

## **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)**

**GEAR UP** is a 6-year US Department of Education funded program. The main goal of the GEAR UP is to assist 410 low-income students improve their academic skills and strengthen their motivation so that they complete elementary school, enroll in high school, and with much support and assistance, enter a postsecondary education institution. The program targets six elementary schools in Pohnpei, FSM: Awak, Saladak, Sekere, Kolonia, Nett and Ohmine. GEAR UP began February 2011 and enrolled 410 7th graders in all of the 6 target schools. The program will continue providing support services including but not limited to counseling, academic, recreation, and career awareness to the same students until they complete their senior year of school.

**GEAR UP** is similar to TRIO programs such as Upward Bound and Talent Search Programs, which are implemented throughout the United States and have been implemented in Pohnpei since 1990s. TRIO programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students usually come from low-income families and families that do not have a college or even high school education. GEAR UP will work for these students to provide them with an opportunity that their families may have never had.

### **Services Provided:**

The main project services include 2-hour after-school instruction and tutoring Monday through Friday during regular school year; computer lab activities on Saturdays; counseling; student-centered summer camp sessions in June and July; and educational, motivational, and cultural events, workshops and field trips throughout the year. Teacher training and educational workshops will be conducted throughout the year and during the summer camp months. These trainings will allow teachers the opportunity to build relationships with other GEAR UP teachers and develop student-centered effective instructional techniques. GEAR UP Pohnpei is committed to making this project a sustainable one that will help a variety of students through the effective teacher trainings and overall implementation that is standards-based.

### **Location:**

GEAR UP is administered from Pohnpei Campus, COM-FSM. The GEAR UP Office is situated at the Lower Pohnpei Campus between the Business Computer lab and Classroom # 1.

### **Contact Information**

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