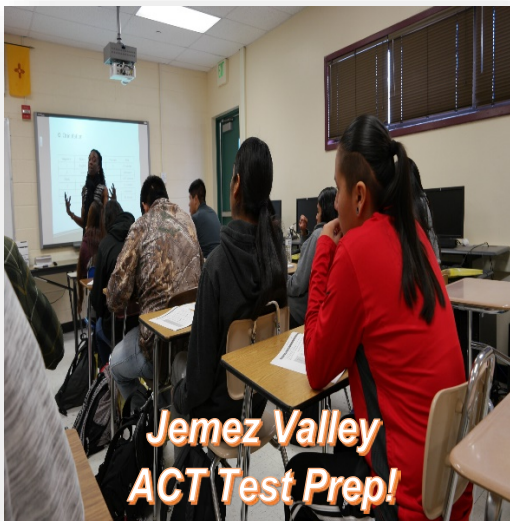
GEAR UP NM is proud to provide free of cost ACT prep and support to our students and staff.

Our districts have participated in ACT boot camps, free ACT tutoring, and have gained valuable strategies on how to improve their study habits and scores. GEAR UP NM has even provided a free ACT test day for our 11 districts. Just this year alone more than 900 GEAR UP students have taken the ACT free of cost!

To help prepare you up for the upcoming ACT test make-up day, here are 10 tips to help you achieve a higher score!

*Also, be sure to ask your Program Coordinator about the GUNM ACT Resource Guide!*

**ACT Test Make-Up Day Is  
March 12<sup>th</sup>!**



# 10 ACT Score Improvement Tips



**1** Start Studying Immediately After A Test Date



**2** Utilize Your Score Report



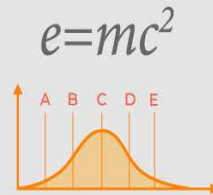
**3** Improve Your Time Management



**4** Work On Reading Quickly



**5** Memorize Formulas And Rules



**6** Get Enough Sleep Before The Test



**7** Remain Calm

**8** Utilize Process of Elimination



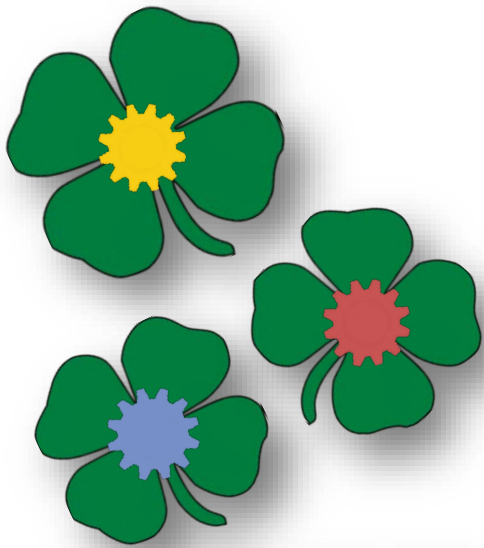
**9** Skip Hard Questions



**10** Take Multiple Practice Tests







## **GEAR UP IN SAN ANTONIO**

This past month, GEAR UP New Mexico staff had the opportunity to travel to San Antonio, TX for the annual NCCEP (National Council for Community and Education Partnerships)/GEAR UP Conference. The Conference is the national convening of professional, parents, students, policymakers, and community partners supporting our programs and the students we serve nationwide.

Several GEAR UP New Mexico staff were able to hone their professional development skills while in the Alamo City all while finding new ideas, strategies, resources, and tools to effectively serve the students in our state. There were more than 100 concurrent sessions along with other networking opportunities.

A key takeaway from this year's conference are three strategies pertaining to the GEAR UP mission as outlined by NCCEP:



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
**Community and Education  
Partnerships**



### **Excel**

- o *Developing a mindset of continual improvement and equipping GEAR UP professional and youth with the skills necessary to maximize their programmatic impact.*



### **Prove**

- o *Ensuring that GEAR UP programs and professionals have the necessary skills, capabilities, and infrastructure to make informed decisions based on sound data, research, and evaluations.*



### **Mobilize**

- o *Strengthening our collective voice to secure the long-term sustainability and growth of GEAR UP locally and nationally.*

The GEAR UP New Mexico team is back home and ready to strengthen the hard work we have been doing thus far! With only two months left in the current school year, it is our mission to finish stronger than ever!

Let's excel, prove, and mobilize together!



