



2020 GEAR UP Kentucky Institute for a College-Going Culture | March 3-4, 2020

Calling All Culture Carriers

INSTITUTE GOAL:

The 2020 GEAR UP Kentucky Institute for a College-Going Culture will mobilize and equip GEAR UP Kentucky key influencers to support postsecondary student success by being an active contributor to a college-going culture that supports the development and success of the whole student – academically, financially, culturally, emotionally and socially.

These goals will be met through:

- Highlighting and disseminating best practices in the areas of **F**inancial, **A**cademic, **C**ultural, **E**motional, and **S**ocial readiness for postsecondary education (the **FACES** of GEAR UP)
- Equipping with relevant and practical strategies and resources
- Engaging participants in peer learning and discussion within and across education sectors

OVERVIEW

The vision of GEAR UP Kentucky is, “Every student prepared for postsecondary success,” and we are committed to creating a sustainable college-going culture in each school and community we serve. To achieve this vision, GUK’s services are strategically aligned to the *Four Pillars of Student Success*, a theoretical framework that engages each of our students’ key influencer groups (pillars) to mobilize around a common goal of student success.

These four “pillars” of influence include family, institution, community (peers), and self. Whether it is within a home, a school building, a classroom, a college campus or a peer group – each pillar has its own culture, a unique implicit understanding of shared norms, beliefs and behaviors. Each individual within a pillar – students, family members, school leaders, faculty, advisors, peers – is a carrier of its unique culture. If each pillar has a culture of high expectations and support, students are more likely to succeed. Without these supports and expectations, students are less likely to establish sufficient goals or maintain a commitment to postsecondary education.

All four pillars will be represented at the Institute: students, family members, K-12 and postsecondary education professionals, and community members (including GEAR UP Kentucky partner organizations). Centering on the theme “Calling All Culture Carriers,” the Institute will offer participants the opportunity to hear from national, state and local thought leaders and participate in interactive breakout sessions designed to equip key influencers to cultivate and carry cultures that prepare the whole student for success in postsecondary education – financially, academically, culturally, emotionally and socially.

Target audiences:

- GUK Students: 7th graders and 12th grade peer mentors
- GUK Parents/Guardians
- GUK Schools: Team of five per school
- GUK Partners: Including postsecondary institution and statewide partners
- GUK and CPE Staff