

For Immediate Release

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THE PROGERIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND GEARUP2LEAD PARTNER ON HIGHLY ANTICIPATED CURRICULUM

April 19, 2017 (**Peabody, MA and Flint, MI**) – The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) and GearUp2Lead (GU2L) are excited to announce a partnership on the release of a middle and high school curriculum. The curriculum will be based on the enormously successful, award-winning HBO documentary *LIFE ACCORDING TO SAM*, and Sam Berns’ TEDx Talk, *My Philosophy for a Happy Life* (over 22 million views to date and featured on Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg’s site for her latest book, “Option B”).

The TEDx Talk and HBO documentary are used throughout the curriculum as examples of how we all have the ability to learn and grow as individuals, and do anything we can imagine. Sam, who had the rapid-aging condition Progeria, was a high school student who used a positive mindset to create changes within himself and the people around him.

“Working with GU2L on this project has been a great experience”, states Audrey Gordon, PRF’s Co-Founder and Director of Development, and Sam’s aunt. “Sam was the inspiration for the creation of PRF, and our partners at GU2L recognized that Sam’s life lessons could inspire students across the country. We are thrilled that Sam’s legacy of inspiration will continue, affecting generations of students through the teachings of this curriculum.”

GU2L’s Executive Director, Winston Stody said, “After watching *Life According to Sam*, my team knew this film would be a great vehicle to teach students lessons that will help them succeed in life. The curriculum was piloted in several schools in Michigan and the feedback has been outstanding. We hope schools throughout the country will recognize the value of this curriculum and invest in the materials.”

The curriculum, which consists of four units and twelve lessons, is designed to accomplish four goals: *Change* students thinking about learning and success; *Motivate* students to believe in themselves; *Teach* students the value of making mistakes; and *Empower* students to take on challenges, resulting in higher test scores/grades.

Here's what people are saying...

The G.E.A.R. program really helps me understand the different parts in becoming a healthful human being, as well as comparing the 4 aspects to my life to improve my overall health. Watching the Sam Berns documentary really pulled everything together... G.E.A.R. is something I have enjoyed learning about. Growth Mindset is something that I have, and am striving to achieve within myself. Empathy is something I have learned to do through many events in my life, but learning more about it has given me more tools to do a better job.

- 9th grade student at Howell High School in Michigan

I can't believe what I have learned about growth mindset in the short time I have been teaching it to my sixth grade classes...The students have been excited and engaged with each lesson and look forward to them each week.

- 9th grade teacher at Howell High School in Michigan

The curriculum can be purchased for a modest fee of \$500 at

<https://www.gearupcurriculum.org/purchase-the-curriculum/> . All proceeds from the curriculum will go directly to support GU2L and PRF, both mission-driven nonprofit organizations.

Progeria is a fatal, rapid aging condition that afflicts children, who die of heart disease at an average age of 14 years. The Progeria Research Foundation's mission is to discover treatments and the cure for Progeria and its aging-related disorders, including heart disease. PRF will devote all funds raised through curriculum sales to its clinical drug trials, which are vital to curing children with Progeria. For more information, please visit www.progeriaresearch.org

GearUp2Lead helps people transform their mindsets from defeatist to determined through the understanding and practice of the GEAR concepts: Growth mindset, Empathy, Action and Responsibility. For more information, please visit www.GearUP2LEAD.org

For more information and to order the GU2L/PRF Curriculum for your school, please visit www.gearupcurriculum.org