

INTRODUCTION

For many students, particularly those who do not have an immediate family member who attended college, applying to college can be overwhelming. Having someone to encourage and help them navigate the college application process can open the door for students to pursue a postsecondary education. By implementing a College Application Week (CAW) program, high schools, libraries and community centers can ensure that all seniors have the opportunity to receive hands-on assistance as they take the first big step toward continuing their education following high school.

Oklahoma GEAR UP and the Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP) are pleased to sponsor Oklahoma College Application Week as a way to provide support through resource materials, training opportunities and, when schedules permit, on-site assistance. College App Week is part of a national initiative sponsored by the Kresge Foundation, the Lumina Foundation, and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the American Council on Education. On the state level, the project is endorsed by the State Secretary of Education's office, Regents' Chancellor, the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Chamber. After GEAR UP's successful pilot of the program with their designated school districts in 2012, a partnership was formed with OCAP to allow the expansion of the program statewide, making the CAW materials available to all Oklahoma high school students.

We expect that our statewide efforts will cause CAW to grow exponentially over the next few years, enabling high school seniors all over our state--whether urban, suburban or rural--to apply for college while having volunteers available to help them during the process. We hope you will find the information contained in this guide useful as you implement a program in your school, library or community center.

Good luck as you plan your event! Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.



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