



# Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

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## Director's Corner

We're off to a great start this year. Over 3,600 students have participated in activities such as:

College visits to schools like Mars Hill, University of Tennessee, and UNC Asheville

College Application Week

Career fair at SCC

Robotics teams and the Lego League Regional Robotics competition at WCU

Western Regional Health Occupations Students of America event at SCC

Getting career and college information on the College Foundation North Carolina (CFNC) website

Some things to look for this winter and spring include: academic camp scholarships for students, financial aid information sessions, professional development opportunities for teachers, parent outreach and more college visits. Please speak with your local Coordinator or check our on-line calendar of events for more information.



Suzanne Vincent, GEAR UP director

## Career Day at Swain County High School

9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Swain High School participated in a Career Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>. GEAR UP staff at the high school organizes three Career Days during the year. For the November 8<sup>th</sup> program, staff invited representatives from five careers: EMT, Highway Patrol, Radiology, Athletic Training and Teaching. EMT was the most popular career.

The next Career Day is January 26<sup>th</sup> and will focus on Nursing, Cosmetology, Acting, Pediatrics, Military and Forestry. GEAR UP staff is always looking for community volunteers who would enjoy talking about their careers

and the steps that got them there. To participate, contact Julie Richards, GEAR UP College Readiness Coach, at [jrichards@swainmail.org](mailto:jrichards@swainmail.org). or call (828) 488-2152. GEAR UP greatly appreciates the community's support for this event.



Swain County 9<sup>th</sup> grade students checking out the ambulance on Career Day.

## Cherokee High School Seniors Take Advantage of CFNC's College Application Week



GEAR UP College Readiness Coach Liddell Shannon assists Cherokee High School Senior Devon Cucumber navigate CFNC's website.

During the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, over one quarter of the CHS Seniors took a break from working on their graduation projects to visit the high school guidance office in order to take advantage of College Application Week. GEAR UP staff was on hand to assist the students with logging on to [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and applying to North Carolina Colleges for free. Among the most popular colleges this week for Cherokee High School seniors were: Mars Hill, Lenoir-Rhyne, Gardner-Webb, and Brevard.

## FAFSA TIME!

Are you a senior interested in applying for financial aid for college? Then it's FAFSA time! The FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) is what you and your parents *must* complete for you to be considered for federal financial aid (i.e., Pell Grants, Work-Study, Stafford Loans).

For information, see your guidance counselor or visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). You can also complete your FAFSA at FAFSA day at SCC in Sylva on Saturday, February 19 from 9 am-noon. Register by calling 866-866-CFNC or on-line at [www.CFNC.org/fafsaday](http://www.CFNC.org/fafsaday)



*Many thanks to our GEAR UP partners, schools, volunteers and community organizations that support the SCC GEAR UP program and make it a wonderful success.*

## Macon Middle School Student Attends Space Camp

Following is an excerpt from Jordan Cabe's essay about his participation in Space Camp:

"My time at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama was one I will remember forever. I met an astronaut, ran space scenarios, and met people from all corners of the U.S.

We observed the night sky, saw an IMAX documentary on the Hubble Space Telescope, and entered a simulation where our bodies were centered and went spinning around in every direction. I received my graduation certificate from Robert 'Hoot' Gibson, an American astronaut who made five trips into space.

I could not have gone without support, thank you. I am happy beyond comprehension that SCC gave me the scholarship to go there."



*Jordan Cabe and Deborah Cabe (mother) at Space Camp Summer, 2010*

## Great Things Happening With Smoky Mountain High Seniors

**For the first time in SMHS history** two seniors have been chosen to play in the US Marine Band. This is also the first time that two performers have been selected from the same school in the same year across the entire Southeast US. Strat Douglas and Zach Wright signed a five-year contract and will attend boot camp for three months before beginning classes at the Marine School of Music.

**Senior Tanner Johnson** has been accepted into Campbell University. In addition to his acceptance to Campbell, Tanner has also been awarded the Scott-Ellis Scholarship in the amount of \$44,000.

**Senior Rusty Mau** has been named a Wendy's High School Heisman National Finalist in a rigorous competition that began with over 55,000 appli-

cants. It seeks to find the best high school student-athletes in the nation who excel in academics, athletics, and community/school.

Rusty has earned a perfect score of 36 in math and science on the ACT. He serves as the president of the National Honor Society, the SMHS Student Body vice president, president of Mu Alpha Theta, and was elected Tar Heels Boys State Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Two national winners, one male and one female, will be selected from the 12 national finalists and will be honored during ESPN's live national telecast of the college Heisman Memorial Trophy presentation, December 11, beginning at 8 pm.

Rusty says that it doesn't really matter if he is able to go any further in the competition because, "it's already been so great." "I'd like to thank everyone for their support," he said.

**Side Note:** Rusty is also a semi-finalist for the Morehead – Cain scholarship at UNC-Chapel Hill.



*ESPN cameraman follows Rusty Mau for a "day-in-the-life" feature.*

*GEAR UP is a discretionary grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Students in Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties and the Qualla Boundary are served through the Southwestern Community College GEAR UP grant.*