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### **GEAR UP Maine Welcomes New Bookkeeper**

READFIELD, ME – GEAR UP Maine has appointed Jan Brackett to the position of Bookkeeper. Brackett joins GEAR UP Maine with a broad background in data, accounting, and reporting. Most recently, Brackett served as Data Analyst and Registrar for Bowdoin College. Before Bowdoin, she worked as a Data Specialist for the Lewiston Public Schools.

A true believer in lifelong learning, Jan earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and continues to take classes to enhance both her work and her hobbies. In addition to her more recent work, she served as Educational Program Coordinator for the Upward Bound program at the University of New Hampshire and managed the grant program for the Maine Aspirations Foundation

“We are thrilled to welcome Jan to our team! Her skills and previous experience are great additions to GEAR UP Maine,” said Mary Callan, interim project director. Jan recently took a later-in-life "gap year" during which she rode her bicycle from the Gulf of Mexico to Niagara Falls and started building her soon-to-be-finished tiny house. As bookkeeper, she will be working closely with the Director of GEAR UP Maine and The University of Maine at Farmington to assure the fiscal integrity of the program.

Maine’s GEAR UP program is helping to create a sustainable college-going culture in schools. The focus of GEAR UP Maine is to assist students in grades 7 through 12 and their families who are economically disadvantaged to aspire to, prepare for, enroll in, and successfully complete postsecondary programs. GEAR UP Maine works in collaboration with 63 schools in 26 districts and a wide range of college access partners to serve more than 9,000 students from Northern, Central, Western, and Downeast Maine. GEAR UP Maine is funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education until 2021. The grant was awarded to The University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) in September 2014. UMF serves as the award’s fiscal agent, while Syntiro, a non-profit based in Readfield, provides the administration.

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