



Media advisory

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Media advisory: GEAR UP conference in Boise focuses on Advanced Opportunities

(BOISE) – Nearly 600 education professionals from western states, including 175 from Idaho, will gather in Boise Sunday through Tuesday, Oct. 16-18, for the GEAR UP West conference, which this year will feature the State Department of Education’s Advanced Opportunities program.

The media are welcome to attend the conference at the Boise Centre, with sessions and speeches geared to equip secondary and post-secondary educators with the best practices and supports for academic advising, student readiness and career/college program expansion. Session topics include building a college-going culture, parent engagement, social emotional learning, and planning a summer camp where fun and learning coexist. Check out the agenda and [other information here](#).

Sunday’s keynote speaker is Greg Sommers, founder of the Core Program, which aims to help schools create safe and protective environments through staff training, student leadership development and student assemblies.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra will address participants at Monday’s keynote luncheon, which will feature Aaron Thompson, a nationally recognized leader in higher education with a focus on policy, student success and organizational leadership and design. He is executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Tuesday’s keynote luncheon speaker is Zuriel Oduwole, a teenager who produced her first feature film in 2014 at age 12 and was dubbed “the world’s most powerful girl” by former Secretary of State John Kerry. A strong advocate for early education, especially for girls, she has spoken to thousands of young people in 11 nations as part of her Dream Up, Speak Up, Stand Up project.

GEAR UP is a collaborative regional conference that engages teachers, counselors, administrators and evaluators working to expand educational access and opportunities for all students, including those from low-income families and underrepresented groups.

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