

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded, competitive grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education;

WHEREAS, GEAR UP serves low-income and disadvantaged students and their families from underserved communities who might be the first person in their family to go to college; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year grants to states or partnerships to deliver support and resources to students and their families, starting no later than the 7th grade (middle school), through high school, and onward to fulfill their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP includes interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low-income and disadvantaged first-generation students and their families; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP is built around public-private partnerships, enlisting the formidable resources of government, business, and community groups to support low-income students as they prepare to enter and succeed in college; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College Bound-Career Linked! GEAR UP program is a partnership of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College Bound-Career Linked! GEAR UP serves 5,269 students in 9th grade, and since 1999 has served over 25,000 students in our community; and

WHEREAS, the week of September 21 - 25, 2026 has been declared National GEAR UP Week; and

WHEREAS, Mission is committed to providing a quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their highest potential:

NOW, THEREFORE, we the City Council of the City of Mission, do hereby proclaim the week of September 21 - 25, 2026, as

NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK IN THE CITY OF MISSION

and I urge all citizens to join us in this special observance.

Proclaimed on this the 22nd day of September, 2026.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilwoman

Alberto Vela, Councilman