UPCOMING DATES

08/08- TrampoLazerRockBall Park. 11am-3pm
(Incentive trip for students who qualify*)

08/09- RYAC Event at KVC Building in Topeka. College Preparedness. 5:30-7:30pm

09/07- Highland Community College Visit and Bison Ranch tour. 8:15am—5pm

09/13- Washburn University Career and Graduate Fair. 10am-2pm.

09/13- Family Fun Fitness @ Hummer Park. 5:30—7:00pm

09/14- #Adulting: Emergency Preparedness @ Topeka Public Library. 4—5pm

09/20- GEAR UP Day @ Wichita State University. 8am-4pm

09/21- Senior Boot Camp @ Children’s Alliance. 4—5pm

Interested? Want to come along?
YOU MUST LET US KNOW!!!!
Call Cathy- (785) 296-2990 or Cathy.flores-stamps@wichita.edu

New CAA Erich Washausen, student Marco and Coordinator Melanie pose with friendly lorikeets at the Topeka Zoo.

Keeping Cool in the Shade!

With Spring in the rearview, we are now in the heat of Summer and looking forward to the beginning of classes and the crisp breeze of Fall. Our students have been busy the past few months with leadership conferences at Northwest Missouri State University and Kent State University, campus tours, field trips, workshops, community service and more! Region 3 staff are currently working hard to bring more awesome programming in Fall 2017!

“Training is EVERYTHING. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.”

-Samuel Clemens
This summer was filled with amazing learning experiences and opportunities for our students to grow. Our students took a trip to Maker Faire KC in June as a part of our STEAM week. Students also got a sneak peak at the new robotics facility contained in TCALC (Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers). Along with campus tours and field trips, we had the pleasure of creating our own art at the Mulvane Art Museum’s ArtLab and painting ceramic works at Potwin Pottery. Trips to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the Topeka Zoo and RYAC events exposed our students to a vast array of resources and opportunities. Students created value in their communities through service work at the Topeka Boys and Girls Club, Topeka Rescue Mission, Mt. Asbury Children’s Camp and the Topeka Community Cycle Project.

Mulvane Art Museum (Washburn University) and ArtLab creative space.
More Activities

Sculpture occupies the same space as our bodies.

Its physical presence is different from a two-dimensional object. Sculpture challenges and confronts us physically. It is not dependent on the spatial illusion present in most two-dimensional work, even abstraction. Sculpture never has to justify its reality. It simply is. Physical presence is a form of power.
This year, our students and staff were able to attend two outstanding leadership conferences organized by EOA Educational Opportunity Association) and MOKANNE (the regional chapter of EOA).

The Men of Excellence Conference (June 1–3 at Kent State University in Kent, OH) was an amazing opportunity for several of our young men to ‘get out of their comfort zone’ and challenge their perception of what it means to be a man.

The Student Leadership Conference (June 30 – July 2 at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO) provided a space to build leadership capacity, create friendships and discover hidden potential.

At both conferences, students stayed in the dorms overnight, ate in the dining hall and got a taste of the college life.

Richard Taylor Jr., keynote speaker, shares his expertise with students during the Student Leadership Conference.
Here is a fun assignment from famous writer Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007).

In 2006, a group of high school students in New York City were asked to write a favorite author and invite them to their school. Five students chose Mr. Vonnegut. Although he did not visit the school, he did send the students this response (he was the only author to write back):

I thank you for your friendly letters. You sure know how to cheer up a really old geezer (84) in his sunset years. I don’t make public appearances anymore because I now resemble nothing so much as an iguana.

What I had to say to you, moreover, would not take long, to wit: Practice any art—music, singing, dancing, acting, drawing, painting, sculpting, poetry, fiction, essays, reporting—no matter how well or badly, not to get money and fame, but to experience becoming, to find out what’s inside you, to make your soul grow.

Seriously! I mean starting right now, do art and do it for the rest of your lives. Draw a funny or nice picture of a loved one and give it to them. Dance home after school, and sing in the shower, and on and on. Make a face in your mashed potatoes. Pretend you’re Count Dracula.

**Here’s an assignment for tonight:**

Write a six-line poem about anything, but rhymed. No fair tennis without a net. Make it as good as you possibly can. But don’t tell anybody what you’re doing. Don’t show it or recite it to anybody, not even your girlfriend or parents or whatever. OK?

Tear it up into teeny-weeny pieces and discard them into widely separated trash receptacles. You will find that you have already been gloriously rewarded for your poem. You have experienced becoming, learned a lot more about what’s inside you, and you have made your soul grow.

God bless you all!

Kurt Vonnegut
Like our GEAR UP Page on Facebook!!

Want to know where to see all the latest GEAR UP news about upcoming events? Looking for photos of past events?

Go to our new Facebook page:

Kansas Kids at GEAR UP - Region 3-Topeka

-AND-

Sign-up for events at:
https://kkgutopeka.eventbrite.com
The Region 3 GEAR-UP team serves youth in 23 counties in Central and Northeast Kansas.

The regional office is located in Topeka and operates out of the Department for Children and Families building at 500 SW. Van Buren St.

Hey there! I’m Erich, your new addition to the team as College Access Advisor. I recently moved to Topeka, but I’ve had an interesting path to get here.

After growing up in Arkansas and graduating with my Master’s in Health and Physical Education at Arkansas Tech University, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the South American country of Paraguay where I worked on various projects in schools for two years.

Personally I’m a sports enthusiast, a fanatic about ultra-marathon running, and a music lover.

I look forward to continuing working with youth and doing everything I can to ensure that every Gear Up member has success in their educational pursuits!

Feel free to contact me at erich.washausen@wichita.edu or my office phone is (785)-296-1352.

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