

# In Gear

## On the move.

One eighth-grade boy raises his grade point average (GPA) from 66 to 82. On a field trip to a biological station an eighth grade girl realizes that she wants to be a scientist. Another attends a summer program, hears a presentation, and feels better about the transition to high school.

This past summer, NYGEAR UP programs moved into high gear. They continued to work not only to improve our students' academic skills, but to give them inspiration and ideas. As you look through the highlights from this past spring and summer and the plans and priorities for the school year 2001-02, you'll see that the programs were a big success and that upcoming programs are based on big ideas: continuing to provide students with mentors, fine-tuning computer

technology skills, beginning (yes, now!) to work on PSAT preparation, and reaching out to include parents in all endeavors.

In this second issue of our newsletter we feature two of our sites, Rochester Institute of Technology and SUNY Cobleskill. Future issues will cover other NYGEAR UP sites, sharing program ideas and the many ways our students are learning how to make their dreams for the future a reality.

Through the efforts of NYGEAR UP directors, teachers, tutors, mentors, and partners, we give our students and their families the opportunity for change, growth, and hope. The extra care and focused attention will maximize our students' learning potential and make the difference that will lead to college and a rewarding career. ■



NYGEAR UP College for Me encourages students to prepare for college and assists them by offering special enrichment classes, workshops on career and college awareness, financial aid information, homework assistance and tutoring, mentoring, computer instruction, family support, visits to college campuses and work sites, and other activities designed to help students have successful high school experiences in preparation for college and a career.

NYGEAR UP is part of the federally-funded program – GEAR UP – which stands for Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It receives federal funding, which is matched by state and local funding. The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) is the lead agency in New York for GEAR UP.

For additional information about the NYGEAR UP program, contact the state's program director, Delilah Reyes at (518) 474-9231 or [dreyes@hesc.com](mailto:dreyes@hesc.com).

*In Gear* is published twice a year by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, a partner in the NYGEAR UP College for Me program. The editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy; we apologize for any errors or omissions. If you would like to make a suggestion for the next issue, scheduled for publication in the spring of 2002, please e-mail Susan Nesbitt Perez at [susan@cicu.org](mailto:susan@cicu.org).

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Our biannual list of program site and sector highlights, with contact information and ideas to inspire.

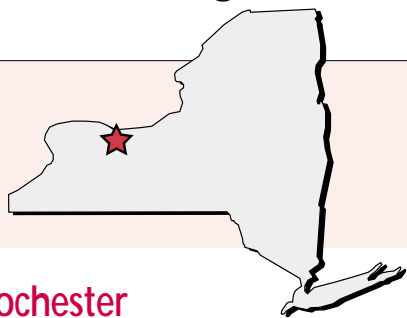
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# How we spent the summer.

It may be a cliché back-to-school assignment, but students in the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection/Rochester Institute of Technology summer camp really had something interesting to write about.



## Rochester Institute of Technology NYGEAR UP Program

► **Who**  
322 ninth-graders

► **Where**  
East HS  
Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center  
Wilson Magnet HS

**F**or five weeks this past summer, 22 students from three schools in the Rochester area had the time of their life. They made new friends, they laughed, they learned, and they spent a good part of the summer improving their skills and sense of what they could achieve.

The Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection/Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) NYGEAR UP summer camp was an ambitious program designed to enhance academic skills, leadership qualities, math and reading skills, and computer literacy. In addition, the camp introduced eighth grade students to different career paths, made them aware of college requirements, subjects they could

study in college, and things they and their families should know about college admission and financial aid.

Every morning students arrived at RIT by bus. Each day was jammed-packed with activities from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. RIT hosted lunch in the college dining hall, providing students with a taste for campus life. Parents were also invited to attend any and all sessions, as well as field-trip Fridays,



*RIT NYGEAR UP Summer Camp participants listen as RIT college students talk about their college experiences.*

when students visited college campuses, local workplaces, community service organizations, parks and other recreational areas.

Fun was definitely on the agenda. Presenters at this NYGEAR UP summer program were inspired leaders who managed to capture the attention of students and help them master new skills at the same time. Staff included facilitators and instructors from the Hillside-Work Scholarship Connection, the



*RIT NYGEAR UP summer camp participants searched the Internet to explore some of their career interests during a computer class.*

Rochester City School District, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and Milton, Anthony & Associates, an education management and consulting company.

The goals of the **computer technology segment** included helping the campers become comfortable with computers. They worked on developing their keyboard and basic document management skills, and explored the capabilities of the Internet.

**Building math skills** was also an essential part of the program. Students received lessons for next-grade level mathematics. Daily homework assignments in math helped reinforce what was learned.

