

East Valley School District

Two hundred and forty-seven (247) East Valley 7th grade GEAR UP students visited Columbia Basin College (CBC) on May 9 to learn about going to college. These college visits expose students to college life and encourages them to pursue a post/ secondary education. College staff and students presented to visiting students on different topics that included:

- **Admission requirements**
- **Costs of going to college**
- **Degree programs & courses**
- **College life, sports, social programs**
- **Inspirational speeches about college**

Teachers also attended with their students to support and encourage students to attend college.



The college visit was planned by RGI Corporation and the local GEAR UP Director and facilitated by Columbia Basin College as part of the University of Washington GEAR UP Program. This GEAR UP Cohort event gives all students an opportunity to participate in this grade-wide activity. In the next 30 days, over 1,600 UW GEAR UP students from 8 Yakima Valley school districts will visit CBC and learn about going to college.

RGI Corporation developed a Student Handbook with teaching lessons for students to learn about college. Teachers used the handbook before the event to complete a pre-visit learning activity. The students then took the handbook on their visit and used a list of questions to interact with presenters. Upon returning back to school, students completed an essay about what they learned and their future plans.

Students completed a college visit evaluation survey on the bus ride back to the school. Preliminary findings indicated that the visit was a positive learning experience. Many students, did not know that CBC existed or that it was an option for them. Many students also commented that this was their first time going to the Tri-Cities.

RGI Corporation will be producing an end-of-school year college visit report. This will include all the student and teacher evaluation results.

We thank Columbia Basin College for all their work and support in making these events possible. CBC facilitated all the student sessions and did an extraordinary job in keeping students interested and got them motivated about going to college.

“Seeing a new college, knowing there’s another college close to home that I could attend...all my questions were answered!” - Student Quote

