



EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

📍 ANN ARBOR, MI AND SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan's Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) works collaboratively with campus and external partners to develop strategic programs that provide students with resources opportunities, and experiences that enrich academic, social, cultural and personal development at the University of Michigan.

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a U.S. Department of Education discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter into, and succeed in, post-secondary education. Michigan is one of 39 U.S. states that implements GEAR UP and runs one of the nation's largest programs.

OUR APPROACH

Working in partnership with OAMI, Strategic Community Partners (SCP) collaborated to engage and support 300 high school students participating in GEAR UP through a Saturday Academy model.

The program featured the following elements:



Common Application Curriculum

Weekly sessions allowed high school juniors to compose and revise four Common Application essays as they prepared for the college application process. This enabled students to enter their senior year equipped with materials key to their application success.



Supplemental College, Career, And Life Readiness Workshops

Available to high school juniors and seniors, these seminars focused on providing students with foundational skills and resources needed to take the next step in the academic, professional, and personal journeys.



Family Workshops and Wraparound Services

In addition to programming with students, OAMI and SCP designed a curriculum that included a parallel track of workshops for participants' families as they supported their children through their next steps. A special focus was also placed on bringing families together to help build community and long-lasting relationships within the program.

OUR IMPACT

As a result of the SCP team's work with OAMI and GEAR UP, more than 300 students and their families engaged in development opportunities, coaching and received resources to take the next step in their journey to college, career, and life. The curriculum and experience designed by OAMI and SCP also served as a national model for GEAR UP--supporting OAMI and other GEAR UPs in evolving and scaling in future years.