Students focused on their **reading skills**, critical to learning and comprehension. Over the five-week camp, participants read and discussed Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. In addition, they received lessons for next-grade reading skills, different activities to enhance their reading comprehension, and regular homework assignments.

**Believe in Yourself!**  
**And be not dismayed—**  
**Take courage in those who**  
**have made the grade.**  
**Just keep moving with a**  
**resolute will**  
**And you will reach the top**  
**of life's rugged hill.**  
**Believe in Yourself!**

*An excerpt from "Believe In Yourself" by Milton, Anthony and Associates and Phi Beta Sigma. Used with permission. Recited at the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection/Rochester Institute of Technology summer camp.*



*Students created electronic "posters" to describe a career they would like to pursue.*

During the leadership training segment of the camp, participants learned a lot about themselves, their capabilities, and, in the process, worked on their self-esteem. In dynamic presentations, students discovered how to set realistic goals, develop team skills, build successful relationships, and how to make their verbal and other communications more effective. They discussed the concept of the "six intellects" and how the cognitive, social, emotional, physical, linguistic, and spiritual intellects combine and complement one another, creating the whole person.

**Career and college** awareness was at the heart of the camp, and campers listened intently as RIT college students and others talked about the possibilities available when you embrace the hard but rewarding work of graduating high school and going to college.

*The Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection/Rochester Institute of Technology NYGEAR UP 2001 summer camp was a part of the RIT NYGEAR UP program. For more information, contact Dianne Spang at (716) 475-2984 or [dlsop@rit.edu](mailto:dlsop@rit.edu).*

## Resources.

One purpose of this newsletter is to share resources with all NYGEAR UP College for Me sites. If you have a resource you think deserves mention in this column, contact Susan Nesbitt Perez at [susan@cicu.org](mailto:susan@cicu.org).

### Resources for Families

► Brochures for parents developed by Project FLAME, the Center for Literacy, U. of Illinois at Chicago

Brochures, available in English and Spanish:

- *Parents and Schools: Working Together*
- *Parents and Schools: Getting Involved, Knowing Your Rights, Assuming Responsibilities*
- *Helping Your Children Learn at Home, in School, and in the Community*
- *Talking with Your Children; Helping Your Children Learn to Read and Write at Home*
- *Building Positive Relationships with Your Children: Communication and Discipline*
- *Learning Outside the School: Using Your Community Resources*
- *Helping Your Children Through Their Adolescent Years*
- *Planning for the Future: Helping Your Children Make Career Choices*

Purchase sets of all nine brochures from: PROJECT FLAME Center for Literacy, University of Illinois at Chicago (M/C 147), 1040 W. Harrison, Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 413-1914. Prices: 1-25 copies \$1.00/set; 26-100 copies \$.75/set; 101 or more copies \$.50/set.

► Parents' Guide to the Internet (revised 2000)

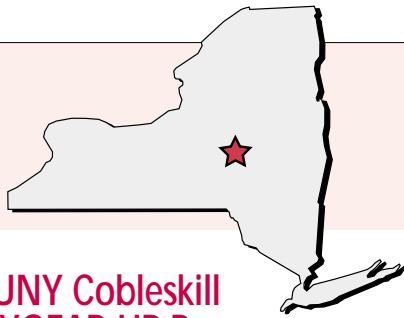
*The Parents' Guide to the Internet* (Spanish version *La Guía del Internet para Padres de Familia*) includes:

- What Is the Internet?
- Benefits of Using the Internet
- Getting Started
- Internet Basics
- Internet Safety Tips
- Encouraging Information Literacy
- Supporting School Use of Technology

Available on-line, or download as a PDF file at: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet/>. Or, to order a print version: 1-877-4-EDPUBS; Fax: 1-301-470-1244; Mail: ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398; E-mail: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

# Opening minds, exploring possibilities.

Through field trips, tutoring, leadership building classes, and informal outings, students in the SUNY Cobleskill College for Me program are discovering that, yes, college is for them.



## SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP Program

► **Who**  
232 ninth-graders

► **Where**  
Charlotte Valley Central School, Davenport  
Jefferson Central School, Jefferson  
Laurens Central School, Laurens  
Morris Central School, Morris  
Owen D. Young Central School,  
Van Hornesville  
St. Johnsville Central School, St. Johnsville  
South Kortright Central School,  
South Kortright

**A**sk a typical eighth-grader why someone might go to college and he or she might answer: To be a teacher. Or a doctor. Or a lawyer. They're absolutely right, but through the NYGEAR UP College for Me program, those eighth-graders learned that while college does offer training for professional degrees, it also provides a wealth of other learning opportunities.

The SUNY Cobleskill College for Me program works with 232 students in seven rural K-12 schools with class sizes ranging from 18 to 44 students. The schools are located across an area that spans three counties.

