



NCCEP/GEAR UP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006 PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Join Us in Washington, DC • July 23–26, 2006
Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel



Pre-Conference Session Descriptions

■ NCCEP Evaluators Institute Section 1: An Overview for Evaluating GEAR UP

Sunday, July 23 (\$100 per person)

Evaluation has always been a necessary component of administering a GEAR UP grant. While we often think of the U.S. Department of Education's Annual Performance Report (APR) when it comes to evaluating GEAR UP, it is important to realize that this tool alone does not provide the depth and breadth needed to adequately evaluate individual GEAR UP programs or entire GEAR UP partnerships. Other evaluation is needed to continually improve our work and demonstrate GEAR UP's effectiveness. This workshop will provide participants with:

- an understanding of the types of program evaluations their GEAR UP partnership should be undertaking,
- tips for negotiating relationships with other GEAR UP program and institutional staff,
- an opportunity to interact with and learn from experienced GEAR UP evaluators, and
- materials and suggested topical resources for further exploration following the Institute.

Co-facilitated by GEAR UP evaluators and NCCEP, this Evaluators Institute will provide new GEAR UP evaluators with a foundation for their critical evaluation work. Materials and coffee breaks will be provided.

Who Should Attend? New evaluators and evaluators new to GEAR UP are encouraged to attend this session. A basic understanding of GEAR UP and evaluation methods is desirable, but not required.

■ NCCEP Evaluators Institute Section 2: Lessons I've Learned Evaluating GEAR UP

Sunday, July 23 (\$100 per person)

Despite having experience performing evaluation on GEAR UP, in every evaluation project issues involving relationship negotiating, data collecting and sharing, and needing to learn how to use other research methods inevitably arise. Taken together, the current GEAR UP evaluator community has personal experience in being faced with these challenges and a wealth of practical knowledge in how to best overcome them. This workshop will provide participants with:

- exposure to advanced topical evaluation issues,
- tips for negotiating relationships with other GEAR UP program and institutional staff,
- an opportunity to interact with and learn from experienced GEAR UP evaluators, and
- materials and suggested topical resources for further exploration following the Institute.

Co-facilitated by GEAR UP evaluators and NCCEP, this Evaluators Institute will provide experienced GEAR UP evaluators with topical evaluation information and an opportunity to inform on another about solutions to GEAR UP evaluation issues. Materials and coffee breaks will be provided.

Who Should Attend? Established evaluators and experienced GEAR UP evaluators are encouraged to attend this session. Understanding of GEAR UP and evaluation methods is required.

To register for the Pre-Conference Sessions (July 23, 2006) and the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference 2006 (July 23–26, 2006), visit the NCCEP website at www.edpartnerships.org.

Pre-Conference Sessions *(continued)*

■ **Aligning Products and Services to Help GEAR UP Programs and Schools Achieve Better Student Outcomes: Product Demonstrations and Field-Testing Sessions** *(Hands-on Clinics to Test the Products)*

Sunday, July 23 • 9:00–12:00 noon *(free)*

The product demonstration and field-testing clinics are intended for professionals managing college access programs. These sessions will provide opportunities to learn about, see, and experience products that have helped students achieve the academic success prerequisite to college enrollment. These products already are being used in GEAR UP programs across the country and are recommended to you by your peers: fellow GEAR UP project directors.

Math/Numeracy and Science

During this session, GEAR UP project directors will be able to field test programs that integrate math and science in ways that help students attain desired curricular standards. These programs will assist GEAR UP practitioners clearly identify which skills students have mastered and which require further practice.

Reading/Literacy Improvement

In this clinic, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about reading/literacy programs that have been developed to improve student's skills. Attendees will also hear from GEAR UP project directors who currently are using these programs at their sites.

Data and Student Monitoring Systems

State-of-the-art data and student monitoring systems can help you track the progress of your GEAR UP students over time, including their involvement in particular GEAR UP activities, and can provide the data you need to determine which elements of your program are the most successful and which need to be modified in order to maximize program effectiveness.

Test Preparation Services

As the college admissions process becomes increasingly competitive, admissions offices scrutinize students' scores on standardized college entrance exams ever more closely. Even GEAR UP students who successfully complete a rigorous academic curriculum may compromise their college application packet if they are not familiar and comfortable with college entrance exams. During this session, GEAR UP project directors will hear from representatives of several test preparation services to determine whether a partnership with one of them might benefit local students and GEAR UP programs.

Instructional Technologies

Companies will demonstrate software/hardware that can help GEAR UP educators engage and motivate their students. These technologies can help teachers make learning more interactive, hands on, and project-based, thus developing students' higher-order thinking skills and facilitating their achievement of local content standards.

■ **Peer-to-Peer Session**

Sunday, July 23 • 4:00–5:30 pm *(free)*

■ **Contact Information**

For additional information regarding the Pre-Conference Sessions and the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference, please contact Anna Ortega Chavolla (anna_chavolla@edpartnerships.org).