***Mastery Prep Honoring  
Leaders in GEAR UP!***



***GEAR UP Los Angeles,  
Nevada, New Mexico,  
Texas, and Seattle!***



***GEAR UP NM Team-  
Building and Debriefing!***

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/GEARUPNM/>

Contact:

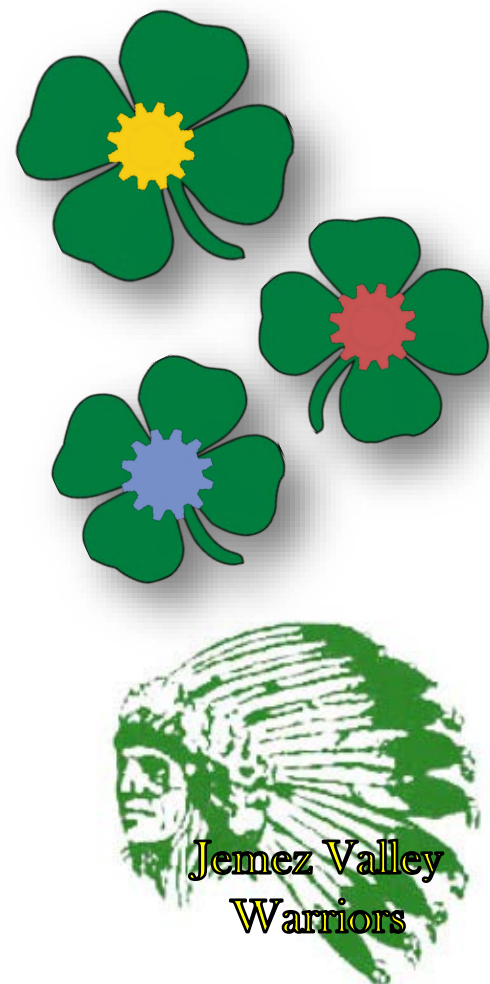
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# GUNM STUDENT OF THE MONTH



## GET TO KNOW JUSTIN

Justin Madalena is a senior at Jemez Valley High School. He has been a GEAR UP student since 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Justin has a passion for art, drawing, computer graphics, and animation. He is an active student and athlete within the Warrior community. Justin serves as a GEAR UP CEO (College Engagement Organization) and Student Council Junior Class Representative. Some of duties have included providing support to his peers during fundraising. Justin has also volunteered to be the turkey in the Annual Turkey Trot for the elementary and middle schools, and during Jemez Valley Public Schools' Mobile Food Pantry that serves families of JVPS and the local communities. He is an all-season athlete representing JVHS and his Pueblo communities of Jemez, Ohkay Owingeh, and Laguna in Cross Country, Basketball, and Track & Field.

Justin's involvement and leadership skills have provided him opportunities to participate in GEAR UP (GU) events: AVID, College Advantage Camp, Career Academy, College Bus Tours, Student Leadership Conferences, CEO Film Project, GU Assemblies (plan and lead), and the Youth Leadership Summit (2018 – Washington, DC). His athleticism has led him to medal in NM State Championships for Cross Country and Track & Field, recognition by the Navajo Times as an All-Star for Cross Country, and recognition by the NM Track Cross Country Coaches Association as an All-Harrier Runner.

When asked what GEAR UP means to him, this is what Justin had to say:

"GEAR UP is helping me to reach my personal, educational, and career goals by developing my leadership skills, encouraging me to step out of my comfort-zone, and opening doors to opportunities to participate in college visits, tutoring, conferences, etc. GEAR UP has given me the opportunity to represent my school and communities. Thank you to all the NM GEAR UP staff and JVPS GEAR UP staff (Mrs. Margarita Riley and Ms. Tiffany Jaramillo) for your encouragement and support."

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<https://www.facebook.com/GEARUPNM/>

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## **GUNM SCHOLARSHIP EXPLORATION**

We all know searching for scholarships can be a hassle. It can take countless Google searches to find a scholarship you qualify for, and can even take more time filling out the application itself. Regardless of how time consuming you might think searching for scholarships can be, they are out there, and there is lots of **FREE** money to be claimed!

## **APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ON YOUR PHONE**

There is now a way to help you ease that search for that FREE money thanks to Scholly. Scholly is the boldest and baddest scholarship matching platform out there. It's simple, accurate, and full of scholarship management tools. Made by students for students, the team at Scholly knows what it's like to have to search for scholarships. The money is FREE, the impact is real, the app is Scholly. **With over \$100 million in scholarship awards won**, here's to helping you achieve your potential!

*To Find Out More About Scholly, Click The Link Below:*

<https://myscholly.com/story>

## **NEW MEXICO PTA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

### Background

The New Mexico Land of Enchantment PTA Student Scholarship is awarded to a PTA/PTSA member and graduating senior from a New Mexico high school on the basis of:

- A history of advocating for others in their current school or in their community
- A demonstration of personal qualities, such as perseverance, initiative, and a willingness to work hard
- The potential to be a well-respected representative of their home high school at their post-secondary institution

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a graduating senior and a member of a PTA/PTSA (local unit or Land of Enchantment PTA) from a New Mexico high school that is in compliance with the NMPTA Standards of Affiliation. Check with your PTA/PTSA leadership for confirmation.
- Must graduate from a high school within the scholarship year (July 1 to June 30)
- Must be enrolled in a post-secondary institution within two semesters after high school graduation

### Amount

- This scholarship is funded through the Land of Enchantment affiliate of the New Mexico PTA in the amount of \$300.

