GEAR UP is a federal grant program designed to create a systematic and cultural change in public education by reaching out to low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students.

In the next school year, the GEAR UP program at Western Nevada College will serve 11th and 12th grade public students at two Lyon County schools, Silver Stage High School and Yerington High School, respectively. Students will benefit from college and career readiness activities, presentations, and college campus visits during both the fall and spring semesters. An increased effort will also be in place to provide services to students who may not academically be ready for college, but do indeed strive to reach that goal in the future. These activities will empower them to create a realistic vision of their futures and give them the tools to succeed at meeting their academic and professional career goals.

Our priority for these students is to help them gain self-awareness, match their interests to careers, exploration and goal setting activities, help them understand that academic success is important to meet their goals and help them make the transition from high school to college or professional field of interest. The 2017-2018 WNC program focus supports building a holistic college environment through efforts to increase parental knowledge and involvement, students and parental financial literacy (to include knowledge of the FAFSA and other financial assistance), and building organizational and academic skills in students to prepare them adequately for a life outside of their respective high schools.