



GEAR UP Professional Development Overview

As we begin the fourth year of our grant and our students are another year closer to college, it is a logical time for us to deepen our understanding of college access. At the same time, there are many practical aspects of the daily administration of the grant (LAUSD technology, graduation requirements) that it makes sense for us to take time to address these needs as a group.

As such, our 2014-2015 GEAR UP professional development cycle seeks to meet these goals:

- Deepening each person's understanding of college access, while
- Increasing our knowledge of the practical aspects of getting our students to college.
- Create systemic change by inviting school-site personnel to participate in GU4LA professional development.

The topics for this year's PD cycle have been drawn from several sources: the identified goals and objectives of GEAR UP; the Whole GEAR UP Child exercise; the Professional Development survey we completed last year.

- **Goal One Topic: Deepening Personal Understanding of College Access for All GEAR UP Students** (*drawn from GEAR UP goals and the Whole GEAR UP Child*)
- **Goal Two Topics: Increasing Practical Knowledge** (*drawn from the PD survey*):
 - a. Transcript Analysis
 - b. Understanding the implications of the new SAT/PSAT
 - c. Financial Aid
 - d. College Match
 - e. AB540 Students
 - f. CoBro

True learning requires thought, discussion, and reflection, as well as opportunities to revisit topics. While a large group session may be practical for information dissemination, it does not lend itself to discussion or reflection. In order to meet the stated goal of deepening understanding partnered with increasing practical knowledge, the PD Committee proposes two segments for each professional development session:

- **Part One: Deepening Personal Understanding.** Small groups will form to read, discuss, and reflect on a book or series of articles related to college access, facilitated by members within the group. Tips for facilitating a book group, as well as protocols for holding book discussions, will be provided by the PD Committee. "Book clubs" will decide which are best for their group.
- **Part Two: Increasing Practical Knowledge.** Large group sessions led by knowledgeable presenters.

Therefore, each professional development session will include a “book club” session, accompanied by a presentation on a topic identified through our PD survey:

Month	Topic	Presenter	Notes
August 8, 2014	Leadership	Cameron Potter	Session #1
September 12, 2014	Transcript Analysis	Hugo Cristales <i>(confirmed)</i>	GU staff only
October 10, 2014	College Match	Sharmond/One Voice	Open to school staff
November 14, 2014	Financial Aid	Jeremy Villar/LACC <i>(confirmed)</i>	Open to school staff
December 12, 2014	Leadership	Cameron Potter <i>(confirmed)</i>	Session #2; GU staff only
January 16, 2015	Transcript Analysis/ MiSiS Buckets	Hugo Cristales	Open to school staff
February 13, 2015	AB540/Financial Aid	Gina Becerril, Oxy 323.2592548 <i>(confirmed)</i>	Open to school staff; held at Occidental
March 13, 2015	CoBro	Urban Pelicon <i>(confirmed)</i>	GU staff only
April 10, 2015	Understanding the Implications of the New SAT/PSAT	Don Mitchell <i>(confirmed)</i>	Open to school staff
May 8, 2015	Leadership	Cameron Potter <i>(confirmed)</i>	Session #3; GU staff only

It made sense to open up our large group PD to school-site staff as well (especially counselors), as they may find the information useful. They would not, however, participate in the “book clubs”.

We hope that this proves to be an informative and valuable experience for all. If you have any questions, please feel free to address them to the Professional Development Committee.