Geography certainly can be a challenge when it's time to get

students and their families together. But no obstacle is insurmountable when it comes to providing stimulating, educational, and informative adventures for these now ninth-grade students.

Some learning adventures are in the classroom. Others are in the field. All are designed to capture the imagination, help children through any academic difficulties, enable them to refine interpersonal skills, encourage them to explore their interests, introduce them to colleges



*Bloodworms scooped from Otsego Lake will be examined back at the lab.*

and career paths, and — a critical point — to invite their parents to be part of the process.

**Tutoring** is at the heart of the SUNY Cobleskill College for Me program. The site assigns one tutor for each of its seven schools. Each tutor works 20 hours a week during the school year, helping students with assignments, homework, and with building important academic



*During a low ropes activity students from SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP worked as a team to move wooden "trolleys" without talking.*

skills needed for college acceptance. The tutor becomes a mentor who facilitates transitions, connects with parents, and monitors the students' progress. It works. Grade point averages have increased, and self-esteem and motivation have improved.

**Field trips** are fun. They're also educational. Students from different schools get to know one another, broaden their perspectives, and learn in a non-threatening way. The SUNY Cobleskill College for Me site incorporates regular field trips into its program. One of great popularity is the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station trip, which includes presentations from a biologist on aquatic and wildlife management. Graduate interns take students on a boat excursion to collect specimens and then lead "mini-experiments" as students examine samples from the bottom of the lake under a microscope back at the lab.

The trip also includes a nature walk through the woods to a beaver pond where students roll up their pants and wade into the water to capture "anything that moves." Everything that the students find is examined and explained, which makes this hands-on learning experience especially meaningful for the students.

**Specialized instruction** for students and their families in using the computer and responsibly accessing the Internet is planned for the winter.

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**"We're not preaching. We're building relationships with the kids and their parents. From the beginning, our priority has been to get them to know, trust, and love us."**

*-Paul Turner, Program Director, SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP*

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## Hard work, great results.

In just one year, 24 of the 36 students at one school are now on the honor roll. At another school, one boy increased his grade point average (GPA) from 66 to 82. Another student realized an increase of 15 points.

The SUNY Cobleskill College for Me program has more big ideas and big plans for its students. Upcoming activities include visits to job sites and college campuses, more field trips, more involvement from its technology partners, and more activities designed to win the hearts — and minds — of their students.

*For more information about the SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP program, contact Paul Turner or Linda Carpenter at (518) 234-2114. E-mail: liberty@midtel.net or carpenlm@hotmail.com.* ■



*Bloodworms to be examined under the microscope.*

## More Resources.

### ► Study Guides/Strategies and Helpful Web Sites

[www.aspira.org](http://www.aspira.org)

The Aspira Association, Inc. web site includes resources and links for Latino youth and families.

<http://iss.stthomas.edu/studyguides/>  
Study guides and hints.

[www.ed.gov/thinkcollege/early](http://www.ed.gov/thinkcollege/early)

A U.S. Dept. of Education initiative to provide information and resources for students, parents, and educators.

[www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org)

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation's site provides information about grants, scholarships, loans and New York's colleges and universities.

[www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org)

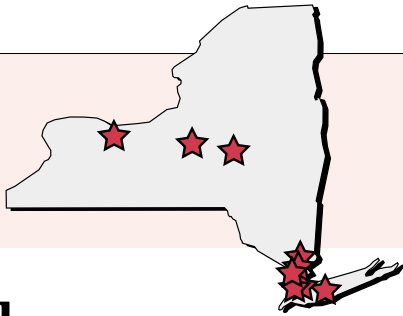
New York's 100+ private colleges and universities site has information on admissions and financial aid, open houses, campus descriptions, sports, clubs and activities, links to the colleges, and PDF versions of admissions and financial aid publications.

### ► Spring 2002 College Fairs (a sample from NYSACAC)

- April 7 (afternoon), April 8 (morning): Syracuse National College Fair, Onondaga County Convention Center, Oncenter, Syracuse, NY
- April 10 (evening): Multicultural College Night, at Newburgh Free Academy, Newburgh, NY
- April 12, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm: Annual College Fair at New Rochelle HS, New Rochelle, NY
- April 17 (evening): Columbus HS - Lehman HS College Fair at Christopher Columbus HS, Bronx, NY
- April 18: New York City National College Fair 2002 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York, NY

# Gearing up and making a difference.

In its first year, NYGEAR UP College for Me has made tremendous strides with creative programming, activities that reach out to students and parents, and plans that will inspire our now ninth-graders toward the goal of a college education.