**New Mexico**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. one voice.*

*To Apply For The Land Of Enchantment PTA Scholarship, Click The Link Below:*

<https://www.newmexicopta.org/>

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/GEARUPNM/>



Contact:

(505) 660-6335



Email:

cisco.tapia@state.nm.us



**Totalling \$1,088,000+**

1. AbbVie Immunology Scholarship: \$15,000
2. ALASY Scholarship: \$5,000
3. Anthony A. Martino Scholarship: \$10,000
4. APWU E.C. Hallbeck Scholarship: \$8,000
5. Ben Carlson Memorial Scholarship: \$10,000
6. Combat Medic Service Scholarship: \$5,000
7. DOTC Scholarship: \$20,000
8. Dr. MLK Jr. Justice Advocacy: \$5,000
9. ECF Fellowship Partners Program: \$15,000
10. Edward T. Hodge Scholarships: \$5,000
11. HBPA Horsemen's Scholarship: \$6,000
12. Humana Foundation Scholarship: \$12,000
13. ICMA-RC Employee Scholarship: \$10,000
14. Jill M. Balboni Memorial Scholarship: \$5,000
15. Karen DM & Solvay/Eco Scholarship: \$10,000
16. Life Lessons Scholarship Program: \$15,000
17. Lighthouse Guild Scholarships: \$100,000
18. MMUF Travel & Research Grants: \$5,000
19. NFBS Program: \$12,000
20. NFB Hank LeBonne Scholarship: \$5,000
21. Nucor Foundation Scholarship: \$12,000
22. O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Fund: \$5,000
23. Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Program: \$7,500
24. SGM Douglas R. Drum Scholarship: \$5,000
25. Social Entrepreneur Award: \$10,000
26. SSWA Outstanding Service Award: \$7,500
27. Graydon & Myrth Fox Scholarship: \$5,000
28. "Making a Difference" Scholarship: \$5,000
29. Kim & Harold Louie Scholarship: \$25,000
30. PGF Fellowship: \$7,500
31. TheDream.US Scholarship: \$25,000
32. Tidewater Builders Scholarship: \$5,000
33. Tina E. Yeh Fellowship: \$3,000
34. Winterhoff Arthritis Scholarship: \$30,000
35. Youth Free Expression Film Contest: \$1,000

**+ MORE!**

*For More Information About  
These Scholarships, Click The  
Link Below*

<https://www.tun.com/scholarships/march-scholarships/>

Website:

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# KATE O'NEILL CONFIRMED AS HEAD OF HED



GEAR UP New Mexico would like to recognize and congratulate Dr. Kate O'Neill on her confirmation as the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Higher Education Department. Dr. O'Neill was confirmed by our state Senate on Wednesday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Since taking on her new duties in January, Dr. O'Neill has already made a tremendous adjustment as our state's higher education leader. Her years of experience and dedication are an extraordinary asset to our state, our students, and our higher education system.

Congratulations, Dr. O'Neill! We are excited to have you as our next leader!

## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

- **UNM** Scholarships: **Local**
  - <http://scholarship.unm.edu/devl/scholarships/resident.html>
- **ENMU** Scholarships: **Local**
  - <https://www.enmu.edu/admission/scholarships/in-state-freshmen>
- **NMSU** Scholarships: **Local**
  - <https://fa.nmsu.edu/scholarships/>
- **NMHU** Scholarships: **Local**
  - <http://www.nmhu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/>

*Please note: Listed scholarships have various deadlines.*

## CATCH GEAR UP ONLINE

Please note that GEAR UP New Mexico is revamping its social media platforms and *we need your help!* Be sure to "like" us and feel free to tag us in your photos and use the hashtag #GEARUPNM Below is a link to GEAR UP NM's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/GEARUPNM/>

As always, feel free to use the GEAR UP/HED website to your benefit. Changes to the website are to come.

<http://www.hed.state.nm.us/programs/gear-up-new-mexico-home-page.aspx>

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - National FAFSA Priority Date
- March 12<sup>th</sup>:
  - ACT Test Make-up Day
- March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>:
  - Spring College Bus Tour A
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Submissions Due
- March 26<sup>th</sup>:
  - Spring Student Leadership Conference
- March 29<sup>th</sup>:
  - Math Tutoring Progress Monitoring Template Due



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