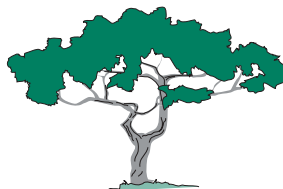


NYGEAR UP branches out



Fall and early winter are traditionally busy times for schools and NYGEAR UP programs were no exceptions. Our students made the sensitive transition to high school and ninth grade and are now involved in another year of challenging, rewarding, and entertaining activities to hone their skills and help them plan for the future.

Just as our teenagers are developing stronger roots, NYGEAR UP sites and sectors have branched out, too. Ideas to learn from — and creatively imitate — are included in our site and sector highlights (see pages 6 – 15).

In this issue we also feature two sites, the Copiague Public Schools and The New Rochelle Partnership. In the Copiague story, you'll learn how mentoring makes the difference between a student's success and failure. And at New Rochelle,

students are discovering new meaning in having to "stay after school," as they are entertained and educated in science, reading, and math programs.

This third issue of *In Gear* also contains a new feature, "Self-Expressions," dedicated to student work. It showcases special talents and provides a forum for students to express their feelings about their involvement in NYGEAR UP.

Spring is a time of renewal and optimism. It seems that everyone — students, teachers, administrators — is poised for strong growth as plans for spring and summer take shape for our soon-to-be tenth-graders to visit more colleges, examine career options, and continue or begin to prep for tests. ■

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College
FOR
Me!

NYGEAR UP College for Me is our state's partnership to encourage students to Gain Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). Part of the GEAR UP program, NYGEAR UP 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.

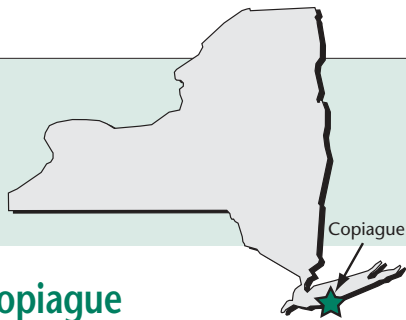
The 6,500+ NYGEAR UP students are receiving special enrichment classes, workshops on career and college awareness, financial aid information, homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring, computer instruction, and family support. They are visiting college campuses and work sites, and participating in other activities designed to help them achieve success in high school, in preparation for college and a career.

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

In Gear is published twice a year by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu), a partner in the NYGEAR UP College for Me program administered by New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC). While the editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy, we apologize for any errors or omissions. If you wish to make a suggestion for the next issue, scheduled for publication in the autumn of 2002, please e-mail Susan Nesbitt Perez at susan@cicu.org.

The power of connecting.

Long-term mentoring relationships are at the heart of the Copiague NYGEAR UP Program, where mentors and students are discovering they can learn from each other.



Copiague Public Schools NYGEAR UP Program

► Who

350 ninth-graders

► Where

Walter G. O'Connell High School

When Max Outsens, ninth-grader at Walter G. O'Connell High School, wants advice or support, he knows he can turn to his mentor Mr. Voorneveld. "The mentoring program is a great experience because I can talk to my mentor about school and other things on my mind," says Max.

As the staff at the Copiague Public Schools NYGEAR UP formulated a focus for their program, they wanted mentoring to play a primary role in helping students achieve academic and personal success. According to a Proctor and Gamble study of mentoring programs in Cincinnati, students who are mentored are more likely to stay in school, achieve and aspire to better grades, and go on to college.*

The philosophy behind Copiague's mentoring program is straightforward: Mentoring can help restore a young person's faith in the future while adding new meaning to the mentor's life. Yet, for mentoring to succeed, it must be a dedicated effort. Copiague's NYGEAR UP staff looks for mentors who will follow students through their high school years. The mentors receive training and guidance in their responsibilities and regular, and frequent communication between mentor and student is a must.



A time for fun. Bowling night for students and mentors.

Long-term commitment by mentors is a fundamental tenet of Copiague's program. Copiague asks that mentors be regularly available to students and commit to the mentoring relationship for the remainder of the student's high school years. This continuity will build strong relationships and trust.

In-depth training for Copiague mentors provides advice on counseling and communication, insights into the characteristics of teenagers, listening techniques, pitfalls to avoid, and methods to help make the most of time spent in the mentor-mentee relationship.

Matching personalities is important. Copiague's approach emphasizes "the right fit." Although there are some exceptions, in most



Noreen Hernandez, Copiague Special Projects Coordinator, looks on as students complete letters to pen pals.

* Cited in "Guide to Mentoring Resources 2000," courtesy of The Long Island Mentoring Partnership.

cases male mentors are paired with male students and female mentors with female students.

Regular communication reinforces the student's investment in the NYGEAR UP program and helps build motivation and success. At the least, mentor and student meet face-to-face on school grounds every other week for one-hour sessions. Depending on individual schedules, some meet more frequently or even daily. In between these in-person meetings, communication continues by telephone or e-mail exchange. Organized events, such as a celebratory dinner, holiday get-together, or bowling night, also bring groups of mentors and mentees together. During the summer, mentor and student are encouraged to stay in touch by telephone and e-mail.

Follow-up and status reports help gauge the effectiveness of the program and the success of the mentoring match. Mentors complete and return to coordinators monthly mentoring logs. In addition, every six months parents and mentors fill out a brief student progress note to help coordinators assess the student's achievements.

Having a mentor to turn to makes all the difference.

Mentoring is not the only feature of the Copiague NYGEAR UP Program, but it is the nexus around which other program components revolve. While it is too early in the program to quantify, staff perceive that those students currently matched with mentors are engaged, motivated, feel supported in their academic pursuits, and have a strong will to go to college.



College Club students write pen pal letters to GEAR UP students in Oklahoma.

Mentors, who make a great commitment of their time and energy, reap rewards of their own and learn something in the process. Student Max Outsen's mentor, Albert Voorneveld, principal at Copiague Middle School, remarks that the relationship with Max has been mutually beneficial. "Max has helped me better understand the challenges that ninth-grade students face," says Mr. Voorneveld, "and this understanding will help me better prepare my eighth-grade students in the future."

For more information, contact Sarah Scaffetta at (631) 842-4010 x422, e-mail: copscaff@copiague.k12.ny.us; or contact Noreen Hernandez at (631) 842-4011 x321, e-mail: copherna@copiague.k12.ny.us. ■

What a mentor is:

- a trusted friend
- a responsible and reliable adult
- a link to other cultures, attitudes, and behaviors
- a guide and tutor
- a good listener

What a mentor isn't:

- a savior
- a substitute parent
- a cool peer
- a parole officer
- a therapist
- a source of funds

Used with permission from the "Guide to Mentoring Resources 2000," courtesy of The Long Island Mentoring Partnership. For additional information, contact Jean Cohen at (631) 761-7800.

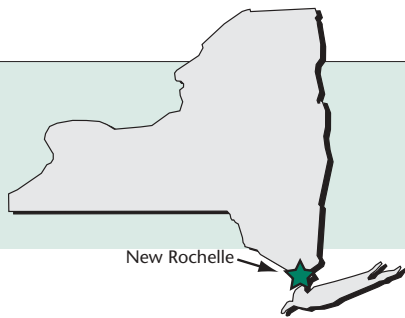
For information about becoming a mentor, contact Noreen Hernandez at (631) 842-4011 x321.



Students and a mentor at Student-Mentor Bowling Night.

The joy of learning.

When it's late afternoon and the pressure is off, students in The New Rochelle Partnership head back to the classroom and learning takes on a whole new dimension.



The New Rochelle College for Me Partnership

► Who

340 ninth-graders

► Where

New Rochelle High School

Students in New Rochelle's after school program are building new skills or enriching advanced skills, and they're having fun in the process.

The eight-to-ten week programs

in science, math, and reading are offered once or twice a week, depending on the topic, and are designed to appeal to kids who want to learn without the constraints of a formal classroom environment. At these after school classes, the goal is serious, but the atmosphere is relaxed and kids seem to appreciate and respond to the informality.

Science enrichment classes are offered one afternoon a week for one hour. The three teachers who participated in designing the classes — and who now teach them — deliberately created hands-on experiments and activities to enhance the ninth-graders' science



A science enrichment experiment involving temperature and the sense of touch.

curriculum, while keeping them engaged and motivated.

Twenty students attend these science enrichment classes and explore a new topic each week:

- fingerprint analysis allows exploration of forensic science;
- activities involving the nervous system encourage conversations about biology;
- ice cream making, paint making, and soap making lead to discussions about chemistry;
- in earth science studies, participants make thermometers, stalagmites, and stalactites, learning why mountains rise and how fast the wind blows;
- an examination of lightbulbs leads to questions about physics;
- through a thinking-game combining ethics and reasoning students explore environmental sciences.

Additional activities may involve researching a topic, preparing a presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint®, and sharing findings with the group. In addition to these on-site science enrichment classes, teachers plan to take students on a science-related field trip to further expand the learning experiences.



Student editors from New Rochelle's after school reading program activity.

In essential skills math class, which meets once a week after school for one hour, kids learn that math is useful in the “real world.” Skill-building is approached in a way that makes learning math fun and memorable while demonstrating its applications to everyday situations. Technology instruction is integrated as participants practice their new math know-how to solve practical problems.

The essential skills reading program brings together 10 students for one hour two days a week to help participants refine their reading, writing, and comprehension abilities. Specific language comprehension skills and strategies are informally reviewed at the beginning of each session. Then students apply this knowledge as they work on a special project from concept to completion.

After discussing several options, students decided to create a how-to/orientation booklet for next year’s ninth-grade class, a rite of passage these kids have just been through. To focus this work, an outline and table of contents were developed, and each student was assigned a

topic. Topics included school rules, finding your way around, discipline, and others.

Working in the computer lab, students will have written, edited, proofread, and assembled the entire booklet by the end of the program. As they see their individual work become part of a final brochure that incoming ninth-graders will need and appreciate, students stay motivated and feel the excitement of developing a useful product.

Now, as this newsletter goes to press, more classes are planned that will build on the success of the science, math, and reading programs. Good programs create good outcomes — and make learning a joy.

For more information, please contact Evelyn Astacio-Johnson at (914) 576-8205, e-mail: e_mj2000@hotmail.com. ■



An after school science enrichment program activity has students experimenting with nerve endings and the sense of touch.

Resources.

► Computers for Schools, Libraries, and Other Nonprofits.

- Gateway is donating up to 4,500 computers that were used in the Winter Olympic Games to nonprofit organizations. Visit <http://www.gateway.com/olympics/donations.shtml>. The application will be posted on the Web site from April 2 to July 31, 2002.
- Through its U.S. Library Program, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation works in partnership with libraries to provide access to computers, the Internet, and digital information for library patrons in low-income communities. For information, visit www.gatesfoundation.org and click on “Libraries.”

► Career Explorations

- Job shadowing is a great learning device and now students can take advantage of its benefits on the Internet. The Groundhog Job Shadow Day started February 1 and continues through the school year. Visit www.JobShadow.org for how-to guides and contacts to get started.

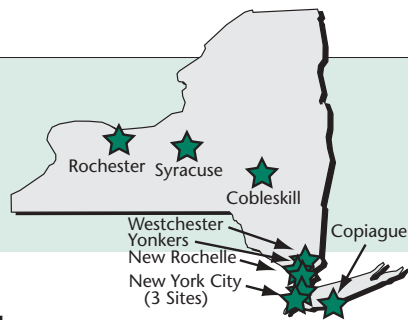
► Special Scholarships

It’s never too early to encourage families to investigate scholarships to fund their college dreams:

- The Gates Millennium Scholars, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to increase access to higher education to a variety of groups who may have been traditionally denied the advantages of undergraduate and graduate study. For information on eligibility and nomination guidelines, call toll-free 1-877-690-4677.
- The Organization of Chinese Americans may make scholarship money available to eligible individuals. For information, visit <http://www.ocanatl.org>.
- The Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to outstanding Hispanic students in higher education in the United States and Puerto Rico. For information, visit <http://www.hsf.net>.
- The United Negro College Fund has more than 400 scholarship programs for African-American students. For information, visit <http://www.uncf.org>.

NYGEAR UP programs in full swing.

Field trips. After school programming. Intensive mentoring. Parent involvement. College visits. Essential skills development. Exposure to career possibilities. These are just some of the exciting activities of NYGEAR UP programs across the state. Here's a snapshot of recent successes and future plans.



The NYGEAR UP Sites

Copiague Public Schools

Contacts

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

► Who

350 ninth-graders

► Where

Walter G. O'Connell HS

Partners

Adelphi University
 Dowling College
 Hofstra University
 The Long Island Mentoring Partnership
 SUNY Farmingdale
 SUNY Stony Brook
 YES Community Counseling Center
 Copiague Public Library

Focus

Increase parent involvement. Expand our mentoring program, providing mentors to more students in our ninth-grade cohort. Promote literacy by sponsoring a book fair and providing books to all students. Make available extra help to students before and after school.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Current and potential mentors from the community received mentor training in October at our high school.
- An ESL Extra-Help Program began in October and is offered four days a week for one hour after school.
- A new College Club encourages students to talk about and begin learning about college life. Students meet twice a month, visit on-line college Web sites, and take monthly trips to an activity at a local college campus.
- The College Board presented a professional development session on *MyRoad.com* for ninth-grade teachers and school counselors on November 6.
- clcu presented a parent workshop, "What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College" on February 27.
- Students and mentors gathered for several outings: dinner at the Gasho of Japan Restaurant November 8; a holiday get-together at the high school December 20; and bowling February 28.
- True Colors presented a session to faculty on March 12.
- In March our entire ninth-grade cohort visited New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, NY.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Distribute hundreds of books to encourage more students to read in and outside of school.
- Continue professional development sessions for teachers and school counselors.
- The College Club is planning an overnight trip to Boston in April, where students will visit two or three colleges.
- More parent workshops and mentor training sessions are planned for the end of the school year.

CUNY

Contacts

John Garvey, Director of Pre-College Collaborative Programs
 Lotus Jones, Project Director
 Denise Paige, College Readiness/Resource Specialist
 Site Supervisors:
 Suzanne Adely, Anne Walsh, Brian Friedman, Diane Reiser, Regina Robin, Joseph Singh, Dierdre Armitage, Melissa Pinto

► Who

2,400 ninth-graders

► Where

New York City Public Schools

Bronx

Christopher Columbus HS
 DeWitt Clinton HS
 Evander Childs HS
 Harry Truman HS
 Lehman HS

Brooklyn

Brooklyn College Academy
 Bushwick HS
 EBC-Public Service in Bushwick
 Fort Hamilton HS
 Lafayette HS
 Telecommunications HS
 William Grady HS

Manhattan

Brandeis HS
 George Washington HS (Law & Public Service, Media & Communications, Health Careers & Science, International Business & Finance)
 HS for Fashion Industries
 Manhattan Center for Science & Math
 Norman Thomas HS
 Vanguard HS
 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
 New York Public Library
 Queensborough Public Library
 United Way of Greater New York
 A consortium of 8 CUNY colleges
 Brooklyn College
 College of Staten Island
 CUNY Central Office – (OAA)
 Gateway Institute
 Hunter College
 Lehman College
 New York City Technical College
 York College

Focus

Provide academic enrichment and social support for students, professional development opportunities for teachers, and information workshops on academic success for parents.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Tutoring is offered to students at all high schools in the major subject areas.
- Students from two of the high schools toured The College of Staten Island and participated in a hands-on laboratory experiment, testing the effects of chemicals on the heart rate of a frog.
- Brooklyn College offers a Saturday enrichment program, "Taste of College," which features a creative writing component, presentations and activities led by faculty, pizza lunches, and tours.
- New York City Technical College offered a summer workshop for middle school math teachers on how to use the graphing calculator. Students were invited to workshops in designing a Web page, photography, art and conversation at the Brooklyn Museum, and to participate in a chair designing contest.
- Designed a GEAR UP web page with information for students, tutors, teachers, and parents linked to CUNY's *College Now* web page, www.collegenow.cuny.edu/gearup.
- Established a GEAR UP lending library at 15 high schools. The collection consists of 164 high-quality paperbacks and graphing calculators.
- Students participated in cultural events at Carnegie Hall, Liberty Science Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Harlem School of the Arts.
- Distributed clcu resource materials and College Board planners to the entire cohort.
- Summer program students studying journalism produced a community newspaper.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Provide ongoing tutoring and mentoring.
- Distribute print and electronic information materials.
- Develop effective relationships with high schools.
- Encourage parental involvement through extensive outreach.
- Offer an ESL conversation class to Spanish speaking parents.
- Increase the number of teachers involved in professional development opportunities.



A week-long college tour trip gave students from Long Island University NYGEAR UP program the chance to visit colleges in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C.

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
Science Skills Center

Partners

Brooklyn Law School
Colony South Brooklyn
Securities Industry Automation Corporation

Focus

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

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Tutoring throughout the school day at each high school occurs during break periods, lunch, and after school.
- 60 students are participating in a 15-week Saturday PSAT preparation course on the LIU campus.
- 49 ninth-graders went on a week-long tour visiting Old Dominion University, Norfolk University, Hampton University, Howard University, Boise University, and Delaware State University.

- Students at Benjamin Banneker Academy are participating in a semester of playing chess to develop good concentration skills and work toward competing in chess leagues and a student-parent play off.
- GEAR UP has hosted at least one parent night at each school with I.S 113's Jazz ensemble playing music for parents prior to the program.
- Students at Benjamin Banneker HS participated in the African-American and Women's History Month tribute March 12 with a dance troupe, band, Latino dance club, and featuring Gil Nobel as guest speaker.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- On May 18, girls from Science Skills Center will participate in a Young Ladies Empowerment Conference with workshops on careers, nutrition, etiquette, and how to successfully complete high school.
- Increase student participation in the Laptop Project, which allows students to take the laptop home to complete homework and do research on the Internet.
- Hold an end-of-the-year banquet awards ceremony for students and parents.
- Plan a summer academic enrichment program for students taught by LIU professors on the LIU campus.

Self-expressions.

Written work and visual art by NYGEAR UP students.

Dedicated to the art of examining our thoughts and emotions, making sense of them, and sharing them with the world.

Exploring a Culture

by Emanuel A. Alvarez

St. John's University NYGEAR UP

Entering the bus, we were given our itinerary. Today's tours seemed to be very educational and interesting.



We arrived at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, where we were introduced to Dr. Edmund and Reverend Woodard. There we learned about the church. It was established in 1808 and named after Abyssina (Ethiopia). The main subject was Adam Clayton Powell, who was known to have worked at the church.

After that we visited the United House of Prayers for All People, where we enjoyed a *delicious* lunch.

After lunch, we went to the Schomburg Research Center where we learned a lot about African-Americans. Our first tour was led by Dr. Edmund, and we saw pictures of many famous African-Americans, including famous singers like Marian Anderson and Mahalia Jackson. We also learned about the famous Ella Fitzgerald, W.E.B. DuBois, Jacob Lawrence, Langston Hughes, Fredi Washington (who was Adam Clayton Powell's first wife), and many more.

Our second tour was in the "Mother Africa" exhibition. There we learned that Africa was "Mom" to 35,000,000 Africans and 1,000,000,000 people all over the world.

Our trip was very interesting and I liked it very much, and I had fun.

The Friend

by Yentl Pinales

CUNY NYGEAR UP

Reprinted with permission.

***I always loved you
I thought you knew
all the pain inside me
was caused because of you.***

***It was always lies
followed by deceit
with no love in return
for the pain no receipt.***

***As you continued with your lies
my life went on
without you by my side
you disappeared and now
you're gone.***

***I now understand that you
were in pain
and so I still love you
as you live your life in vain.***

How GEAR UP helped me

by Moises Valencia

New Rochelle NYGEAR UP Partnership

The GEAR UP program has helped me a lot this past year with understanding what is needed of me to get into a college. Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Phillips have both been very helpful to me — because of them and GEAR UP I can now make a better decision in what is the best career for me, and how to find out which colleges offer what I need to help me succeed. I also have more knowledge of what is required to get accepted into a college, such as: SATs, Regents credits, and extracurricular activities.

I also attended the summer program at The College of New Rochelle. I found the workshops and the trips to the Museum of Radio & Television and the theater workshop interesting and informative as well as a lot of fun. The video and computer workshops were very helpful. I learned how movies are made and how to create a PowerPoint® presentation. Through my experience in the GEAR UP program I have learned a great deal of information that will prove vital to me in the future and I believe this program will continue to help many others.

My Biggest Dream

by Krychelle E. Davis

Syracuse University NYGEAR UP

My biggest dream is to become an architect. I have had this dream ever since I was eight years old. The idea of design just catches my interest. My math and visualization skills support me in the process. There are still a lot of steps to take to fulfill my dream of becoming an architect.

In order to become an architect, I must get a lot of experience. Now in high school, I am taking technical drawing to learn the basic skills of shape and sketching. Later I plan to take architectural drawing and then computer-aided drafting. This will make sure I am prepared when I go to college.

College is another step in becoming an architect. Syracuse University is where I plan on going. I believe it is a four-year program. With the college experience from Le Moyne College's Upward Bound Program, college shouldn't be as much of a shock in my life. All of this preparation now will make the future much easier. With preparation for the future, my goal is possible.

Colleges and Careers

by *Idonia K. Barrett*

New Rochelle NYGEAR UP Partnership

The GEAR UP program is an informative and great learning experience. It has given me the knowledge that an education can get you your ideal career. I have met friends at the meetings and have learned the essentials about colleges and all different types of careers. People who have gone to school and have gotten good careers have come and shared their experience. They have said how important an education is and how it can get you everywhere in life.

The trips we have taken were also a big help. For instance, when we went to the colleges, we were able to see what college life is like and what to expect. There was also the NYMentor Web site, which allowed me to have an idea of what colleges are looking for in students. I also attended the GEAR UP summer program at New Rochelle High School. What I liked best were the teachers, especially Mr. Muller. He was real nice and he took the time to really explain what to expect when we got to the high school. Also the trips to Playland were really fun. It was a great experience to be with my friends. Thanks to the GEAR UP program and Ms. Johnson and Mr. Phillips, I have been able to get a head start on my future.

Dreams

by *Erika MacNaughton*

Syracuse University NYGEAR UP

I have many dreams for my future with regards to college or a career. First I'm definitely going to graduate high school. But after that, I'd like to do something in the health field because my mother is a nurse and the things I hear about seem so interesting.

I finally realized I wanted to do health when I entered the Health Careers Opportunity Program through SUNY Upstate. I realized I want to do something in psychiatry and the study of psychopharmacology. So I'm hoping to finish a four-year college and then enter medical school.

Then I went to visit Le Moyne College with my program and I found out about the physician's assistant program. A physician's assistant actually does 80% of what a physician does. They get paid well, need less schooling than a doctor, and they can even write prescriptions in New York State. Being only 14 years old, however, I'll probably change my mind a few more times.

The Doors of Opportunity

by *Baudilio Rivera*

St. John's University NYGEAR UP

I attend school at the High School of Graphic Communication Arts in Manhattan. I am achieving good grades and am on the honor roll. I am in a program called the Entrepreneur Workshop in my school. In this program, we make designs on T-shirts for different companies.

I am also a professional Mambo dancer. I have been dancing for five years with the "Starlite Dance Studio" in the Bronx. In 2001, I joined a group called "Con Sázon" (With Style). I have been the only boy in this group in which they called me "Sofrito." We have traveled around the world and participated in many competitions at places including Santo Domingo, Montreal, the Catskills, Los Angeles, Italy, Japan, and soon, Cuba.

As I have been attending the GEAR UP program, it has taught me to excel in school and in life and that the doors of your life will always be open. I thank GEAR UP for helping me in school and in lifetime opportunities.



Call for Entries

Have students in your cohort submit an entry for our "Self-Expressions" column. This will be a regular feature of *In Gear* and will be two pages each issue depending on space availability. While we cannot guarantee that every entry will be included, we will use a good representation of student work. We invite essays, poems, short reflections, and artwork. While subject matter can vary, preference will be given to those entries that deal with a student's thoughts about life, college, opportunity, and the benefits of NYGEAR UP.

For our next issue (Autumn 2002), please submit entries no later than July 2002. Poems and essays should be typed, not handwritten, and art should be reproduction quality. If you have questions, call or e-mail Susan Nesbitt Perez at (518) 436-4781 or susan@cicu.org.

The New Rochelle College for Me Partnership

Contacts

Spencer H. Wiles, Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Personnel and Curricular Services
Diane Massimo, Asst. Superintendent, Secondary Education
Evelyn Astacio-Johnson, Program Director

► Who

340 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 and successful transition to high school by offering academic support and motivation through tutoring, enrichment and skill-building programs, counseling sessions and exposure to college. Parental involvement through frequent meetings and effective communication.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Science Enrichment meets for eight weeks, one day a week for an hour after school. The 20 student participants explore science through hands-on experiments and activities.
- Essential Skills Improvement Program in Math is offered in a 10-week session. For one hour one day a week after school, 10 students apply math skills to “real-world” applications that also integrate technology instruction.
- Essential Skills Improvement Program in Reading meets twice a week for one hour after school. During 10 weeks of instruction, 10 participating students are



A student from The New Rochelle NYGEAR UP Partnership editing work during the after school reading program.

building skills by tackling a project from beginning to completion. The project involves conceptualizing, outlining, writing, editing, and assembling a how-to/orientation booklet for next year's incoming ninth-graders.

- Other enrichment activities include: a creative media student group is producing a public service announcement and videos on youth social issues.
- College trips to Fordham and Pace universities gave 36 students a chance to tour the campuses, talk to admissions counselors, find out about admissions criteria, and discover what college life might be like. At Pace, students also toured the environmental center.
- Parent involvement is encouraged at on-site activities and at periodic parent-counselor meetings to discuss student progress. Parents have received information about NYGEAR UP goals and events including after school programs.
- clcu presented a parent workshop, “What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College” on February 26.
- The Association of Proprietary Colleges presented a parent workshop, “Parent as Teacher, Parent as Learner” on March 6.
- GEAR UP agenda books were distributed to and reviewed with all 9th grade students early in the Fall.



Parents discuss and share ideas after the clcu parent workshop, “What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College” at New Rochelle High School.

- Students and parents attended a multimedia course on Saturdays at Monroe College sponsored by the Association of Proprietary Colleges. Participants learned to navigate FrontPage™, and learned basic design skills and concepts, learned to animate pictures, and build their own Web site. At the concluding ceremony, participants received certificates and lunch.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Build on after school programming to include other subjects in science as well as art and writing.
- Closely monitor and track students' academic performance and attendance.
- Support students' successful transition through high school by means of individual and group counseling sessions and mentoring.
- Increase parent involvement through information sessions and workshops on graduation requirements, time management and study skills, and discipline and communication.
- Three events in April will expose students and their families to college and career possibilities, and financial aid information: The College Board's Family Night (April 4), the New Rochelle High School's Annual College Night (April 11), and College Day (April 12) with representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities.
- Plan project-based summer programs at The College of New Rochelle and Iona College for over 100 students.

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

Contacts

Dianne Spang, Director, K-12 Partnerships

► Who

320 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

Offer career development strategies and provide opportunities to connect career interests to academics.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Hired program assistant, Michelle Allevato, to work directly with students at each high school, one-on-one, on career exploration activities, and to identify tutoring and mentoring needs.
- Developed Career Centers in the counseling offices at each of the three high schools. The Centers provide students with access to state-of-the-art Dell computers, a laser printer, scanners, and career exploration and academic enrichment software.
- Several teachers and counselors attended the College Board's workshop, "Building Success" last December and a follow-up session in March.
- Three people from the RIT partnership attended the College Board's professional development Middle States Conference in Baltimore in February.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Assist with academic studies by utilizing RIT students as mentors.
- Present college information to parents and students.
- Utilize College Board training for staff development opportunities.
- A one-week summer program, offered three separate times, will serve 150 students and focus on career exploration, academics, and computer literacy.

St. John's University (SJU)

Contacts

Deborah Saldana, St. John's University
Associate Professor, Director
Yvette Morgan, Associate Director
SJU GEAR UP Program Web site:
<http://facpub.stjohns.edu/~saldanad>

► Who

260 ninth-graders



A computer workshop for students at St. John's University NYGEAR UP Program.



To celebrate Black History Month, St. John's University NYGEAR UP students visited the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

► Where

Long Island City HS (135 students)
16 other high schools (125 students)

Partners

Community School District 30
HANAC Community Center
St. John's University Brooklyn Bridge Program
St. John's University GEAR UP
St. John's University Talent Search

"I always like the program because it helps me become a better student."

-Bud Rivera, SJU NYGEAR UP student

Focus

Build on the support and enthusiasm generated by the 1999 Federal GEAR UP grant SJU received by providing quality programs and services and by increasing opportunities for successful collaboration between the SJU NYGEAR UP Program and its partners.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- An after school program, administered by Long Island City High School faculty and SJU GEAR UP staff, offers tutoring in science, math, English, and Regents Prep three days a week.
- 85 families participated in a four-week Saturday computer workshop. The workshop included a college search through NYMentor, basic Microsoft® Word/Excel skills, and a financial aid session. Each family was presented with a Dell computer and Epson color printer after completing the workshop.

- To ensure that all students in the SJU GEARUP cohort receive services, partners collaborate to provide different activities at the HANAC Community Center.
- Graduate students from SJU provide tutoring in English and math during the school day.
- Field trips occurred on October 11 to the Queens Museum of Art; on October 25 to the American Museum of Moving Images; and on February 16 students celebrated Black History Month with visits to a Baptist church in Harlem and tours of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Four Saturday workshops for parents are planned focusing on "Understanding the New Standards and Assessment in Education: An English Language Learner (ELL) Approach."
- The Second Annual Summer Institute will service at least 100 participants from the state and federal GEAR UP programs. This year's theme will be "Discover New York."

"The program was very cool. Many classes were taught in games, and the teachers were very pleasant. Classes were also taught in ways that catch your interest."

-Emanuel Alvarez, SJU NYGEAR UP student

SUNY Cobleskill

Contacts

Paul Turner, Director, Liberty Partnerships
Linda Carpenter, Program Director

► Who

260 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 model, designed to provide students with tutoring opportunities, interactive field trips, meaningful activities, student/parent meetings, and college and career explorations.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- A tutor in every school provides sessions for all students in major subjects during the day, and occasional after school activities.
- Motivational speaker Duke Fisher presented a workshop, "Choices and Responsibilities," to students at six high schools. Parents joined students for dinner and discussion following the workshops.
- The College Board hosted meetings at three schools for school counselors and staff, discussing use of ExPAN software.
- During field trips to the Baseball Hall of Fame students from four of the schools participated in educational, hands-on workshops in technology, 20th-century history, geography, sociology, economics, communications, and the arts.
- Students from South Kortright visited the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Museum of Natural History.
- The College Board presented workshops for parents at six schools. Topics included high school requirements and *MyRoad.com* career exploration software.
- Students from Laurens and Jefferson visited SUNY Delhi where they met with admissions representatives and enjoyed lunch in the dining hall.

This summer, SUNY Cobleskill will host a one-week residential summer camp, where at least 60 NYGEAR UP students will explore college and career opportunities.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Continue tutoring at summer school.
- "Exploring Your Future" is the theme for a one-week residential summer camp, planned for 60 students, June 23-28. Topics will include college and career awareness and exploration, communication, and a field trip to Albany.
- Upcoming spring college visits include trips to Colgate University, SUNY Cobleskill, and Hartwick College.
- Students from six schools will visit Clark's Gym to build team spirit and challenge body and spirit through ropes and rock climbing.
- A female police officer will talk about a career in law enforcement with students at two schools.

Syracuse University

Contacts

Horace Smith, Associate VP
Lena Kochian, Director
Ulf Oesterle, Project Support Coordinator

► Who

1,050 ninth-graders

► Where

Henninger HS
Fowler HS

Partners

Dunbar Association, Inc.



A Monroe College admission counselor talks with students from the Westchester Community College NYGEAR UP program during a visit to the Learning Center at Monroe College.

Fowler High School Parent Teacher Organization
Huntington Family Center
Huntington High School Parent Teacher Organization
NAACP — ACTSO
New Venture Gear
Northside Catholic Youth Organization
O'Brien and Gear Engineers
Onondaga Community College
Partners in Business & Education
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
State University of New York Medical Center (SUNY Upstate)
Syracuse City School District
Vincent House

Focus

Within the ninth-grade core curriculum, deliver instructional objectives through technology-based learning and include after school tutorials, a mentor program, parental involvement, community partner support, and staff development for teachers and counselors.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Developed and distributed a district-wide newsletter from Syracuse Central School District to ninth-grade families. Information included test preparation, college/career awareness, and financial aid.
- College Board trained school counselors at the high schools in use of *MyRoad.com*.
- Held a National African-American Parent Involvement Day at Henninger HS in February.

Access to current technology in the classroom is important. The Syracuse University site provided 24 laptops and two computer hubs in each high school.

- Initiated a mentoring program with 21 mentors from Syracuse University working with ninth-graders from both schools.
- Provided 24 computers and 2 computer hubs to the English Language Arts (ELA) departments at each school to support students' writing portfolio projects.
- To enhance the ninth-grade biology curriculum, provided specialized science computers and flexcams to the biology department at Fowler High School.
- Established a series of programs for parents and students offered throughout the spring. Program topics include college information, specific careers, testing requirements, and financial aid. Among the presentations is



Students from the Westchester Community College NYGEAR UP program tour the Monroe College campus.

clcu's workshop, "What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College."

- Developed a Web site for the Syracuse University NYGEAR UP program at <http://sumweb.syr.edu/ssr/gearup>.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Continue staff development at Henninger HS for business, math, social studies, and English Language Arts (ELA) teachers.
- Continue staff development at Fowler HS with representatives from the state's college admissions counselors' professional association, NYSACAC.
- Offer monthly group events for all participants in the mentoring program to build cohesion and community.
- Plan a summer program to be held at Syracuse University.

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 — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Established a Homework Help program four days a week after school to provide academic support to students at both high schools. Paid tutors include classroom teachers and high school students.
- Students from both schools visited Monroe College and its new Learning Center where students heard a guest speaker from IBM and Monroe students shared their experiences.
- Parents learned "What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College" presented by clcu staff at workshops on January 16 and 17 at each high school.
- Two very successful Winter Recess Programs at each school provided students with additional support. The Port Chester HS program focused on skills for ESL students. Peekskill HS students received supplemental instruction in core subjects, computer use, and language skills for ESL students. Students from Port Chester HS participated

in the America's Promise National Job Shadowing Day on February 1 at various locations in the community.

- November 14 was Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness Day, sponsored by TOP, Teen Outreach Program. Students and guests shared experiences, participated in an interactive game show, and received information and resources from community agencies.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- EPIC will facilitate a series of discussion groups for parents to focus on helping their teens succeed in school, develop communication strategies and character development.
- SER of Westchester, Inc. will present a two-part parent workshop in English and Spanish on "Living in Two Cultures."
- Build on the success of the Winter Recess program and provide similar academic opportunities for additional students during spring break in April.
- Organize an end-of-year banquet at both schools.
- Plan a summer enrichment program.

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)
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.

*(Yonkers Public Schools
continued on next page)*

Yonkers Public Schools

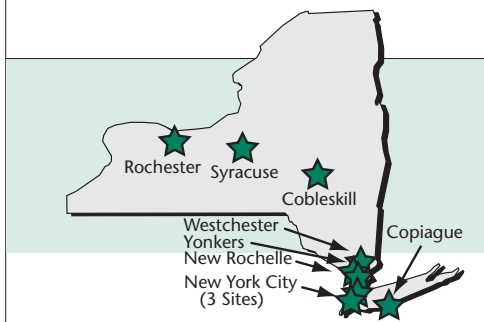
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Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Students who completed two hours of after-school instruction received graphing calculators.
- Counselors received a full day of ExPAN software training conducted by the College Board.
- English teachers attended a PSAT workshop on preparing students for this test.
- Students continued to meet in small groups on Saturdays at Manhattanville College for a science and math mentoring program, and at SUNY Purchase for science mentoring. Two Saturdays a month focused on PSAT preparation.
- Students collaborated after school and on Saturdays to prepare entries for the March 9 National History Day contest at Dominican College.
- Iona College students provide one-to-one tutoring on Saturdays and during the school day. Teachers also provide math and science tutoring before and after school.
- Students who attain a certain academic excellence are rewarded with the loan of a computer to take home. Continued good grades and attendance ensure continued use of the computer.
- EPIC meets with groups of students at one high school to discuss values and parenting.
- Students attended a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at SUNY Purchase on March 15.
- Students continue to use the ScholarShop career and college awareness program.
- To gain in-depth knowledge of the college admission process, school counselors, paired with Iona College admission counselors, visited the college and sat in on admission committee meetings and witnessed first-hand the admission decision process.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Plan a college orientation workshop for parents in April.
- Increase the number of students taking the PSAT.
- Increase staff development.
- Find more summer opportunities for student academic growth.



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, nonprofit colleges and universities, is the coordinating organization and public policy forum for the Independent Sector. cicu is assisting NYGEAR UP sites by providing targeted information and services to raise college awareness.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- November/December — Distributed to the NYGEAR UP sites: *In Gear* newsletter (Autumn 2001 issue); "From Me to You" (Mike) student-to-student mentoring letter; *Affording College 2001 / Cómo pagar la universidad 2001* (English and Spanish versions); *Your College Search 2001 / Busca una universidad 2001* (English and Spanish versions); "College for Me" pens; and scientific calculators to RIT and SUNY Cobleskill sites.
- Awarded backpacks and individualized certificates in recognition of achievement and special accomplishments to nominated students in the Copiague, New Rochelle, SUNY Cobleskill, and Westchester Community College sites.
- Facilitated college visits for Copiague, New Rochelle and SUNY Cobleskill sites to Colgate University, Fordham University, Hartwick College, New York Institute of Technology at Old Westbury, and Pace University.

- Presented "What Every Family of a Ninth-Grader Needs to Know About College" workshop for parents and students at Copiague, New Rochelle, Syracuse University, and Westchester Community College sites.
- Visited New Rochelle's after school science and reading programs and participated in Copiague's College Club meeting and after school activity for mentors/mentees.
- Continued distribution of publications to public libraries, Hispanic organizations, and religious institutions in and around NYGEAR UP site communities.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Produce and distribute to the NYGEAR UP sites: *In Gear* newsletter (Spring 2002 issue); "From Me to You" (James) student-to-student mentoring letter; a resource publication for parents; "College for Me" pencils, bookcovers, folders; achievement certificates and backpacks; *Your College Search 2002 / Busca una universidad 2002* (English and Spanish versions); and other resources as needed and identified through feedback and survey.
- Produce and distribute a resource kit on the college process to facilitate workshops for parents and students in grades 9-12.
- Plan and continue site visits, workshops, and/or regional meetings; continue to assist in facilitating and planning college visits and summer programs.

The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC)

Contacts

Ellen Hollander, Executive Director
Joseph Bosco, Program Director

Focus

Establish relationships between APC institutions and NYGEAR UP sites; provide speakers; organize campus visits; provide mentors and train academic mentors; organize a career activity; and organize a summer activity (e.g. computer camp).

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Presented "Coping with Change" workshop at New Rochelle January 16 for 40 students and 5 staff.
- Held an open house at Westchester Community College which introduced NYGEAR UP to 32 parents and students with a display representing three local colleges.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Present the “Coping with Change” workshop at Cobleskill’s 2002 summer program.
- Develop a financial aid planning workshop to discuss different forms of aid.
- Provide information packets.
- Implement a financial aid hot line for parents.

CUNY

Contact

John Garvey, Director of Pre-College Collaborative Programs

Focus

Develop, collect, and distribute materials to support a successful transition through and engagement in high school. Materials include information on course and exam content and their relationship to college expectations; the college planning process; and products from school-based curriculum development workshops. Arrange for visits to CUNY colleges.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Developed booklet on “How to Read a Textbook.”
- Distributed commercial books and in-house CUNY publications addressing adolescent literacy issues.
- Distributed to school staff materials discussing study skills and math teaching and learning.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Develop newsletter with contributions from students, staff, teachers, and parents.
- Recruit teachers for newly developed workshops addressing literacy and math learning.
- Organize a youth conference with speakers and handouts on educational and career planning issues.
- Create and distribute annotated bibliography of articles on critical issues in secondary education that relate to GEAR UP’s focus. Reprints of selected articles will be available.

SUNY

Contact

Anthony M. Belcher, Associate for Special Programs and Director

Focus

Meet with site coordinators and facilitate goals for their participation.

Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Hired four staff outreach counselors to work in the New York City and Syracuse area offices.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Move in to our new office space at 55 Hanson Place in Brooklyn, New York and look for appropriate office space in the Syracuse area.
- Continue to identify and hire one administrative assistant staff person to work in Brooklyn, New York.

The College Board

Contacts

Brian J. Petraitis, Director of NYS College Board Office
Sabrina Cerezo, Project Director

Focus

The College Board, a national, nonprofit 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 — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- “Building Success,” a regional workshop, was held in December for the SUNY Cobleskill, Syracuse University, and Rochester Institute of Technology sites. This two-day workshop for English and history teachers in grades 7-12 provided instructional strategies in reading, writing, and communications for student success in advanced coursework.
- The Middle States Regional Meeting in February offered NYGEAR UP participants from SUNY Copiague, SUNY Cobleskill, the New Rochelle Partnership, Westchester Community College, CUNY, Syracuse University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Yonkers Public Schools the opportunity for three days of professional development and networking with colleagues.

- *MyRoad.com*, a highly personalized on-line software of academic majors, colleges, and careers, helps students plan their futures. *MyRoad.com* is available to all sites. Several sites have completed subscription and received training.
- English teachers in the Yonkers partnership participated in a workshop entitled, “Infusing PSAT/NMSQT Preparation into the English Classroom.”

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Host several regional conferences focusing on increasing parental involvement.
- Hold a “Test Prep” Conference April 10-11 at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, with a focus on NYS Regents, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT I, and AP.
- Continue to offer regional “Building Success” workshops.

The New York State Education Department (SED)

Contact

Arlene Way, Associate, Office of Higher Education, K-16 Initiatives and Access Program

Focus

SED will continue to provide technical assistance to NYSHESC and will provide professional development programs to NYGEAR UP service providers.

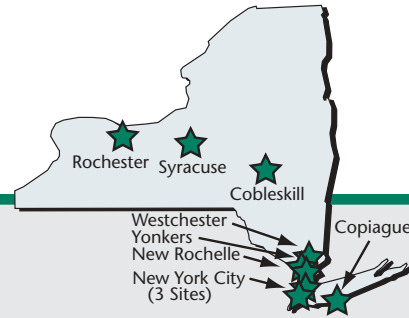
Highlights and Successes — Fall 2001/Winter 2002

- Met with NYSHESC and SED staff regarding planning for NYGEAR UP programs.
- Talked with the Sectors and Partners regarding plans and priorities.

Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2002

- Develop opportunities for continuing education and professional development for NYGEAR UP service providers through regional technical institutes.

Quick List of Sites and Contacts.



NYGEAR UP Sites

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