

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; and

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; and

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Arizona College GEAR UP 2 is a partnership of the Payson Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Arizona College GEAR UP 2 serves 182 students in 8th grade, and has served almost 400 students in the Payson Unified School District since 1991. The previous GEAR UP grant resulted in 99% graduation rate for the class of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the week of **September 21 - 25, 2015** has been declared National GEAR UP Week; and

WHEREAS, Payson, Arizona is committed to providing a quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their highest potential:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenny J. Evans, Mayor, of the Town of Payson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim:

The Week of September 21, 2015

as

National GEAR UP Week

in Payson and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Payson, Arizona, to be affixed this 17th day of September, 2015.

ATTEST:

Kenny J. Evans, Mayor

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

SEP 17 2015 D.4