



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

Capacity Building Workshop February 10-12, 2003 Phoenix, AZ

We are returning to Phoenix for the Post-Award 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 separate tracks will be conducted to accommodate the newly awarded grantees and established GEAR UP Partnerships. TRACK I will provide early assistance in planning and coordinating strategies that will assist teams from new partnerships in developing organization and partnership structures to ensure greater success. TRACK II will assist established partnerships in strengthening their GEAR UP organizational structure to develop and support strategies for transitioning students to high school. A new component of the workshop is the Business Summit Track that will allow business partners to help identify ways in which GEAR UP grantees can maximize corporate support and involvement through media and community engagement.

If you would like more information about this workshop please contact Anna Chavolla at Anna.Chavolla@edpartnerships.org.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The US Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Act, originally passed in 1965, every 5-6 years. During the upcoming reauthorization, in 2003 and 2004, Congress will review programs, including GEAR UP, and determine whether and how to change them. Already, representatives of colleges, universities, and students are gathering to share proposals for improving student financial aid, early outreach and intervention programs, and other components of the Act.

Throughout the reauthorization process, NCCEP will advocate strengthening and expanding GEAR UP so the program can serve more students and schools, and serve them more effectively. NCCEP is particularly passionate about preserving these unique features of GEAR UP:

- broad partnerships- encouraging K-12 and collegiate educators to work with local organizations and businesses to enhance student achievement
- the cohort approach- bringing resources to high poverty schools and supporting each student's efforts to enter and succeed in college
- early information- providing middle school students with financial aid and college entrance information to promote planning for college
- professional development- improving the curriculum and teaching methods offered to low-income students
- continuity of services- maintaining a continuum that stretches from middle school through high school graduation
- parental involvement- making parents partners in children's academic success.

Throughout the national conference in July and in subsequent conversations with many of you, NCCEP has collected a number of suggestions for program improvements. Based on your input, NCCEP will seek to clarify and simplify the scholarship rules and provide for a grant term of six years. Other recommendations from GEAR UP

partners are welcome as NCCEP creates legislative proposals that will be shared with congressional staff in mid-December. In order to complete these proposals in timely fashion, we encourage you to submit any suggestions via email before November 15, 2002, to Corye Barbour at Corye_Barbour@edpartnerships.org

NCCEP's working documents on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act can be viewed at: www.edpartnerships.org/events/rheact.cfm



PARTNERSHIP PROFILE

GEAR UP For Life! Canton, Ohio

GEAR UP For Life! embodies all the components of a successful K-16 partnership: dedicated community partners – both public and private, committed to working together to provide a culture that promotes student achievement and nurtures students and their families. Ohio's Canton City Schools, Kent State University, Heartbeats to the City, Project Wheelbarrow, Inc., Stark Education Partnership, Inc., Canton Urban League, YMCA of Central Stark County, and Youth Development have collaborated to secure and implement the community's federal GEAR UP Partnership Grant.

The services provided to Canton's GEAR UP students and parents include a two-week overnight youth summer camp at Kent State University with support for academic success and college readiness; a GEAR UP Family Weekend at the area YMCA's Camp Tippecanoe; Reading Circles in the Canton community, with free books for students; in-school and community-based after school academic coaching; Parent Advisory Council and Parent Workshops; college readiness and career exploration activities; Academic

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Saturdays and college visits; 21st Century Scholars Certificates; and incentive scholarships (\$25 is awarded for each Ohio Proficiency sub test passed and \$40 is awarded for summer camp attendance – these funds are held for students in escrow).

This year, all CSS ninth graders are spending a portion of the school day attending classes at the Freshman Academy, which is designed to ease the transition from middle school to high school. The Academy provides students with hands-on learning opportunities. GEAR UP For Life! tutors work with students alongside classroom teachers. Inspired by their classroom experiences, several of these tutors are pursuing teaching credentials and Principal Brenda Neel hopes to hire some of them.

On October 3, GEAR UP For Life! celebrated its third year of working with a cohort of 1,360 students who are now in the eighth and ninth grades. That evening, GEAR UP For Life! students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and mentors assembled at McKinley High School to hear words of congratulations and encouragement for continued success from the Honorable Richard Watkins, Mayor of Canton; Judge W. Don Reader, Chair of the Stark Education Partnership Board; Dr. Dianne Talarico, CSS Superintendent; Dr. Carol Cartwright, President of Kent State University; Mr. Robert Mullen, Director of Representative Ralph Regula's (R-OH) District Office; Mr. Eric Kempthorn, President of Kempthorn Motors and Chair of the Board of Project Wheelbarrow, a mentoring program and GEAR UP For Life! partner.

In turn, GEAR UP students and parents discussed the difference GEAR UP is making in their lives and their aspirations for the future. A number of students expressed special appreciation to Mrs. Paralee Compton and Mrs. Gloria Dunnivan, Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator, respectively, of GEAR UP For Life! Other highlights of the event included excellent vocal and instrumental performances by CSS GEAR UP students and the unique and inspirational poetry art of Mrs. Launa Stan, who provides art instruction for GEAR UP students and serves on the Board of Heartbeats to the City, another GEAR UP partner.

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

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Each year Congress decides how much money the U.S. Department of Education distributes in GEAR UP grants. Last year, the program withstood a \$10 million cut to be funded at \$285 million for Fiscal Year 2002. This year, Congress is months behind in passing the bills that fund the work of the government. The new fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2003) began October 1 without any decisions being made about education funding for the coming year. This summer, the Senate subcommittee responsible for education funding decisions approved a \$10 million increase in GEAR UP funding, but little has been done since then. Currently, the government is operating under a continuing resolution that funds all education programs at last year's levels pending further deliberations after the November election.

NCCEP is working to make sure that GEAR UP is adequately funded in the coming year. In July, NCCEP President Hector Garza sent a letter requesting additional funding for GEAR UP, Pell Grants, and other vital college access programs to Senate appropriators. In September, NCCEP coordinated a letter to President Bush on behalf of Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor of the California State University System. Nearly 240 education leaders cosigned the Reed letter, which was also provided to key Members of Congress and U.S. Department of Education officials. You may view these letters on NCCEP's website at: <http://www.edpartnerships.org/events>



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECOND ANNUAL GEAR UP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This past July, 1600 GEAR UP professionals and their partners attended the Second Annual GEAR UP National Conference at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel in Washington, DC. Over 250 sessions were offered. The conference also provided GEAR UP participants an excellent opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas. Plenary sessions featured Representatives Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), George Miller (D-CA), Mark Souder (R-IN); and Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Jeff Andrade, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Planning and Innovation, U.S. Department of Education. 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 19-22, 2003, in Washington, DC.**

K-16 Connections is a monthly electronic newsletter sent to you by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). Submit news items and partnership profiles to Editor Susan Shimko at Susan_Shimko@edpartnerships.org.

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