## The NYGEAR UP Sites

### Copiague Public Schools

#### Contacts

Dr. Laurence W. Aronstein, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Noreen Hernandez, Special Projects Coordinator  
Sarah Scaffetta, Associate Special Projects Coordinator

#### ► Who

310 ninth-graders

#### ► Where

Walter G. O'Connell HS

#### Partners

Adelphi University  
Copiague Public Library  
Dowling College  
Hofstra University  
SUNY Farmingdale  
SUNY Stony Brook  
YES Community Counseling Center

#### Focus

Expand our mentoring program with the goal of matching every student with an adult mentor. Increase parent involvement.

#### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- In March students visited their first college, Dowling College.
- More than 40 students were matched with an adult mentor at two "Meet your Mentor

**"It's amazing to see the students' high level of interest when visiting college campuses – even at such a young age."**

*–Sarah Scaffetta, NYGEAR UP Co-Director, Copiague College for Me*

Night" dinners for families and mentors.

- The YES Community Counseling Center presented a June 28 workshop for parents on stress and the transition to high school; a Suffolk County Community College counselor presented an August 8 workshop on college awareness.
- 15 students involved in a summer Leadership Academy and some of their parents visited St. John's University for a tour and presentation by the Dean of Admissions.

#### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- On November 6 the College Board will conduct a staff development session for school counselors and ninth-grade teachers, focusing on integrating college awareness in the curriculum.
- Train more mentors for our students through the Long Island Mentoring Partnership.
- Plan at least two college visits: one in fall 2001 and one in spring 2002. Discuss plans for a summer 2002 college visit.
- Continue monthly parent workshops for parents/guardians.

## CUNY

#### Contacts

John Garvey, Program Director  
Lotus Jones, Project Director  
Denise Paige, College Readiness Specialist  
Site Supervisors:  
Suzanne Adely, Pedro Baez, Lenard Ciaccio,  
Nick Giampetruzzi, Melissa Pinto, Les Raphael,  
Dianne Reiser, Regina Robin, Anne Walsh

#### ► Who

2,400 ninth-graders

#### ► Where

New York City Public Schools

##### *Bronx*

Christopher Columbus HS

Evander Childs HS

Harry S. Truman HS

##### *Brooklyn*

Brooklyn College Academy

Bushwick HS

EBC-Public Service in Bushwick

Fort Hamilton HS

##### *Manhattan*

George Washington (Law & Public Service, Media & Communications, Health Careers & Science, International Business & Finance)

Manhattan Center for Science & Math

Washington Irving HS

##### *Queens*

Beach Channel HS

Far Rockaway HS

Gateway HS to Health Sciences

##### *Staten Island*

Curtis HS

New Dorp HS

#### Partners

After School Corporation

Brooklyn Public Library

Gateway Institute for Pre-College Education at City College

New York Public Library

Queensborough Public Library

United Way of Greater New York



*A Copiague student and her family meeting her mentor at a "Meet Your Mentor Night."*

A consortium of 7 CUNY colleges:  
 Brooklyn College  
 College of Staten Island  
 Hunter College  
 Kingsborough Community College  
 Lehman College  
 New York City Technical College  
 York College

**Focus**

Provide academic enrichment and social support services.

**Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001**

- Coordinated and organized programming for all participating schools.
- Proposed services targeting six areas:  
 1) professional development; 2) tutoring/mentoring; 3) distribution of print and electronic information materials; 4) Internet resources training, specifically NYMentor; 5) contact with high schools and colleges; 6) extensive parent outreach/involvement efforts.

**Priorities and Plans – 2001-02**

- Provide tutoring/mentoring.
- Distribute print and electronic information materials.
- Develop effective relationships with high schools.
- Encourage parental involvement through extensive outreach.

**Long Island University/Brooklyn Campus “Project SOAR”**

**Contacts**

Diana Voelker, HEOP Director  
 Pamela Holmes, Project Director  
 Gerald Latham, Academic and Career Guidance Counselor  
 Kimberly Lopez, Academic and Career Guidance Counselor

► **Who**

740 ninth-graders

► **Where**

Community School District 13  
 Benjamin Banneker Academy  
 Boys and Girls HS  
 George Westinghouse HS

**Partners**

Brooklyn Law School  
 Colony South Brooklyn  
 Securities Industry Automation Corporation

**Focus**

Outreach awareness, academic support and leadership skills for students and parents.



*Students from the New Rochelle Partnership College for Me who attended all workshops last year earned a trip to IBM with a presentation on technology and careers.*

**Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001**

- During a four-week summer program, students received instruction in topics such as “forensics.”
- Tutors from Long Island University’s and the Brooklyn Law School’s “America Reads” Program assisted students with homework during the school year, with preparation for year-end exams, and helped during summer school.
- NYGEAR UP Long Island University participants graduated eighth-grade and are attending more than 90 New York City high schools.

