

Proclamation

Whereas: The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded, competitive grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education;

Whereas: GEAR UP serves low-income, minority, and disadvantaged students and their families from underserved communities who might be the first person in their family to go to college;

Whereas: The GEAR UP Waterbury is a partnership of the Waterbury Public Schools, Naugatuck Valley Community College and the Connecticut State College and Universities;

Whereas: GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year grants to states or partnerships to deliver support and resources to students and their families, starting no later than the 7th grade (middle school), through high school and onward to fulfill their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education;

Whereas: GEAR UP includes interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, financial education and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low income, minority, and disadvantaged first-generation students and their families;

Whereas: GEAR UP is built around public-private partnerships, enlisting the formidable resources of government, business, and community groups to support low-income students as they prepare to enter and succeed in college;

Whereas: GEAR UP Waterbury currently serves approximately 1600 students in the 10th grade, and over 2,400 have been served by the previous GEAR UP grant in our community since 1999;

Whereas: The City of Waterbury is committed to providing a quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their highest potential;

Now Therefore, I, Neil M. O'Leary, Mayor of the City of Waterbury, do hereby recognize National GEAR UP Week in the City and State of Waterbury, CT, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.



Neil M. O'Leary

Mayor, City of Waterbury

Signed under my hand and the seal of the
City of Waterbury this 26th Day of September 2022