

# College Insights MI GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

11-1-13 **MICHIGAN GEAR UP**  
Issue #3 



A project of the VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) and College Positive Volunteers (CPVs) assisting the LSSU MI GEAR UP Program.



## Tips to Success

### Participate in class.

Participating will not only keep you from falling asleep in class, but will make you more enthusiastic for the subject and help you understand it better, which will help out when it comes to testing time.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Survive-Your-Freshman-Year-in-High-School>

## What is the ACT?

What is the ACT? The ACT is the most important paper test of your life (OK there may be other tests—but this one is pretty big!). Your score on the ACT

**The most important paper test of your life.**



coupled with your high school GPA helps determine which colleges offer you admission. That means if you don't do well, you may not be able to go to the college you want. The average

national ACT score is a 21, scores above that make college acceptance much easier. Of course, the higher you go, the easier it gets! Scores below a 17 indicate that you may need extra preparation to complete college level work successfully. Sometimes that means taking an extra math, reading or English class or two when you start college. These *remediation* courses are often not included in your college GPA although you will pay tuition for the class(es). So, if you want to save time and money, it is very important to get the highest score possible. Remember that if you don't do so well the first time around you can always take it again. The ACT doesn't define you—it just offers a glimpse into how you responded to the ques-

tions on one day during the year.

A great way to increase your ACT score is to improve your vocabulary. Remember that the questions aren't really that hard, the trick is to figure out what the question is asking and that takes practice. There are lots of books, articles and websites that will help you prepare for the test, one that we recommend is [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com), it is a free and easy way to study and it will also help you understand the wording of the questions like we were talking about. You should also try to keep calm, it's not the end of the world, everything is going to be fine. Never leave anything blank, even if you have to guess at least there will be a chance of it being right.

## MEET OUR CREW—the MI GEAR UP VISTAs



This month we celebrate the service of one of our VISTAs (Volunteer In Service To America). Matthew Johnson has dedicated eleven months now to the Michigan GEAR UP Program at LSSU, but his term of service will expire at the end of this month. Although he will be gone from our office,

Matthew will still help the program out as one of our college positive volunteer leaders and as President of the Volunteer! LSSU-College Positive Volunteerism Club. We wouldn't let him get away that easily! Matt was born and raised right here in Sault Ste. Marie a lifelong yooper. He was a participant in GEAR UP throughout high school after graduation started as one of the



**College Visit Tip:** When you are travelling around the state and need a moment to stretch your legs—stop in at a college campus. They are marked along the highway, always have lovely grounds and a quick stop will help orient you to the location of the campus in relation to home!

two VISTAs helping out with the program. Maybe you'll see him around if you attend one of our events, or maybe you can spot him at his new place of employment Gordon Food Service!



**LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**Ever thought of your education as a gift back to your family and your community?**

LSSU MI GEAR UP students are being asked to do just that. When they take care of themselves they also take care of their families and their community. When GEAR UP students work hard in school, our community gets smarter! When they prepare for college, when they contribute new ideas and insights, when they participate in community service, they strengthen our neighborhoods. AND when they complete their education after high school, whether in college, in the trades, through military training or other post-secondary education, the talent in our community grows and everyone wins!

This Fall the LSSU GEAR UP program has been helping students “give back” to their communities through a service activity which helps members of the U.S. armed forces and wounded warriors. Students have been creating paracord survival bracelets for care packages distributed by Operation Gratitude.



**What's Been Going On?**

**Upcoming Activities**

Watch for the GEAR UP Crew to be visiting your school soon!

We will be talking about how you can compute your Grade Point Average (GPA) and why you need to know how to do this!



is preparation meeting opportunity!

LSSU MI GEAR UP is paving the way for good luck!

**What is LSSU MI GEAR UP?**

The LSSU MI GEAR UP program is a jointly funded college access program for a specific cohort of secondary students in targeted secondary schools. The U. S. Department of Education funds GEAR UP, the State of Michigan through the King Chavez Parks Initiative funds College Day and Lake Superior State University funds the LSSU educational outreach endeavor as well as facilitates the existence of the program with additional assistance from collaboration with the LSSU Learning Center, and the LSSU Department of Student Affairs, as well as numerous members of the LSSU faculty, administration and staff. The Michigan Campus Compact supports the engagement of college student volunteers in the program as CPVs, a cornerstone element of the program framework.

The student cohort is identified by their enrollment in targeted schools. The present LSSU MI GEAR UP outreach activity began with the students as 7<sup>th</sup> graders in 2011-2012 and will move with the students through successive grades over the ensuing 7 years. The program is intentionally designed to help students envision post-secondary education for themselves, whether through vocational, certificate or college programming. We seek to help the students stay focused on their educations while still in middle and high school. We encourage them to seek out learning opportunities and take challenging courses. And we encourage them to remain in school and graduate. In addition to its primary focus on the MI GEAR UP cohort student, the program seeks to facilitate a *ripple effect*, positively impacting on the sources of influence which assist students to be successful in school and pursue post-secondary education.

Services provided to the participating MI GEAR UP students consistently include opportunities to interact with LSSU university students. The college students are known as College Positive Volunteers or CPVs. LSSU CPVs not only share their encouragement of the youth, they also offer students educational enrichment opportunities such as visits to LSSU laboratories or learning facilities.

For more information about the LSSU MI GEAR UP Program please contact the Program Director:

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