Fitchburg High School juniors will receive services through GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) throughout this academic year. GEAR UP is a program of Mount Wachusett Community College in partnership with the Fitchburg Public Schools, the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, and Three Pyramids, Inc. The primary goal of GEAR UP is to provide participants with the academic support and college preparation necessary to increase their chances at academic success and, ultimately, of college enrollment. GEAR UP is a five-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by Mount Wachusett Community College. Federal funds are matched dollar for dollar by state and local community resources.

Students in the Class of 2005 initially began receiving services in Fall 1998. GEAR UP will continue to offer services to each of the 387 individuals enrolled in the Class of 2005 until graduation.

GEAR UP program staff are located at Fitchburg High School, in the CAPP Student Success Center, directly adjacent to the Guidance office. This Center represents a collaboration between Mount Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg High School, and offers students a space to access targeted academic support services.

GEAR UP works closely with Mount Wachusett Community College’s Federal TRIO/Talent Search Program, Project Greater Opportunities (GO), maximizing the resources of each program to offer the latest in college preparation, financial aid information, and academic workshops to students. The CAPP Student Success Center is funded in part through each initiative.

In addition, GEAR UP supports out of school programs and/or parent initiatives at the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center and Three Pyramids to offer targeted students with specific academic, career, career preparation, internships, social, and cultural programming, designed to enhance their educational experience, while providing community visibility and accessibility outreach for the program.

Specific services GEAR UP currently provides include, but are not limited to; academic counseling, tutoring homework support, after school academic and social activities, college awareness and financial aid workshops and materials, professional development for Fitchburg High School faculty and staff, and MCAS, PSAT/SAT preparation and college admissions assistance.

GEAR UP supports the students at Fitchburg High School through collaboration with existing programs and activities.

For more information on the GEAR UP Program or if you have a disability and require accommodations in order to participate fully in the program activities, please contact Pati Gregson, Director, College Access and Preparation Programs at 978-630-9339 to discuss your specific needs.

A College Access and Preparation Program of Mount Wachusett Community College.
http://capp.mwcc.edu

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