



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
Community and Education Partnerships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SPECIAL ASSISTANT ON COLLEGE ACCESS GREG DARNIEDER TO SPEAK AT
THE 9th ANNUAL NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE**

Washington, DC – The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) announced today that Special Assistant on College Access Greg Darnieder will represent Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at the 9th Annual Conference July 19-22, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. Darnieder is a veteran of the college-access field, having spent many years at the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of College and Careers. In this position he headed innovative efforts to improve college enrollment and graduation of CPS students.

Darnieder will speak about the historic impact that NCCEP and GEAR UP have had and continue to have on our nation's education system. The meeting will convene for three and a half days of concurrent sessions, speakers, and networking opportunities for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and college access community.

"Mr. Darnieder is a creative and strong leader well admired by his peers in college access," says Dr. Hector Garza, President of NCCEP. "We are thrilled to have such a dedicated and dynamic individual speak at this conference."

Other keynote speakers include Sean Covey, Tony Wagner, and Dr. Laura Rendón. Covey, author of the international bestseller *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, will give the keynote address Wednesday morning. Covey is popular among all age groups as a speaker on leadership. He serves as Senior Vice President of Innovations and Products at FranklinCovey, an organization devoted to helping individuals and organizations achieve greatness.

Wagner has served as Co-Director of the Change Leadership Group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, completed over thirty-five years of service in education, and authored multiple publications. Dr. Rendón, Chair of NCCEP's Board of Directors and Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Iowa State University, will address the conference Tuesday morning.

Other highlights include the Youth Leadership Summit report presentation and over 150 peer-led concurrent sessions. Product demonstrations, program Gallery walk, and networking receptions are also part of the agenda. The U.S. Department of Education will hold four pre-conference sessions specific to GEAR UP grantees on Sunday, July 19.

The conference is generously sponsored by CoBro Consulting; CollegeEd, a College Board program; ACT, Inc.; GEAR UP for Excellence; Quantum Learning Network; Intellectual Transition Facility; and Texas Instruments.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit www.edpartnerships.org.

About NCCEP: *NCCEP maintains offices in Washington, DC, and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and leads education reform efforts in both countries. NCCEP works with education partnerships funded by the U.S. federal government, the government of Mexico, public and private foundations, and corporations from both the United States and Mexico. For more information about NCCEP, please visit www.edpartnerships.org.*

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