

## Overview of Oklahoma GEAR UP

Oklahoma was one of 21 states to receive a GEAR UP state grant in 1999. The state grant is distinct from the GEAR UP partnership grants awarded to local school districts and higher education institutions throughout Oklahoma; however, both the state grant and the partnership grants work in concert to enhance opportunities for students.

The primary goal of GEAR UP is to ensure all students in Oklahoma are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education. This goal is being accomplished through a three-pronged approach of scholarship funding, college readiness and statewide awareness.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Oklahoma with a state GEAR UP grant totaling \$20.5 million in August 1999. The grant has been matched by more than \$25 million from state and partner resources. With the addition of year six federal funding, Oklahoma's GEAR UP program has received approximately \$25 million in federal funds since 1999. GEAR UP receives 50 percent of total funding from the federal government and 50 percent from other organizations.

The GEAR UP program is administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.



### Oklahoma GEAR UP

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
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[www.okhighered.org/gearup/](http://www.okhighered.org/gearup/)



## Oklahoma GEAR UP Essay Contest

## Awards Ceremony

June 30, 2005

# GEAR UP Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

## PROGRAM

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Chancellor  
Oklahoma State System of Higher Education*

### MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

*Chairman  
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*

### AWARDS CEREMONY

#### Announcement of 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners

*Oklahoma GEAR UP Regional Coordinator*

#### Announcement of 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners

*Oklahoma GEAR UP Regional Coordinator*

#### Announcement of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners

*Associate Vice Chancellor and  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor*

### CLOSING COMMENTS

*Associate Vice Chancellor and  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor*

## 2005 Oklahoma GEAR UP Essay Contest Winners

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Miranda Bray**, Madill Elementary, Kingston; **Abby Gelino**, Remington Elementary, Tulsa; **Allon Gillispie**, Milfay Elementary, Milfay; **Lauren Hanna**, Banner Elementary School, El Reno; **Sarah Manning**, Banner Elementary School, Yukon; **Johnathon Ridgill**, Edgemere Elementary, Oklahoma City; **Katherine Stephenson**, Vici Elementary, Camargo

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Karrissa Alred**, Tony Goetz Elementary, Muskogee; **Mollie Crank**, Tony Goetz Elementary, Muskogee; **Felicity Harl**, Altus Middle School, Altus; **Stephon Henderson**, Green Pastures Elementary, Spencer; **Ashley Ledbetter**, Tony Goetz Elementary, Muskogee; **Emylee Smith**, Banner Elementary School, El Reno; **Marlin Smith**, Banner Elementary School, Yukon

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Kendra Collins**, Roblyer Middle School, El Reno; **Zack Ellison**, Wagoner Middle School, Wagoner; **Courtney Malott**, Foster Middle School, Tulsa; **Anna Mason**, Central Guymon Junior High, Guymon; **Michelle Montgomery**, Whitney Middle School, Tulsa; **Dominick Praither**, Central Guymon Junior High, Guymon; **Wiley Wright**, Central Guymon Junior High, Guymon

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Melody Cochran**, Inola Middle School, Inola; **Juliet Farrell**, Apache Middle School, Apache; **Gurpreet Kaur**, Plainview Middle School, Ardmore; **Jeri Lollis**, Madill Middle School, Madill; **Carlos Najera**, Webster Middle School, Oklahoma City; **Brian Porter Jr.**, Yale High School, Yale; **Amy Tai**, Jenks Middle School, Tulsa

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Katy Bruce**, Pawhuska High School, Pawhuska; **Haoyu Deng**, Edmond North High School, Edmond; **Amy Easley**, Pawhuska High School, Pawhuska; **Karley Haddox**, Luther Public Schools, Luther; **Tamara Hughes**, Pawhuska High School, Pawhuska; **Nastassia King**, Chickasha High School, Verden; **Ana Ledezma**, Porter Consolidated High School, Porter

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Abigail Le**, Northwest Classen High School, Oklahoma City; **Lacy McCool**, Red Oak High School, Red Oak; **Tracy McCool**, Red Oak High School, Red Oak; **Cari Miller**, Sequoyah High School, Claremore; **Rande Patterson**, Carl Albert High School, Oklahoma City; **Kimberly Perrier**, Owasso Mid-High, Owasso; **Scott Roney**, Town and Country School, Okmulgee

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Ashley Abbe**, Walters High School, Walters; **Stacy Carden**, Apache High School, Lawton; **Briana Croce**, Moss High School, Holdenville; **Ginnifer Fenwick**, Northwest Classen High School, Oklahoma City; **Krystal Floyd**, Marietta High School, Marietta; **Cory Satepauhoodle**, Apache High School, Apache; **Chelsea Short**, Tahlequah High School, Tahlequah

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** **Katy Ellington**, Pawnee High School, Pawnee; **Greg Federko**, Stillwater High School, Stillwater; **Holt Hagy**, Frederick High School, Frederick; **Aurielle Hairston**, Broken Arrow High School, Broken Arrow; **Leslie Ketcher**, Stilwell High School, Stilwell; **Shonda Sherwood**, Wapanucka High School, Bromide; **Vincent Winston**, Douglass High School, Oklahoma City