**Priorities and Plans – 2001-02**

- Continue to strengthen basic literacy and study skills with tutoring and counseling, after school and extended day programs, and additional outreach.
- Prepare students for the PSAT exam during Saturday review sessions.
- Conduct the first annual retreat for students in November to organize and plan year-long academic projects based on a liberal arts or science and technology theme. Students will create and develop collaborative projects to present at an end-of-year Youth Symposium for their peers and families.
- Provide parents with computer training and job preparation skills at LIU in conjunction with Tech Brooklyn, a training and employment council.

**The New Rochelle Partnership**

**Contacts**

Spencer H. Wiles, Asst. Superintendent,  
 Pupil Personnel and Curricular Services  
 Evelyn Johnson, Program Director

► **Who**

377 ninth-graders

► **Where**

New Rochelle HS

**Partners**

The College of New Rochelle  
 New Rochelle School District  
 New Rochelle Youth Bureau  
 Pace University  
 Services, Education and Resources (SER) of Westchester, Inc.

**Focus**

Student involvement, academic support and motivation through tutoring and mentoring, and student workshops and college tours. A focus on good attendance will help students make a successful transition to high school.

**Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001**

- A five-week, ninth-grade summer Success Project for 75 students focused on the academic, social, and emotional transition students would experience as they enter New Rochelle HS.
- A two-week summer program at The College of New Rochelle introduced 30 students to career awareness and exploration via theater arts, TV and video production, and computer technology workshops taught by college professors.

**Priorities and Plans– 2001-02**

- Closely monitor and track students’ academic performance and attendance.
- Ensure successful transition from eighth to ninth grade by offering individual and group sessions for students as well as parent workshops.
- Provide academic support, tutoring and mentoring programs to sustain student motivation.
- Continue to expose students and families to college and career possibilities.

**“Our summer program made me realize how important it is to work hard to get where you want in life.”**

*-A New Rochelle Partnership College for Me student*

## Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

### Contact

Dianne Spang, Director of K-12 Partnerships

### ► Who

322 ninth-graders

### ► Where

East HS

Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center

Wilson Magnet HS

### Partners

The Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection  
Rochester City School District (RCSD)

### Focus

Increase student competence in math and build parental involvement.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- 40 parents attended informational meetings to learn about the NYGEAR UP program and services, how to choose an appropriate high school program, and were surveyed about their knowledge of college readiness and costs.
- Students attended a year-end celebration breakfast.
- Summer programming included a successful five-week summer camp where students developed academic and leadership skills, learned computer technology, and went on weekly Friday field trips to college campuses, local businesses, community service organizations, parks, and other recreational areas.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Staff development workshops.
- Identify RIT students to serve as mentors.
- Focus on the academic requirements to pass the New York State Regents exams.
- Present college information to parents and students.
- Expand summer programming to include more students and continue the workshops during the school year.



*RIT NYGEAR UP students try out their presentation skills in the summer camp's leadership training component. Presentations over, students are happy — and relieved.*



*Students learn new study skills and strategies during SJU's Summer Institute.*

## St. John's University (SJU)

### Contacts

Deborah Saldana, St. John's University  
Associate Professor, Director

Yvette Morgan, Associate Director  
SJU GEAR UP Program EDNY Web site:  
<http://facpub.stjohns.edu/~saldanad>

### ► Who

300 ninth-graders

### ► Where

Long Island City HS

### Partners

Community School District 30  
Goodwill Industries

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement  
Houses, Inc.

St. John's University Brooklyn Bridge Program

St. John's University GEAR UP

St. John's University Talent Search

### Focus

Build on the support and enthusiasm generated by the 1999 federal GEAR UP grant SJU received by providing quality programs and services and increasing opportunities for successful collaboration between St. John's University and Long Island City HS students.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- 135 students participated in an intensive five-week college-bound program on the SJU campus. Modeled after the McBride Foundation program, it included campus tours and a variety of workshops on self-esteem, mentoring, college admissions, and campus organizations.
- A GEAR UP Summer Institute at St. John's University included four days of workshops in communication arts, study skills, time management, leadership skill development, library research, math, drug prevention, self-esteem, and a NYMentor computer workshop. The fifth day featured a carnival.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Help ensure that all GEAR UP students have access to rigorous courses to prepare them for college.
- Provide academic support to students through tutoring, hosted by a Long Island City High School teacher/mentor. Students will receive peer mentoring and counseling by GEAR UP staff and Long Island City HS seniors.
- Ongoing teacher training and professional development for the Long Island City HS faculty.
- Provide workshops for parents on high school requirements for graduation and financial aid availability for college.

