



September 21, 2026

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK**

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

WHEREAS, GEAR UP begins no later than the seventh grade and follows scholars through high school and into their first year of college, offering tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, financial aid guidance, and support for their families, many of whom are sending a first-generation college student; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP works through partnerships that bring together school districts, colleges and universities, businesses, and community organizations on behalf of scholars preparing for life after high school; and

WHEREAS, Jackson Public Schools is carrying out a seven-year GEAR UP initiative supported by a federal grant, working with Jackson State University, Hinds Community College, and other local partners to give JPS scholars early exposure to college and career opportunities, and the educators, counselors, mentors, and families behind that work deserve the gratitude of this city; and

WHEREAS, the young people of Jackson carry the future of this city, and every student who learns early that college is within reach strengthens our neighborhoods, our workforce, and generations still to come:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Horhn, Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the week of September 21–25, 2026, as **NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK** in the City of Jackson, and I salute and commend the Jackson Public Schools GEAR UP program, its scholars, families, and partners for the futures they are building together. I urge all residents to join me in this special observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to be affixed this 21st day of September, 2026.

John Horhn

Mayor, City of Jackson, Mississippi