DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) strives to increase the number of underrepresented students from low-income backgrounds who enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP partners with schools, the district, local college, and universities by actively engaging students, parents, teachers, faculty, and administrators to infuse a college-going culture for all students. Our services are designed to increase the number of students successfully progressing onto higher education and beyond. GEAR UP services are aimed to address the following: Enhance academic achievement in mathematics and language arts; provide on-time intervention to ensure academic success; increase student knowledge of postsecondary options and financial aid; develop a college going culture among families and school sites; and promote systemic change aimed at increasing the number of students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

PROGRAM/SERVICE OVERVIEW:
In partnership with Anaheim Union High School District, CSUF was awarded two GEAR UP grants that combined serve about 3,400 students and their families, as well as the teachers and school staff in the Anaheim community. GEAR UP-Anaheim grant was funded in 2008 to follow the 7th grade cohort of students through their expected graduation in 2014 from Anaheim, Katella and Loara High Schools. In October 2011 CSUF was awarded a second GEAR UP grant to follow the 7th grade cohorts at Dale and Orangeview Junior High Schools until their expected graduation in 2017 from Magnolia and Western High Schools.

TYPE OF ASSESSMENT:
(To check mark any box below, please double click on the square and select “checked”)
☒ External Reports
☐ Needs Assessment
☒ Program Evaluation
☐ Student Learning Outcomes
☒ Student Satisfaction Assessment
☐ Student Success
☒ Utilization Data

PROJECT SAMPLE:
Number of students in your sample

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEAR UP-Anaheim</td>
<td>1730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSUF GEAR UP</td>
<td>1026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA COLLECTION TIMEFRAME:
1/2012-12/2014 Center for Research on Educational Access and Leadership (C-REAL)-GEAR UP Biannual Evaluation Report

DATA COLLECTION METHODS:
Qualitative surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, student academic record analysis, and program participation records analysis.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:
GEAR UP’s main objective is to increase the number of students who enroll in a postsecondary institution. In order to demonstrate the project’s adequate progress in meeting the outlined grant objectives the program implementation includes a formative and summative program evaluation plan that assesses program effectiveness. The evaluation plan monitors students’ academic progress, students’ aspirations in regard to their college-going goals, and provides feedback to project leadership to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of the students. Below is the data from both cohorts showing students’ beliefs regarding college attendance.

KEY FINDINGS:
Data about students’ college enrollment will not be available until fall 2014. As a result, we have included data on students’ aspirations were collected during this past year that describes students’ efforts to meet their college-going goals. The data below displays students’ beliefs and efforts regarding college attendance.

GEAR UP-Anaheim Cohort (Class of 2014)
- One measure of students’ knowledge about postsecondary education options are their expectations of the highest degree they plan to earn. In a recent survey 94.5% students indicated they will apply to college, and 75.5% indicated that they would earn a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- In the same survey students were asked about what type of colleges they planned to apply to. 44.9% of students indicated that they would apply to a 2-year college, and 75.1% indicated that they would apply to a 4-year college. (Students were allowed to choose more than one option, percentages may add up to more than 100%.)
- Among students who completed the annual survey, 75.9% indicated that they have spoken to someone from GEAR UP about financial aid and paying for college.
- In comparison to the 2013/2014 cycle, there was a 23% increase of FAFSA completions (65.1%) of GEAR UP students for the 2014/2015 cycle.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submissions by High School
Applications processed through March 28
(source: Federal Student Aid, U.S. Dept. of Ed.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014/2015 Cycle</th>
<th>2013/2014 Cycle</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katella</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loara</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GU Cohort</td>
<td>1126</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Among GEAR UP parents who complete the supplemental parent survey, 78.7% report being aware of the different types of colleges available to their children and 85.6% know what requirements their child must complete to attend a 4-year university.

CSUF GEAR UP Cohort (Class of 2017)

CREAL administered a survey to this cohort during spring 2013 while they were enrolled in the 8\textsuperscript{th} grade that was intended to understand attitudes about college attendance.

• After participating in GEAR UP for only two academic years, 95.7% indicated they believed they would attend college.
• Another proxy for college attendance is students’ expectations about the highest degree level they plan to earn. 79\% having an intention to earn a bachelor’s degree or higher.
• 80.2\% of students believed they could finance a college education using financial aid, scholarships, and family resources.
• Parents were asked about their knowledge on accessing and navigating the pathway for their student to receive aid. Most parents (81.2\%) had a high sense of the steps needed to receive financial aid for college.
• Parents about their knowledge on college entrance requirements. Most parents (78.7\%) reported having knowledge on college entrance requirements.
• GEAR UP had 1,140 students participate in 20 college visits, and 906 students participated in 24 educational field trips. In addition, 249 parents participated in 38 parent workshops.

APPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS:
1. How will you use your data to improve or enhance your program/service?

Based on data findings, next year extended efforts will be made to increase student knowledge on financial aid availability, increase student interaction with the GEAR UP staff, and address student concerns about paying for college. The GEAR UP teams works in collaboration with the Evaluation Team to reflect on results, and use data for program improvement and learning.