## SUNY Cobleskill

### Contacts

Paul Turner, Director, Liberty Partnerships

Linda Carpenter, Program Director

### ► Who

232 ninth-graders

### ► Where

Charlotte Valley Central School, Davenport

Jefferson Central School, Jefferson

Laurens Central School, Laurens

Morris Central School, Morris

Owen D. Young Central School,

Van Hornesville

St. Johnsville Central School, St. Johnsville

South Kortright Central School,

South Kortright

### Partners

Hamilton-Fulton Montgomery BOCES

Herkimer BOCES

Margaret Reaney Memorial Library

Otsego-North Catskill BOCES

### Focus

Continue to build and expand upon the existing Liberty Partnerships Program, designed to provide students with tutoring opportunities, interactive field trips, meaningful activities, student/parent meetings, and college and career explorations.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- College tours and information sessions at SUNY Cobleskill introduced students to new subjects and possible college majors.
- During field trips to the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station students captured organisms, examined them under microscopes, and engaged in discussions with a field biologist.
- Provided each school with an Internet-ready laptop computer which facilitated the tutoring/mentoring sessions for students during their school day.

- Implemented a “computer lending” program to allow families to sign out computers for use at home.
- Placed an academic tutor/mentor in each school for 20 hours per week – a successful and critical program component.

#### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Expand student familiarity with and use of college exploration software.
- Increase contact with parents, both formally and informally.
- Hold computer classes for parents throughout the upcoming year and implement a “computer lending” program allowing families to sign out Internet-accessible computers for use at home.
- Visit three different colleges, including Cornell University.
- Acquire a desktop computer with Internet access and additional computer hardware and software.

## Syracuse University

#### Contacts

Horace Smith, Associate VP  
Lena Kochian, Associate Director  
Ulf Oesterle, Student Program Coordinator

#### ► Who

1050 ninth-graders

#### ► Where

Henninger HS  
Fowler HS

#### Partners

Dunbar Association, Inc.  
Fowler High School Parent Teacher Organization  
Huntington Family Center  
Huntington High School Parent Teacher Organization  
New Venture Gear  
Northside Catholic Youth Organization  
O'Brien and Gear Engineers  
Onondaga Community College  
State University of New York Medical Center (SUNY Upstate)  
Syracuse City School District

#### Focus

Within the ninth-grade core curricula, deliver instructional objectives through technology-based learning and include after-school tutorials, parental involvement, and community partner support.

#### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- Through several multi-curriculum-based projects and papers utilizing technology, students expanded their use of software programs and Internet resources to create

an ongoing electronic portfolio of their work.

- Focused on writing skills in English Language Arts classes.
- Designed tutorials to provide academic intervention through the core curricula.
- 250 students attended a five-week summer college program at Onondaga Community College. Sessions included electronic media, communication, studio arts, and mechanical technology.

#### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- The full partnership, including our business and industry partners, will collaborate to write a technology and Internet plan and curriculum. The program will focus on training to be delivered through English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Science Technology (MST) courses.
- Develop and implement, for the high schools' ELA classes, an electronic college application essay writing component for students.
- Each student will receive a computer disk to use in the ELA classes.
- Conduct staff workshops to determine effective development of students' career competencies.

## Westchester Community College (WCC)

#### Contacts

Seymour Lesh, Director of Grants  
Anita Cook, Assistant Professor, Director  
Eileen Brown, Assistant Director

#### ► Who

450 ninth-graders

#### ► Where

Peekskill HS  
Port Chester HS

#### Partners

Carver Center  
EPIC (Every Person Influences Children)  
Family Services of Westchester and its AmeriCorps Program  
The Guidance Center, Inc.  
John D. Hallinan  
Peekskill City School District  
Peekskill Police Department  
Peekskill Youth Bureau  
Port Chester Police Department  
Port Chester Youth Bureau  
Services, Education and Resources (SER) of Westchester, Inc.  
SUNY Purchase  
Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers  
UPLIFT-Omega Psi Phi Foundation

Westchester County Youth Bureau  
Yeshiva University

#### Focus

“Think College Early” – our theme to raise awareness among students and parents, and the slogan for our coordinated efforts in the collaborative delivery of resources and intervention services tailored to meet each high school's unique needs.

#### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- Our five-week summer enrichment program's range of activities focused on building academic skills in math and English, exploring career and college possibilities, character development, improving oral and written communication, and enhancing computer know-how. The assistant principal of the Yonkers Public School System presented a dynamic high school orientation talk.
- Increased college awareness through campus visits. At New York Medical College, students from the college talked about their college experiences. After a tour of SUNY Purchase, WCC NYGEAR UP students attended an admission information session.
- 50 middle-school students from Port Chester studied the play “Cyrano” in their French classes and then attended a performance of “Cyrano” in French at SUNY Purchase.

#### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Match every ninth-grader with a mentor who will provide academic assistance and career exploration.
- Establish an Academic Support Center at each high school utilizing WCC college students as tutors.
- Provide a monthly series of workshops for parents and guardians focused on the theme “What Every Parent Should Know.”
- Encourage parent involvement with a “Bring your Parent to School Day.” Parents will attend a class with their child and attend workshops in English and Spanish.
- Continue college visits.



*RIT NYGEAR UP Summer Camp participants learn all about computers during a technology class.*

## Yonkers Public Schools

### Contacts

Louis A. Constantino, Asst. Superintendent  
Orquidea Sanso, Project Coordinator

### ► Who

420 ninth-graders

### ► Where

Yonkers MHS  
Gorton HS  
Lincoln HS  
Roosevelt HS  
Saunders HS

### Partners

EPIC (Every Person Influences Children)  
IBM Black Network of NY  
Iona College  
Junior Achievement  
Manhattanville College  
Mercy College  
The Spanish Community Progress Foundation  
SUNY Purchase

### Focus

Engage students in academic projects; raise student performance; raise parent awareness and participation; and provide tutoring and enrichment programs.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

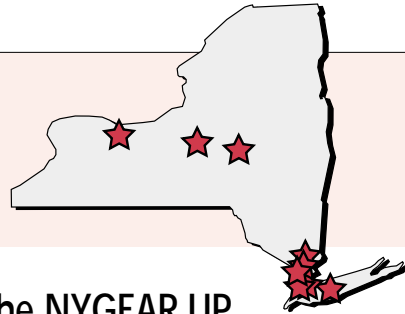
- Two staff development workshops focused on Student Leadership and Conflict Resolution.
- Manhattanville College conducted a 20-hour course for teachers on “Making Connections: Discipline, Responsibility and Respect.”
- Students and parents visited local colleges: Iona, Manhattanville, Mercy and SUNY Purchase.
- Mercy College held three parent meetings focusing on college opportunities, NYS standards and the transition to high school.
- A group of students, mentors and staff received training and began using the Scholarship “Windows to Success” program. Additional students completed a 3-day training at Iona College over the summer.
- 30 students began preparation for the PSAT using math and vocabulary review cards and a revised reading list.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Provide more opportunities for experiential, hands-on learning through special contests and activities to motivate and encourage student involvement.
- Increase student participation in honor-level courses in all subjects.
- Begin Saturday morning sessions to prepare students for the PSAT exam.
- Increase opportunities for targeted teacher development with a course for ninth-grade English teachers at Manhattanville College

on preparing students for the English Language Arts Regents exam, and a workshop for ninth- and tenth-grade teachers presented by the College Board.

- Increase student comfort with and availability of technology by providing computers to students who do not have access to computers at home.



## The NYGEAR UP Sectors/Partners

## Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU)

### Contacts

Susan L. Nesbitt Perez, Director of Outreach Programs  
Mary W. Shamblen, Outreach Programs Assistant

### Focus

CICU, a voluntary consortium of more than 100 private, non-profit colleges and universities, is the coordinating organization and public policy forum for the Independent Sector. CICU is assisting NYGEAR UP College for Me sites by providing targeted information and services to raise college awareness.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- In Spring 2001, developed and distributed *In Gear*, the first issue of a biannual newsletter for NYGEAR UP partnerships.
- Distributed the following materials to all NYGEAR UP program sites: “College for Me” pencils, folders, diskette holders, and posters, “From Me to You” student-to-student mentoring letter, *Affording College* publication, and a *College for Me* bilingual student brochure.
- Developed English and Spanish financial aid and career awareness Web resources and publication translations and launched them on [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org).
- Identified, offered and distributed publications to professionals from public

libraries, Hispanic organizations, and religious institutions in and around NYGEAR UP site communities.

- Attended and participated in SUNY Cobleskill’s “Duke Dinner” May 22, the Biological Field Station trip June 5, NYGEAR UP picnic June 10, and end-of-year award ceremony June 22; and visited the RIT summer camp August 7.
- Provided NYGEAR UP certificates to five sites (CUNY, LIU, New Rochelle, SUNY Cobleskill, and WCC); presented an achievement award to a student at SUNY Cobleskill; provided incentive awards to students in the ninth-grade Summer Success Project at New Rochelle.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- September/October — Distribute publications and materials to community organizations. Continue to recruit professionals from private colleges and universities, libraries, and community-based organizations.
- November/December — Distribute to the NYGEAR UP sites: *In Gear* newsletter (autumn issue); “From Me to You” student-to-student mentoring letters; *Affording College* 2001 (English and Spanish versions); *Your College Search* 2001 (English and Spanish versions); 1-page Bulletin (bilingual), and “College for Me” pens, book covers, folders, and calculators. Notify sites of availability of backpacks and plan for an incentive award schedule. Produce and distribute parent brochures (bilingual).
- Plan site visits, workshops, and/or regional meetings; assist in planning college visits and summer programs.
- Spring 2002 — Produce and distribute: *In Gear* newsletter Vol. 2, No. 2; three new “From Me to You” student-to-student mentoring letters; *College for Me* bilingual student brochure, and other resources as needed.



