



GEAR UP

College can be a **LIFE-ALTERING EXPERIENCE** for students, and not only academically. Here are a few of the ways in which college can change your students' lives for the better:

1. Earning a bachelor's degree will allow students to earn, on average, **\$1M** more than high school graduates over the course of their careers (Abel & Deitz, 2014).
2. College offers students an opportunity to build relationships with mentors and peers that will benefit them throughout their careers (Campbell, Smith, Dugan, & Komives, 2012).
3. College is a place where students can develop personally and grow into adulthood (Blumenkrantz & Goldstein, 2014). 
4. College graduates tend to have more job satisfaction, jobs that offer a greater sense of accomplishment, more independence and opportunities for creativity, and more social interactions in their jobs than noncollege graduates (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013; Sutton, 2017).
5. Graduating from college increases students' prospects for employment. Over the last 20 years, the unemployment rate for college graduates has been approximately half that of high school graduates (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018). 
6. College helps students develop skills that prepare them for careers in the tech-driven economy, including abstract skills that aid in problem solving, multitasking, and creativity (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013).
7. College can broaden students' understanding of the world and international perspectives (Sutton, 2017). 
8. Getting involved as a college student can lead to greater civic involvement over a lifetime. College graduates are more likely to vote, run for political office, and volunteer in their communities (Brand, 2010; Sutton, 2017; Ishitani & McKittrick, 2013).
9.  College graduates experience health benefits, including longer life expectancy, lower obesity, lower likelihood to smoke, and lower instances of mental illness (Baum, et al., 2013; Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013).
10. College graduates tend to experience family benefits, including lower likelihood of divorce and children who are more successful in school (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013). 