



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
Community and Education
Partnerships

K-16 Connections

Promoting Education Partnerships and Access to Higher Education

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**GEAR UP
Capacity Building Workshop
February 2-4, 2004
(Pre-conference Feb. 1)
Phoenix, AZ**

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!
www.edpartnerships.org

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to Phoenix for the Capacity Building Workshop. This Workshop is designed to help GEAR UP grantees meet their goals and objectives through professional development and capacity building.

This year, two concurrent tracks will be conducted along with pre-conference academies. Pre-conference academies will be offered in the areas of evaluation, financial aid and models for tribal GEAR UP program grantees. To accommodate attendees who have never participated in an NCCEP Capacity Building Workshop and new GEAR UP employees, a Track I overview (½ day training) will take place during Sunday's pre-conference activities. Track II will assist partnerships in aligning their programmatic efforts with student achievement. Track III will focus on program sustainability.

For more details about the academies and the workshop please visit the conference website at www.edpartnerships.org.

**2004 Annual
NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference
July 25-28, 2004
Washington Hilton
and Towers Hotel
mark your calendar, details to follow**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Appropriations

On September 10th, the Senate passed its FY 04 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The Four Democratic Presidential Candidates missed the vote along with Senators Smith (R-OR) and Sununu (R-NH). During floor debate Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) offered an amendment to boost the funding of higher education programs, including a \$57 million increase to GEAR UP. This amendment, however, failed by a vote of 49 yeas to 46 nays (we needed 60 votes to pass). Nonetheless, GEAR UP is evenly funded with the House level at \$300 million.

Final Step for FY 04: The Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations bill for FY 04 should go to conference (where agreement will be reached between the House and Senate on a bill to send to the President) in October. And unless there's an "across the board" cut (like last year), GEAR UP will be appropriated \$300 million for FY 04.

Reauthorization

On September 9th, Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) introduced the Expanding Opportunities Act, H.R. 3039. This piece of legislation will reauthorize programs like GEAR UP under the Higher Education Act (HEA). NCCEP is very pleased with this legislation as it has addressed our major issues: 1.) adding the 6th year to the program; and, 2.) assurances that existing grantees can, in fact, reapply for grants when the funding has expired. We expect H.R. 3039 to be marked-up in the 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee in coming weeks; although nothing has been confirmed as the Republicans and Democrats are trying to find middle ground on several issues.

The Senate is still scheduled to begin the reauthorization of HEA next year.

If you have questions regarding this update please contact Scott J. Frein at (202) 530-1135 or via email at:

Scott_Frein@edpartnerships.org.

STATE GRANT PROFILE



North Carolina

The North Carolina state GEAR UP grant (GEAR UP NC) is an excellent example of an effective collaborative partnership, a model for demonstrating how technology can be utilized to facilitate access to higher education, and a program that has successfully leveraged additional state and federal funds to assist in sustaining and expanding the services provided to students and schools.

The GEAR UP NC state grant is housed at the University of North Carolina, Office of the President, but it is a partnership that includes all of the four educational agencies of education (public, private, 2 year, and K-12). Other partners include the NC State Education Assistance Authority, the Council for Alumni Association Presidents, Pathways of North Carolina, and UNC-TV. The success of GEAR UP NC cannot be examined in isolation of the unique characteristics of the state and the collaborative organizational culture that exists within the educational agencies.

North Carolina is the home of the nation's first public university and boasts an array of highly selective and nationally recognized public and private colleges. The community college system includes 58 campuses that are geographically located within a short driving distance of all its citizens and the K-12 public school system has been nationally (Continued on next page)

recognized for its efforts in school reform, particularly in the area of testing and accountability. In fact, North Carolina's accountability model was one of the models studied by the federal government when developing the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The systems of education in North Carolina have a proven record of collaboration that has led to the development of policies and procedures not found in many states. For example, North Carolina has implemented a comprehensive articulation agreement that allows students to easily transfer from the community college to the public universities. This agreement provides for a common course numbering system among the community college campuses and ensures that community college students receive 64 hours of academic credit upon graduation based on their degree completion at the community college. Each of the 16 public universities participates in this comprehensive articulation agreement. Many of the private colleges and universities also participate.

Another example of this collaboration is the adoption of the Minimum Course Requirements. Effective 2006, the UNC system will fully implement the Minimum Course Requirements for admissions. These requirements include six course units in language, (four units in English and two units in a language other than English); four course units in math with one unit beyond algebra II, three course units in science, and two course units in social studies. The Minimum Course Requirements are aligned with the Standard Course of Study as approved by the State Department of Public Instruction.

