



▲ NVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center Instructor Luiz Santos assisting Wilby High School GEAR UP student Donnie Burton during the summer program. Photo Credit: Spencer A. Sloan Photography

GEAR UP Summer 2022

Program Write-up

GEAR UP Waterbury hosted an "Introduction to Manufacturing" summer program at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Rising 10th-grade students from Waterbury Public School (WPS) participated in this program, receiving hands-on experience in the manufacturing industry **through the NVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center**. Students represented multiple WPS schools, including Crosby High School, Kennedy High School, Enlightenment, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury Career Academy, and Wilby High School. Students worked with manufacturing professionals, current NVCC students, and alums to build their projects while learning about the opportunities that NVCC can offer them.

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is one of the largest and most effective federally-funded grant programs **focused on increasing local students' college and career readiness** to think beyond what they see today. GEAR UP is a partnership program between Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, the Waterbury Public Schools, and Naugatuck Valley Community College to support the class of 2025 across the City of Waterbury. This program aims to increase the number of students prepared for and ready to succeed in college and beyond!

GEAR UP summer programs help students improve their academic knowledge, spark new interests, explore potential career paths, learn about college, and help build new skill sets for future success.

To learn more about the GEAR UP program at Naugatuck Valley Community College, please contact Megan Houlihan-Aceto, GEAR UP Director at **www.waterburygearup.com**.

"This program (or event) is funded (in whole or in part) by a \$25.8 Million Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant as implemented by the United States Department of Education."

"There probably isn't a more effective potential career assessment than the practical experience of working in the NVCC manufacturing facility. GEAR UP students were able to create a real connection to their future selves. This allowed them to assess their interests and begin the process of imagining and pursuing the career of their choice."

Tim Magee

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs NVCC

"The college visit to NVCC was enjoyable and informative. It helped me to determine what I want to do after high school. When I did the hands-on manufacturing program, it helped me to decide what career to choose and study for in college."

Melany Patino-Ortiz

10th grade, J.F. Kennedy High School

"Students left this summer program with an enriching experience and an understanding of career opportunities in manufacturing."

Ondri Enwerem

Program Coordinator for Wilby High School and Waterbury Career Academy

