

### ACCEPTED STUDENT DAY: A GEAR UP EXPERIENCE

Our amazing Grade 12 GEAR UP students from East Hartford, Meriden and Waterbury were busy experiencing life as future college students at various CSU four-year universities in April. As they began to prepare for high school graduation in June, GEAR UP CT was able to bring students to Central, Eastern, and Southern to help them make their final college decision.



As part of their GEAR UP CT accepted student days, they had the incredible opportunity to connect with current college students and faculty where they could envision their journey ahead. GEAR UP students learned about the supportive resources available to help them to thrive academically and personally. They gained insights into potential career paths, and the hands-on learning opportunities

available to them as incoming college freshman as well as discovering a strong sense of community and a commitment to student success. GEAR UP CT students learned about the various clubs, organizations and sports on each campus, picturing themselves contributing to the vibrant campus culture. We are incredibly proud of our Grade 12 GEAR UP students for actively



engaging in this important process. Their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions during these visits demonstrated their readiness for the next chapter.

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: THIERRY'S ADVOCACY CREATES OPPORTUNITY



As part of Governor Lamont's "Dual Enrollment" press conference in May, Thierry Ofori, an inspiring student from CIBA in East Hartford was on-hand to provide his story. Thierry had successfully completed three dual enrollment courses, but his story is particularly noteworthy. CIBA, is an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, hadn't previously offered dual enrollment opportunities. However, Thierry, alongside his determined classmates, took the initiative and advocated with their principal to introduce Physics as a dual enrollment course. Their hard work and persistence paid off, and they achieved their goal! This fall, Thierry will be attending Yale University to study computer science. He truly is an exceptional young man with incredible potential.

### AS THE SCHOOL YEAR DRAWS TO AN END IN MAY

As the academic year culminates in May and June, GEAR UP seniors across the region celebrated significant milestones, marking the transition to the next chapter of their educational journeys. Many participated in vibrant College Signing Day events hosted at their local high schools, publicly committing to their chosen colleges and universities alongside family, friends, and faculty.



These celebrations not only recognized their dedication and hard work but also fostered a sense of community and shared accomplishment. Further acknowledging their achievements, many seniors were honored at special Scholarship Breakfasts,

where their academic excellence and future aspirations were celebrated. These events provided an invaluable opportunity to commend their perseverance, highlight their scholarships and financial aid awards, and inspire them as they prepared to embark on their college dreams.



### GEAR UP SENIORS: CHARTING THEIR FUTURE PATHS – CLASS OF 2025



As another academic year draws to a close in June, and with it, the culmination of Year 6, we proudly celebrate the GEAR UP seniors! Their high school graduation marked

not just the end of one chapter, but the exciting beginning of another. We applaud their incredible academic achievements, the countless hours of hard work, and the dedication they've shown throughout their high school careers. These accomplishments are a testament to their resilience and the strong, successful partnerships that were fostered within each school district. Together,



we've achieved so much in supporting these students. As students transition in the Fall into diverse college or career pathways, we're confident they'll continue

to excel, carrying with them the skills, knowledge, and robust support network built through GEAR UP. We look forward to seeing all the incredible things they'll achieve! Congrats Class of 2025!