Students learn library research skills during SJU’s Summer Institute.

## The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC)

### Contacts

Ellen Hollander, Executive Director  
Joseph Bosco, Program Director

### Focus

APC is focused on establishing relationships between APC institutions and the NYGEAR UP sites; providing speakers; organizing campus visits; providing mentors and training academic mentors; organizing a career activity; and organizing a summer activity (e.g. computer camp).

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- Conducted a highly rated workshop, “Coping with Change,” for school counselors at New Rochelle.
- Contacted all College for Me sites and developed some collaborative projects.
- Presented the workshop, “Essentials of Instruction,” to SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP tutors.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Organize and establish a financial aid hotline for parents of NYGEAR UP students.
- Offer a workshop for parents called “Parent as Teacher.”
- Continue to build on the success of the initial student workshop, “Coping with Change.”
- Increase contacts between APC colleges and the NYGEAR UP sites and exchange ideas at a fall meeting.

## CUNY

### Contact

John Garvey, Program Director

### Priorities and Plans– 2001-02

- Produce a series of “how to” booklets, with possible emphasis on reading textbooks, reading for understanding and the writing process.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter with contributions from students, parents, teachers, and tutors.
- Collect and disseminate information about the college planning process including the courses students will need to prepare for college entrance exams and academic prerequisites.
- Offer teachers professional development opportunities including using the Reading Apprenticeship program as a framework for building instructional skill; develop an interdisciplinary curriculum; improve prep

strategies for the Regents Exams.

- Collaborate with other sector representatives to plan special events such as conferences and student fairs.

## SUNY

### Contact

Anthony M. Belcher, Associate for Special Programs and Director

### Focus

Meet with site coordinators and facilitate goals for their participants.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- Assist sites in serving participants.
- Continue to identify and hire staff.

## The College Board

### Contacts

Brian J. Petraitis, Director of NYS College Board office  
Sabrina Cerezo, Project Director  
Lynell Engelmeyer, Project Co-Director

### Focus

The College Board, a national, non-profit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity, offers an array of programs and services in college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, teaching and learning.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- Conducted ExPAN guidance software training sessions for school counselors at the following NYGEAR UP sites: SUNY Cobleskill, Syracuse, Westchester Community College and Yonkers. ExPAN is a comprehensive guidance software tool with college, financial aid and career search components, and personality assessment.
- Invited NYGEAR UP school counselors to attend several professional development workshops including the University of Delaware Summer Institute on College Admissions for Secondary School Counselors and the NYS Association for College Admission Counselors’ Annual Conference at Siena College in June.
- Provided workshops for parents and students with information on college planning, test preparation, college search, scholarship search, and financial aid.

### Priorities and Plans – 2001-02

- In early fall, distribute student incentives to sites — student planners, scientific calculators, and backpacks.



*A NYGEAR UP computer workshop at St. John’s University.*

- Continue to offer professional staff development opportunities. The offerings will include Building Success, Vertical Teams, Setting the Cornerstones, Fall Counselor Workshops, and Advanced Placement workshops.
- Host a two-day Test Prep Conference for school counselors/faculty in Spring 2002 focusing on testing and test prep issues including best practices, integration into classroom instruction, materials, and handouts.
- Host a Parent Involvement Conference for faculty and parents to discuss how to increase parental involvement.

## The New York State Education Department (SED)

### Contact

Maritza Vega, Associate, Office of Higher Education

### Focus

SED provides technical assistance to NYSHESC in the implementation of NYGEAR UP to increase parental involvement, train staff and parents, and sponsor a career-oriented, on-campus experience for students.

### Highlights and Successes – Spring/Summer 2001

- Participated in the second annual NYGEAR UP Conference.
- Provided technical assistance to NYSHESC in the implementation and monitoring of the NYGEAR UP College for Me program.
- Collaborated with NYSHESC, the Sectors, and NYGEAR UP College for Me sites to deliver necessary services.

# Quick List of Sites and Contacts.

**Inside:**  
**Resources, information,  
and inspiration.**

## NYGEAR UP Sites

### ► Copiague Public Schools

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### ► CUNY

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### ► New Rochelle Partnership

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### ► Yonkers Public Schools

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## NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC)

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