For over 10 years, the University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System, the State Department for Public Instruction, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Executive Officers have worked together through committee service in the Joint Governing Boards. The work of this committee has centered on identifying problems that impede student's pursuit of higher education and developing solutions to remove those barriers to improve access.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of this alliance has been the development of an electronic mentoring program that allows students and parents a one stop shopping website for planning, applying, and paying for college. The website, www.cfnc.org was

created to become the single definitive resource for information regarding postsecondary education. Students and parents are able to link to colleges, apply on-line for admissions, research careers, and learn about scholarships, grants, and loans. Each GEAR UP student is provided a CFNC account and provided training on the website. Students complete the career interest inventory that is part of the website and this information is used to help them connect their career aspirations to the academic skills needed to successfully pursue their career choice. This electronic mentoring approach is supported by time spent with counselor, advisors, field trips, and job shadowing opportunities.

Read full story and view photo highlights at <http://www.edpartnerships.org/events/links.cfm>

If you would like to see your partnership profiled in a future volume of K-16 Connections, please submit your article along with photographs, if available, to Editor Susan_Shimko@edpartnerships.org

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2003 ANNUAL NCCEP/GEAR UP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This past July, 1800 GEAR UP professionals and their partners attended the Third Annual NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel in Washington, DC. Over 130 concurrent sessions were offered. The conference also provided GEAR UP participants an excellent opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas. Pre-session activities included a youth performance by the McFarland STEP Team (DC GEAR UP) and poetry reading by the Youth Leaders Program (Seattle Public Schools GEAR UP). Plenary sessions featured Representatives John A. Boehner (R-OH), Tom Cole (R-OK), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), Joe Wilson (R-SC); Eugene W. Hickok, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, William M. Daley, President, SBC Communications, Inc., Stephen M. Delfin, Director, Community Relations, Booz Allen Hamilton and Motivational Speaker Jason R. Dorsey. Lynn Mahaffie, Director of GEAR UP, and her staff also contributed to the success of the annual meeting. Once again the Gallery

Walk, which provides grantees an opportunity to exhibit their best practices, proved to be a highlight of the conference. NCCEP looks forward to working with the U.S. Department of Education to host the next annual conference to be held **July 25-28, 2004, in Washington, DC.**

To view photo highlights of the 2003 conference click on http://www.edpartnerships.org/events/conf_pics03.cfm

NCCEP PARTNERS WITH NetDay



NCCEP is proud to support NetDay's outreach efforts for Student Voices, **SPEAK UP Day**, October 29, 2003.

Speak Up Day will be a widespread effort to reach out to students across the country and to learn how they are using technology and the Internet during an online event organized by NetDay, a national non-profit organization. Public and non-public schools everywhere – in rural communities, inner city schools and suburban areas - will lead classroom discussions and students will complete a short survey online. NetDay will report the results to participants, partners, and to the U.S. Department of Education for inclusion in the National Technology Education Plan

To "Speak Up," a school only needs a computer with a network connection, a teacher to register the class's participation, students with ideas to share and support from organizations such as NCCEP, one of NetDay's non-profit partners. Schools will register prior to the event; receive a template with a series of questions and teacher and classroom support materials to guide them through the process. On the day of the event (Continued on next page)

the comments pertaining to the questions will be submitted on line through a specific NetDay website.

Make Sure Your Students Voices Are Heard on Speak Up Day. To ensure that students in your state are part of this significant under-taking, we need your help in getting the word out to each and every school and school district. Please share this e mail with the appropriate staff in schools and districts across the state. Schools can register to participate at www.netday.org starting September 22. **Don't wait! Speak Up Day is October 29, 2003**

If you have any questions about **Speak Up Day**, please contact Julie Evans, Julie@netday.org, Irene Spero, (irene@netday.org), or Karen Greenwood (kareng@netday.org)

About NetDay

NetDay's mission is to connect every child to a brighter future by helping educators meet educational goals through the effective use of technology. NetDay www.NetDay.org, a national non-profit organization known for its successful school wiring programs, today manages community and web-based programs that promote enhanced student achievement through the effective use of technology.

UC SANTA BARBARA LAUNCHES NEW OUTREACH WEBSITE

UC Santa Barbara has just launched a new website showcasing all of the various outreach programs and university information available to students, parents, teachers and community members. Here is the link:

<http://www.campusoutreach.ucsb.edu>

STUDENT AID AWARENESS

Student Aid Awareness (SAA) supports the Department of Education's mission of equal access, stated in Objective 5.1 of the Department's Strategic Plan: "To reduce the gap in college access and completion among student populations differing by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability while increasing the educational attainment of all." SAA targets segments of the student population (and their families), offering comprehensive information about federal student aid programs and how they can help pay for school. For information which includes guides, posters, pamphlets as well as the department's *Student Aid on the Web*, visit: www.studentaid.ed.gov



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