



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING:**      **March 10, 2020**

**TITLE:**            **GEAR UP Grant**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally-funded college-access program started in 1999, authorized under the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). Since 1999, GEAR UP has served over 1.2 million students in 48 states, including Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. The purpose of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of students from low-income communities who graduate from high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

The U.S. Department of Education awards six- or seven-year grants to states and partnerships between universities and economically disadvantaged schools (defined as free- or reduced-lunch rate of at least 50%). Grantees can serve an entire class of students beginning in grade seven, and follow the cohort through high school (and/or the first year of college). Successful applicants must match 25% of the federal award. This match can be in-kind.

The grant is designed to focus on promoting equitable opportunities for all students in the education pipeline between the middle-grades and the first year of postsecondary education; and, in collaboration with partners, identifies and works to close equity gaps. The **Five E's of Equity** design brings purposeful services that address the needs of students, families, and schools to nurture and sustain a college-going culture. The following statement expresses the Five E's of Equity framework: We *engage* communities, educators, students, and their families through meaningful academic relationships and experiences to *empower* them with the knowledge and tools to overcome systemic inequities. This allows them to *excel* in a rigorous learning environment and *elevate* expectations for high school graduation and for attending college. At the same time, we *enrich* the communities, schools, and families for a strong, sustainable college-going culture.

Since 1999, Arizona has been the recipient of several partnership and four state grants. Northern Arizona University (NAU) has administered both the state grant and the partnership grant since 2000 and has a host of project partners that include the Arizona Business & Education Coalition, Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, Arizona K12 Center, and the Center for the Future of Arizona, just to name a few.

GEAR UP has named Amphitheater High School as a partner for the current seven-year cycle (2019-2026). The yearly allocation from GEAR UP, along with the 25% match, is \$556,400.00.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Governing Board approve this grant.

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**INITIATED BY:**

**Michael Bejarano**  
Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education

**Date: March 2, 2020**

  
**Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent**