

# In Gear

A forum for administrators, teachers, and partners of New York's GEAR UP  
Published biannually by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

2003  
Vol. 3 No. 2

## Expanding Achievements.



This expanded issue of *In Gear* marks the first in which we profile the 13 "Federal GEAR UP" sites in New York. These partnerships, which serve more than 14,000 students statewide, are independent of the state partnership GEAR UP grant, "NYGEAR UP," which provides services to 6,500 students. In the Site and Sector reports section, we profile the 10 NYGEAR UP partnerships on pages 6-11, followed by the 13 Federal GEAR UP partnerships on pages 12-19.

New York's GEAR UP programs have been productive. Students demonstrated they can succeed with encouragement from their mentors, or with some targeted tutoring time. Students visited colleges in record numbers, attended workshops on leadership, study habits, college admission and financial aid. Sites reached out to parents and provided continuing professional development to school staff.

Take a moment to read about this issue's featured sites' activities (pages 2-

5). Westchester Community College's GEAR UP program offered two successful mid-winter break programs at Peekskill and Port Chester High Schools. The Learning Studio, a unique environment that offers students a safe haven to do homework, get extra help and to socialize, can be found at Bushwick HS, a CUNY GEAR UP school. Students at Brandeis HS in Manhattan, also a CUNY GEAR UP school, produced videotape to help train other classmates in conflict resolution and peer mediation.

You won't want to miss the *Self Expressions* section in the centerfold — a selection of GEAR UP student written work and visual art. You'll find visual treats and inspiring thoughts. Our successes continue to grow!

— Susan Nesbitt Perez  
Commission on Independent  
Colleges and Universities



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. States and partnerships provide services to an entire cohort of students at high-poverty middle schools and follow the cohort through high school. Services include academic preparation, student and parent admissions and financial aid awareness activities, college visits, and professional development that strive toward building sustainability.

GEAR UP partnerships consist of at least one college or university, at least one low-income middle school, and at least two other partners (such as community organizations, businesses, religious groups, or student organizations). New York's GEAR UP grant awarded to the state, called NYGEAR UP and administered by NYSHESC, consists of 10 programs serving 6,500 students in the 10th grade in academic year 2002-2003. There are an additional 13 "Federal GEAR UP" partnerships in the state serving 14,000 students in grades 6-10. Six "sector" partners provide additional assistance to all 23 GEAR UP programs: the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), Association for Proprietary Colleges (APC), City University of New York (CUNY), State University of New York (SUNY), The College Board, and the State Education Department.

*In Gear* is published twice a year by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, a partner in the NYGEAR UP program. The editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy; errors or omissions are unintentional.

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

#### Camera. Action. Resolution. ▶ 2

Students at Brandeis HS are creating and producing their own videos to train other students in conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques.



#### Today's one-room schoolhouse. ▶ 3

At Bushwick HS in Brooklyn, students seek haven at the Learning Studio, where good works and responsibility come first.

#### During winter recess, school's the thing. ▶ 4-5

Students in the Westchester CC GEAR UP high schools found a way to beat the winter blues and make headway on their classwork at the same time.

#### GEAR UP in New York: Site and Sector reports. ▶ 6-22

Our biannual list of site and sector program highlights: ideas to inspire.

- NYGEAR UP sites ▶ 6-11
- New York's Federal sites ▶ 12-19
- NYGEAR UP Sector Reports ▶ 20-22

#### Self-expressions. Center insert

A selection of written and visual art by GEAR UP students.

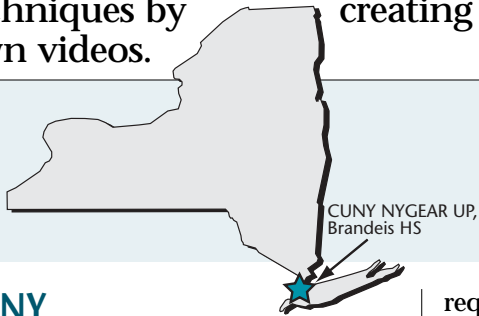
#### Resources. ▶ 22

#### Quick list of sites and contacts. ▶ 23-24

- New York's Federal sites ▶ 23
- NYGEAR UP sites ▶ 24

# Camera. Action. Resolution.

Students at CUNY NYGEAR UP's Brandeis HS trained other students in conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques by creating and producing their own videos.



## CUNY

► **Who**  
2,400 10th-graders

► **Where**  
23 New York City public schools throughout the 5 boroughs

Focus on CUNY NYGEAR UP at Brandeis HS in Manhattan — 40 students

**F**or many high school students, conflict is too much a part of day-to-day life. That's where peer mediation comes in. This important life skill is crucial in the class environment, in the community, and on the job. Knowing how to negotiate calmly and reasonably can salvage a relationship and get people past some of the more challenging interpersonal moments in life.

At Brandeis High School in Manhattan, a CUNY NYGEAR UP site, Conflict Resolution is a

required class. And, with teacher collaboration, conflict resolution is brought to life by engaging students in the art of videography. In addition to learning about the circumstances of and skills required to manage a conflict, students find out how to create and produce their own video which will be used to train other students in conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques.

Combined with assignments from English teacher Anita Salvate, video artist Matthew Williams teaches students how to select a topic for a training video, develop a script, storyboard the scenes, cast actors, rehearse scenes, and direct and shoot the video. Students adopt different roles: scriptwriters, actors, directors, and camera people, and collaborate in the creation of the video from topic selection to final execution.

Students begin by brainstorming and identifying topics they perceive create conflict in the school corridors. For instance, one group



*Students at CUNY NYGEAR UP's Brandeis HS learn to transfer filmed video to the computer for editing.*

chose gossips and rumors — an area that students pinpointed as causing considerable tensions in student-to-student relationships. The video they created will be used to help fellow students understand the hurt and impact of something as seemingly “innocent” as spreading a rumor.

Through the magic of video, students at Brandeis are providing their peers with an instructional tool that will teach important skills. As one student stated, “I have enjoyed making my own video with ideas my friends and I came up with. I thought it was really interesting to choose our own topic relating to a real issue going on in our lives.”

## Listening and Communication Skills

As part of the conflict resolution class curriculum, students learn how to mediate by learning to listen. Important things to remember in any communication:

- Be an active listener.
- Reflect back to the other person what you heard and understood.
- Remember that “you” statements can be interpreted as confrontational whereas “I” statements can describe how you feel in a positive way.

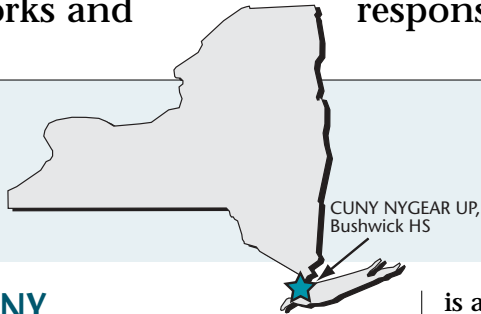
For more information about conflict resolution and mediation skills, contact Brandeis HS English teacher Anita Salvate at (917) 441-5600. For more information on utilizing video services in the classroom, contact Matthew Williams at [mfwillis@earthlink.net](mailto:mfwillis@earthlink.net).



*Students at CUNY NYGEAR UP's Brandeis HS practice filming a scene for their conflict resolution instructional video.*

# Today's One-Room Schoolhouse.

At CUNY NYGEAR UP's Bushwick HS in Brooklyn, the Learning Studio provides a haven where good works and responsibility come first.



## CUNY

► **Who**  
2,400 10th-graders

► **Where**  
23 New York City public schools throughout the 5 boroughs

Focus on CUNY NYGEAR UP's Bushwick HS in Brooklyn — 300 students

**W**hen asked to describe the Learning Studio he developed at Bushwick High School, Sam Sommers, its coordinator, compared it to a “one-room schoolhouse” — a space with a real purpose and sense of place where students can find the help they need in a safe, comfortable environment.

## Environment matters

The Learning Studio is a welcoming, yet functional space. It



*A New York University student tutors a student in math at the Learning Studio at CUNY NYGEAR UP's Bushwick HS.*

is a quiet place where students work on school assignments and where they have the opportunity to meet with tutors in a range of subjects. The Studio has several Internet-enabled computers for student use with an additional computer primarily for staff. A small library of interesting books, magazines and newspapers provides choices for assigned classwork or for personal enjoyment. Student artwork adorns the walls. Plants and a fish tank liven things up. The school's calendar prominently notes important school events and dates.

An area rug in the Studio is a spot for relaxing, reading books, or listening to books on tape. Chess and checkers sets, board games, and backgammon — good games to learn strategy — are available for play after homework time.

## How students use the Learning Studio

With its warm and supportive atmosphere, students do come to the Learning Studio to get homework done, read a favorite book, and work on their computer skills. The rules are simple: each student first must engage in 20 to 25 minutes of schoolwork. Tutors from Brooklyn College and New York University work one-on-one or with small groups of students. After schoolwork time students play games, check e-

mail, visit casually, or relax on the area rug.

The Learning Studio also provides supplemental course content and tutoring for seniors closed out of classes needed for graduation due to overcrowding. These students must take the classes at night from an accredited program at another location. The difficulty is that these classes meet only twice weekly — not often enough for most students to learn the material. The Studio helps fill the gap so they may successfully fulfill their academic requirements and graduate on time.

In addition to academic tutoring, the Learning Studio provides mentoring to students who ask for help with their personal lives. Mentors support students in their day-to-day struggles, encourage students who feel alienated, and will refer them to professional counseling services if needed. The Learning Studio helps students with more challenging social behaviors learn to cooperate and function in a group setting.

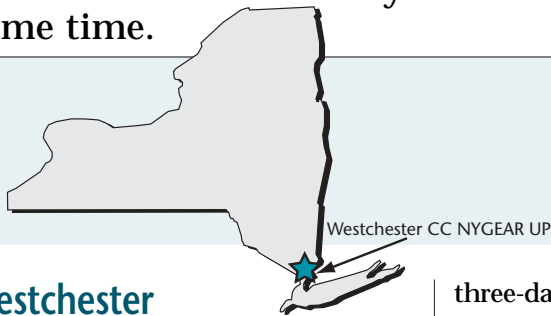
The Learning Studio is open during school hours and after school daily until 6:00p.m. There is always something positive going on at the Learning Studio. It is aptly named, for in this small studio, big learning is taking place.

## Create your own Learning Studio

One of the most elevating things about the Learning Studio is its ambiance: it's full of life while being serious, quiet, focused, and productive. It has rules, but students want to abide by them. For tips on creating a Learning Studio at your school, contact Moe Mpela and the dedicated tutoring staff at Bushwick HS at (718) 386-1890, or Diane Reiser, project coordinator at The Partnership for Research and Learning at Brooklyn College, (718) 951-5015.

# During winter recess, school's the thing.

Students in the Westchester Community College NYGEAR UP program found a way to beat the winter blues and make headway on their classwork at the same time.



## Westchester Community College

► **Who**  
400 10th-graders

► **Where**  
Peekskill HS  
Port Chester HS

**F**or some students, it's more fun and rewarding to stay in school during February recess. That's what 60 students from the Westchester Community College (WCC) NYGEAR UP cohort learned this past winter as they engaged in a three-day program designed to improve their academic standing, their communication and interpersonal skills, and physical well-being.

The program, in its third year, has been a sure success, with students and teachers feeling that great progress had been made and asking for more of a good thing during the spring break.

## The different dimensions of learning at Port Chester HS

Over the February recess, Port Chester High School NYGEAR UP students were encouraged to work on their language skills while learning about various academic topics. English as a Second Language (ESL) was a strong component of the

three-day program that attracted nearly 35 students. Classes for ESL students were held in the school's language/learning lab, where teachers offered language reinforcement, keyboarding skills, and Internet instruction.

The program focused on reading comprehension. Students learned new vocabulary (and were excited to go home and practice their extended English), fine-tuned their comprehension skills, learned to identify the main idea of a reading assignment, and began to "think as readers."

"I appreciate the program and preparing myself for the future," said one student. "It helps us with learning English, getting to know the people, and planning for our



*ESL students from WCC NYGEAR UP's Port Chester HS practice their English during the language arts class activities at the Winter Recess Program.*

**"This program is helping me learn about colleges. I want to go, and I'm finding out how with your help."**

*—A WCC NYGEAR UP Port Chester HS student*

future and college," said another.

AmeriCorps volunteers also helped make the program a great experience. Many of these volunteers, bilingual themselves, worked with students in small groups, sometimes helping to translate, other times organizing activities, including skits that students performed entirely in English.

"These students are like sponges," reflected one teacher, "and lovingly soak up as much information as we give them."



*ESL students from WCC NYGEAR UP's Port Chester HS focus on communication skills during their Winter Recess Program.*



*Students from WCC NYGEAR UP's Peekskill HS take a break during the afternoon activities at their Winter Recess Program.*

## Head of the class at Peekskill HS

Students at Peekskill High School made good use of their winter recess, catching up on assignments, getting extra help in a range of academic subjects, and preparing for the Global History Regents exam.

**"This program gave teachers the opportunity to get to know students on a whole different level."**

*-Mark Andujar, WCC NYGEAR UP's Peekskill HS GEAR UP Coordinator*

Each day was structured with academic classes from 9 a.m. to noon, lunch from noon to 1 p.m., and physical education activities from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students were free to formulate their own learning experiences during the three-day program. Academic subjects included English, social studies, earth science and/or biology, mathematics, and foreign language. Students selected one or more

classes for their focus. Some stayed in one class each day all morning; others chose to attend several different classes. But all were invested in making up time or assignments so they would be caught up and on top of their classwork by the time school resumed.

"This is a great opportunity for kids who are serious about their work," said one teacher. And the students who participated in the Winter Break program were serious: working independently, with individual teachers as resources, they spent time on papers and other assignments. In the social studies class, for example, most did intensive Regents review, utilizing sample tests on the Internet.

Overall, the Winter Recess Program was a great success. As one teacher remarked, "The students were extremely conscientious and proactive, and wanted to make sure they were getting their work done."

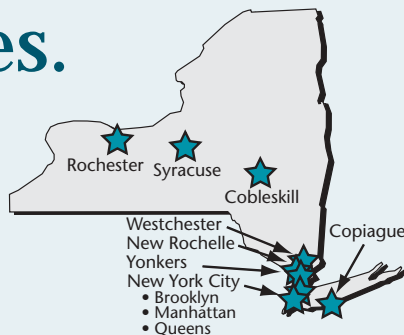
*For more information on the Westchester Community College recess programs, contact Anita Cook at (914) 785-6723, [anitacook@sunywcc.edu](mailto:anitacook@sunywcc.edu), or Mark Andujar at Peekskill High School at (914) 737-0201, [mandujar@peekskillcsd.com](mailto:mandujar@peekskillcsd.com).*



*Students from WCC NYGEAR UP's Peekskill HS enjoy a game of basketball during afternoon activities at their Winter Break Program.*

# Sharing Ideas and Successes.

## The NYGEAR UP Sites



New York's NYGEAR UP sites and sector partners are bringing quality programs to GEAR UP students and their parents.

### Copiague Public Schools

#### Contacts

Laurence W. Aronstein, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Marisa Alleyn, NYGEAR UP Director  
Sarah Scaffetta, NYGEAR UP Co-Director

#### Who

300 10th-graders

#### Where

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague HS

#### Partners

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

#### Focus

Provide mentoring, tutoring, and other educational and cultural activities to students and parents and provide support to teachers and other school staff working with GEAR UP students.

**"NYGEAR UP has changed my life drastically for the better!"**

*-A NYGEAR UP student from Copiague Public Schools*

### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Offered a parent workshop through the College Board entitled, "Planning for Success" that focused on the PSAT and SAT and other things students can be doing now to get ready for college.
- Sponsored a field trip to New York University where 30 students received a tour and presentation by the university's admissions staff.
- YES Community Counseling Center provided a workshop for parents and students entitled "We're in this together," which focused on improving family communication.
- Led a field trip to Madison Square Garden where 22 students received a tour and educational talk on careers in business, sports, and entertainment.
- Hosted a parent workshop on saving for college conducted by the New York's College Savings Program staff.
- 18 students participated in the Long Island Mentoring Partnership's "Teens on the Job Shadow Day." Students were matched to an employee in a career that interested them and spent the day observing and sharing the employee's daily responsibilities.
- Administered the College Board's Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) exam to more than 60 students in February.
- SUNY representatives held a SUNY College Fair at our high school. More than 50 students and parents attended.



*Copiague NYGEAR UP students and their mentor at a recent get-together.*

- Sponsored three "Mentor/Mentee Get Togethers" to give students and mentors a chance to spend time with one another.

### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Continue to recruit mentors for our NYGEAR UP Mentoring program.
- Increase outreach efforts to parents to encourage parent involvement.
- Plan a spring student/parent cohort college visit.
- Nominate students to receive individualized achievement certificates and T-shirt awards from the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu).

## CUNY Consortium 7 colleges and the Office of Academic Affairs

### Contacts

John Garvey, Director of Pre-College Collaborative Programs  
Donna Linderman, Project Director  
Ciji Portis, Resource Specialist  
Program Coordinators: Michael Collazo, Anne Walsh, Diane Reiser, Elizabeth Rose, Deirdre Armitage, Patricia Li, Mark Dunetz, Katherine Straub

### Who

2,400 10th-graders

### Where

New York City Public Schools

*Bronx - Lehman College*  
Christopher Columbus HS  
DeWitt Clinton HS  
Evander Childs HS  
Harry S. Truman HS

*Brooklyn - Brooklyn College*  
Bushwick HS

*Brooklyn - New York City College of Technology*  
HS for Global Studies  
HS for Telecommunications, Arts and Technology  
School for International Studies

*Manhattan - CUNY Office of Academic Affairs*  
Brandeis HS  
George Washington HS (Law & Public Service, Media & Communications, Health Careers & Science, International Business & Finance)  
HS for Fashion Industries  
Norman Thomas HS

*Manhattan - Hunter College*  
Manhattan Center for Science & Math  
Vanguard HS  
Washington Irving HS

Queens – York College  
Beach Channel HS  
Far Rockaway HS

Queens – Queens College  
Queens Gateway to Health Sciences  
Secondary School

Staten Island – College of Staten Island  
Curtis HS  
New Dorp HS

#### Partners

CUNY Collaborative Programs and CUNY  
Office of Admission Services  
Gateway Institute  
The After School Corporation (TASC)

#### Focus

Provide academic enrichment and social support for students, project-based learning activities, professional development opportunities for teachers, and information workshops on academic success and college awareness for parents.

#### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- York College offered an after-school video workshop at Beach Channel HS.
- Brooklyn College operated a full-time “Learning Studio,” open from 10am – 6:00pm at Bushwick HS, staffed with tutors from both Brooklyn College and New York University. (See feature story on page 3.)
- Hunter College provided in-class tutoring several times a week at Vanguard HS.
- New York College of Technology supported several before-and-after school GEAR UP activities at each of their high schools. Activities at the HS for Global Studies and the School for International Studies included two newspaper projects, an ancestor research project, before-school intramural sports, and peer math tutoring. The HS for Telecommunications, Arts and Technology has a film club for students, and students attended the theater performances *Def Poetry Jam* and *The Exonerated*.
- Lehman College offered a Saturday SAT Prep workshop for NYGEAR UP students coupled with a song writing and recording workshop led by a professional musician.
- The CUNY Central Office program had a professional video artist participate in a Brandeis HS Conflict Resolution class. The students created a training video for future classes. (See feature story on page 2.)
- A theater arts/English teacher provided focused instructional support for struggling readers at Fashion Industries HS.
- The CUNY Office of Academic Affairs provided in-class math and chemistry tutoring at the George Washington HS complex.

- CUNY Office of Academic Affairs sponsored and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CIU) presented early college awareness evenings for students and parents at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School in November, and at George Washington HS and Vanguard HS in March.
- Queens College program offered an “Arts in the Hospital” project with Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School where students created arts and crafts for long-term care patients in area hospitals.
- Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School students attended a production of *As You Like It* performed by The Acting Company at the College of Staten Island.
- The College of Staten Island (CSI) Discovery Institute continued to offer ongoing curriculum development for HS teachers. CSI also held a panel discussion on the Holocaust which high school teachers and GEAR UP students attended and on which they served as panelists.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Hold a college fair in May at the George Washington HS complex.
- Place a significant number of students in either a summer college experience or summer youth employment program.

---

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

#### Contacts

Diana Voelker, HEOP Director  
Pia Haynes, Director  
Gerald Latham, Site Coordinator  
Kimberly Lopez, Site Coordinator

#### Who

396 10th-graders

#### Where

Benjamin Banneker Academy (172 students)  
Science Skills Center (164 students)  
Various other high schools in the 5 boroughs  
(60 students)

#### Partners

Brooklyn Law School  
Community Development Corporation  
Institute for Student Achievement

#### Focus

Provide outreach awareness, academic support, and leadership skills for students and parents.

#### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Student mentors led a workshop in September for new 10th-graders, talking to them about what to expect from their 10th-grade experience.
- In collaboration with Long Island University (LIU)/Brooklyn Campus, the SUNY sector partner facilitated a workshop on study skills for more than 300 10th-graders.
- Hosted a College Fair in conjunction with the Science Skills Center. More than 25 colleges and universities participated.
- Held a workshop on high school graduation requirements at LIU/Brooklyn for nearly 45 parents.
- Students at Benjamin Banneker Academy learned chess, enabling them to develop their critical thinking skills and eventually participate in a chess tournament.
- Students toured four Pennsylvania colleges in February including the University of Pennsylvania, Franklin and Marshall College, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, and Lincoln University where they received information on admissions, financial aid, and campus life.
- LIU and the SUNY sector partner hosted a day trip for more than 20 10th-graders to SUNY’s Old Westbury campus.
- Developed a computer lab for students at both schools.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Students will visit SUNY campuses including Stony Brook, Nassau Community College, and SUNY Purchase.
- Workshops for parents are planned on topics such as “How to Save for College” and computer technology.
- Mentors will be awarded a \$500 salary for continuing service to GEAR UP students.
- The program’s tutoring component will continue linking students with teachers, and tutors. Tutors will serve as teaching assistants during classes.
- Sponsor student workshops on building academic and life skills. Topics will include test preparation and conflict resolution.
- Students from both schools will participate in LIU’s annual summer enrichment program that includes math, science, and English plus field trips and excursions.
- Last year’s successful mandatory summer school program will be repeated this summer.

# The New Rochelle College for Me Partnership

## Contacts

Spencer H. Wiles, Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Personnel and Curricular Services  
Diane Massimo, Asst. Superintendent, Secondary Education  
Mary Ann Fouchecourt, Program Coordinator

## Who

320 10th-graders

## Where

New Rochelle HS

## Partners

The College of New Rochelle  
Iona College  
New Rochelle School District  
SUNY Purchase

## Focus

Encourage student involvement and success through academic support with tutoring, mentoring, enrichment, counseling; also support the exploration of career and college choices through group activities, trips, and with a career and college planning software program *E-Choices*. Increase parent involvement through meetings and effective communication.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Laptops are up, running and used during regular classes and enrichment tutorials.
- A January 15 Mini-College Fair helped nearly 75 GEAR UP students investigate college options.
- Students attended a practice PSAT class on March 5 to become familiar with test format and questions and prepare for SAT college admission testing.
- On March 20 students visited a Black College Fair at SUNY Purchase.
- Enrichment programs held this spring included creative writing, exploring physics, after school botany classes with outdoor activities and field trips, and a nutrition class.
- 14 students exploring careers in math, science, and technology in a college environment participated in the STEP (Science and Technology Enrichment Program) at SUNY Purchase.
- 38 students made the honor roll in the second semester!
- The New Rochelle HS Counseling Department hosted their annual College Night April 9 and their annual College Fair on April 10.
- Iona College students provided tutoring during free periods and after school.



*In a timed competition, St. John's University GEAR UP students build towers during the Leadership Retreat.*

- Classes to prepare for the Living Environment, Math A, and Math B Regents Exams began February 25 and continued until the Regents Exams in June.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Plan college trips to private colleges and SUNY colleges.
- Schedule speakers to talk about the importance of high school to achieving real-life goals.
- Promote the GEAR UP summer college experiences to students.
- Offer an on-line SAT prep at Iona College this summer.

---

## Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

### Contacts

Dianne Spang, Director, K-12 Partnerships  
Michelle Allevato, Coordinator, GEAR UP Program, Edison Technical & Occupational Center  
Vanessa Davis, Coordinator, GEAR UP, Wilson Magnet HS

### Who

220 10th-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 2002/Winter 2003

- Implemented an E-Mentoring program to match GEAR UP students with RIT student mentors who will share their experiences about the college search process, choosing a college major, discovering what college life is like, and encourage the student to stay focused on his/her goals. Students and mentors attended two special events: in October, 51 students traveled to the Long Acre Farm Amazing Corn Maze; and in December they gathered for a holiday skating/basketball party at the RIT campus. Currently we have 22 RIT students actively involved in this program.
- Forty-eight students from the 3 high schools participated in "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," a workshop presented by Gary McGuey at the RIT campus. Additional training sessions were held at East HS, and at Wilson Magnet HS in March, and at Edison HS in April.
- SUNY presented Study Skills Workshops at all schools.
- Students at Wilson Magnet HS collected children's books from students and faculty for an elementary school in the "Make A Difference Project."
- Counselors and administrators attended the College Board's Mid-States Regional conference in February in Atlantic City.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- GEAR UP students will participate in the College Board's Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) testing and assessment program.
- Continue to provide after school tutoring at all 3 GEAR UP high schools.
- Offer campus visits to nearby colleges.
- Utilize College Board and clcu training for staff development opportunities.
- Host a week-long summer residential "college experience" camp at the RIT campus where students will attend hands-on seminars in a

particular field of technology. Topics of study will include: robotics, imaging science, print media, biotechnology, flight technology, and computer programming.

## St. John's University (SJU)

### Contacts

Dr. Andre McKenzie, VP of Academic Support Services

Dr. Deborah Saldana, St. John's University, Associate Professor (prior to Sept. 10, 2003)  
Yvette Morgan, Director (effective Sept. 10, 2003)

SJU GEAR UP Program Web site:  
[www.stjohns.edu/gearup](http://www.stjohns.edu/gearup)

### Who

250 10th-graders

### Where

Long Island City HS (119 students)  
16 other high schools (131 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

### 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.



*St. John's University students learn how to use the College Board Web site during a workshop about the SAT.*

### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Hosted a "Latinos Look to the Future - College for a Day" in October. Participating students (15) were paired with a Latino college student enrolled in a program of their interest. Students had the opportunity to attend college classes and get first-hand information about college.
- 30 students and their parents attended a theatrical performance of *Othello* by the Chappell Players at SJU and an overview workshop before the play.
- Held another series of computer workshops for 25 GEAR UP students and their parents. Participants heard important information about financial aid, the SAT, Regents Prep classes, and had the opportunity to create a student profile using the [www.nymentor.org](http://www.nymentor.org) Web site. At the end of the two-week/six-hour training, families received a Dell computer.
- Organized the first Leadership Retreat at the

St. John's University Manhattan campus for 48 students from SJU GEAR UP, LaGuardia CC GEAR UP, and Camp Rising Sun.

- Students engaged in problem-solving and learned teamwork skills in workshops focusing on leadership and what it means to be a good leader.
- Offered a series of SAT Prep Workshops on Saturdays in March. Administered the College Board's Preliminary SAT Scoring Service followed by a SAT Prep Workshop.
- Hosted a series of Parent Workshops entitled "Parents as Partners" that addressed the new structure of the NYC Department of Education and provided parents with vital information about their children's academic progress and graduation requirements.
- Developed a series of workshops for students and parents on four Saturdays in March that focused on test-taking and time management, handling peer pressure and self-protecting, the effects of drugs and alcohol, and finding a career interest.

### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Plan college tours.
- Develop a Multicultural Youth Summit to focus on racism.
- Work to facilitate summer employment for students through the HANAC Community Center.
- Plan the St. John's University residential summer camp experience, "USENY," for 100 students August 3-9. It will include leadership workshops, field trips around NYC, as well as team-building activities and special events.
- Plan an additional summer camp experience, "ESL NY," at St. John's University for 50 students August 3-9. It will include workshops that focus on literacy across the content areas, field trips around NYC, as well as team-building activities and special events.



*St. John's University GEAR UP students engaged in workshops to develop leadership skills during the Leadership Retreat.*

# SUNY Cobleskill

## Contacts

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

## Who

220 10th-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 2002/Winter 2003

- Tutors in the high schools provided tutoring in major subjects during the day, with some occasional after school activities.
- 12 students took part in the St. John's University summer 2002 experience.
- Fall college trips included visits by 91 students to SUNY Binghamton; 118 students spent the day exploring the campuses of Ithaca College and Cornell University.
- 20 students from Jefferson CS participated in team-building activities at Clark's Gym in Cooperstown on November 19.
- The College Board provided the Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) training to SUNY Cobleskill tutors in December to prepare for administering the PSSS to students in February and March.
- Six students from Laurens CS visited Union College in Schenectady for a campus tour and spent one-on-one time with a current college student.
- SUNY staff presented a Study Skills Workshop to 6 of the 7 high schools, providing school supplies and organizational binders to all students.

- Eleven NYGEAR UP Technology, Math and Physics teachers from seven school districts took part in two separate training workshops at SUNY Cobleskill. Using LEGO Robolab kits, they learned how to construct increasingly complex robots and learned the accompanying math and physics that drive them. After the first session, teachers each took several thousand dollars worth of LEGO Robolab kits, cameras and computers back to their classrooms.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- College visits will continue, focusing on specialized visits. Students will research the college they want to visit and as long as it can be done in one day, we will make the visit a reality. Smaller groups will be taken on visits to make each trip more meaningful. Arrangements are being made with Sector partners' help to visit Albany-area colleges and vocational schools.
- The SUNY Cobleskill residential summer camp experience "Dare to Soar" is being planned for 102 students June 27 - July 3. It will include workshops on college prep, academic subjects, field trips to local historical sites, a private college, the NYS Museum in Albany, and the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, as well as team-building activities and special events.
- We will offer additional summer experiences to students through NYGEAR UP partners.

---

## Syracuse University (SU)

### Contacts

Horace Smith, Associate VP  
Lena Kochian, Director  
Tonya Smith, School Coordinator  
Kimberly Boston, Administrative Asst.

### Who

1,002 10th-graders



*NYGEAR UP faculty LEGO Robolab Kit training workshop at SUNY Cobleskill.*

## Where

Henninger HS  
Fowler HS

## Partners

Brighton Family Center  
Dunbar Association, Inc.  
Fowler High School Parent-Teacher Organization  
Henninger 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 10th-grade core curriculum, deliver instructional objectives through technology-based learning and include after school tutorials, a mentor program, parent involvement, community partner support, and staff development for teachers and counselors. Utilize the newly developed virtual college and college center.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- "March Math Madness Camp" was held over five Saturdays in March at Onondaga Community College (OCC) for 220 students. Syracuse City School District teachers and OCC staff collaborated to develop and lead instruction to better prepare 10th-graders for the Math A Regents Exam.
- Signed up students to participate in an internship experience at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo this summer. Students will explore potential careers in architecture, veterinary medicine, and animal care.
- Continued to match SU students to cohort students in the mentoring program.
- The Syracuse City School District developed an engineering sequence for students in grades 9-12 based on the National Society for Black Engineers program (NSBE). Syracuse University's NSBE members were paired with students at Fowler HS. Eight Fowler HS students were chosen to attend the national conference in Los Angeles in March.
- Developed and held seven Parent Nights with Sector partners, including: the College Board, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu), and HESC on college admissions and financial aid.



Syracuse University NY GEARUP's students at March Math Madness Camp.

- Maintained assessments for all students to define each student's SCANS skills level. The results are used to enhance individual learning.
- Developed and distributed the second edition of the Syracuse Central School District (SCSD) GEAR UP information newsletter.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Plan visits to college campuses.
- Offer monthly parent programs at Henninger and Fowler High Schools in conjunction with PTO meetings.
- Further develop math literacy programs for students in Math A and B.
- Continue staff development at Henninger and Fowler High Schools for business, math, social studies, and English Language Arts (ELA) teachers.
- Develop a program to use Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) results to create an individualized teaching program for each student.
- Implement an after school program for young women in the cohort to focus on self-esteem, and identity issues.

## Westchester Community College (WCC)

#### Contacts

Seymour Lesh, Director of Grants  
Anita Cook, Asst. Professor, Director  
Celia Iturralde, Asst. Director  
Mark Andujar, GEAR UP Coordinator/Class Advisor  
Byron Womack, Guidance Counselor

#### Who

400 10th-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.  
Peekskill City School District  
Peekskill Police Department  
Peekskill Youth Bureau  
Port Chester Police Department  
Services, Education and Resources (SER) of Westchester, Inc.  
SUNY Purchase  
Westchester County Youth Bureau

#### 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 2002/Winter 2003

- A "Homework Help" program provided after school tutoring Monday through Thursday.
- Students visited CUNY College of Staten Island and St. John's University where they also attended a basketball game.
- Attended Amateur Night at the Apollo Theatre.
- Held a parent meeting, where parents presented workshops to other parents.
- Sponsored a parent "social," an informal get-together for parents to meet and greet one another.
- GEAR UP students at Peekskill HS organized and held a Valentine's Day dance for the 10th grade class.
- Winter Recess programs were held February 19 - 21 at both high schools and were an overwhelming success. (See feature story in this issue, pages 4-5).
- Students attended two Black History Month performances at WCC entitled, *Shades of Harlem* and *Women of the Calabash*.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Plan trip to Dorney Park as a reward for overall GPA.
- Offer "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers" training.
- Provide PSAT review for 10th-graders.
- Offer a Spring Recess Program, modeled after the Winter Recess Programs.
- Sponsor college visits during spring recess.

## Yonkers Public Schools

#### Contacts

Bernard Pieorazio, Deputy Superintendent  
Fern Eisgrub, Interim GEAR UP contact

#### Who

420 10th-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.

#### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

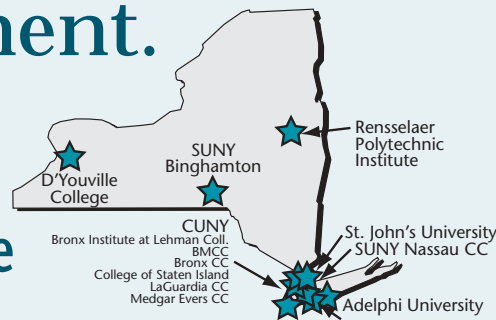
- Participation in ScholarShop, a multidimensional, multimedia program, is providing opportunities for students to build self and career awareness, and college skills and options.
- Academic competitions facilitated by college partners, such as History Day and Science Fairs, are providing students with opportunities to learn, reinforce, and apply academic knowledge and skills to real world situations.
- Teachers and counselors are participating in professional development in SAT preparation and administration to increase the number of students taking the test and performing well.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Students will participate in two of the GEAR UP sponsored summer experiences, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and at SUNY Cobleskill.
- Master dance classes will be conducted at SUNY Purchase.
- Continue to organize college visits to expose students to college life on private and public college campuses.

# Enrichment and Empowerment.

## The 13 Federal GEAR UP Sites in New York State



### Adelphi University

#### Contacts

Fred Carr, Director  
Wanda Moore, Asst. Director  
Larissa Ebron, Administrative Asst.

#### Who

650 10th-graders

#### Where

Hempstead HS (485)  
Roosevelt HS (165)

**"GEAR UP is an educational program to help young people like myself. Life is a puzzle so you have to get the proper education to succeed. Challenges of everyday life may try to put you down, but you have to keep your head up. GEAR UP gives me an edge in life after high school and the opportunity to learn."**

*-Madonna, an Adelphi University GEAR UP student*

#### Partners

Adelphi University  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Eta Theta Lambda Chapter  
American Red Cross, Nassau County Chapter  
Antioch Housing Fund Corporation  
Catholic Charities  
Circulo de la Hispanidad  
Citibank/Rockville Centre Branch  
Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect  
Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Program of Nassau County  
F.E.G.S./ Long Island Division

Hands Across Hempstead School/Community Partnership  
Hempstead Board of Education  
Hispanic Counseling Center  
Nassau Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Nassau County Department of Health  
NY State Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.  
NY State Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper  
Operation Get Ahead  
Planned Parenthood of Nassau County  
Roosevelt Board of Education  
Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby  
Urban League of Long Island

#### Focus

Develop test-taking skills for the October PSAT and the 10th- and 11th-grade NYS Standards Exams; provide cohort teachers with workshops on teaching students how to succeed on the PSAT, NYS Standards Exams, and other college entrance exams; provide parents, teachers, administrators, and students with financial aid and college admissions workshops; enhance the

mentoring program by focusing on career development activities and college selection; evaluate cohort test-taking preparedness using standardized diagnostic tools (PSSS).

**"GEAR UP is helping me get information about college. It is helping me think about how I can go to college."**

*-Jaimer, an Adelphi University GEAR UP student*

#### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Sponsored weekend professional development workshops for teachers in preparation for the NYS Standards Exams as well as PSAT/SAT prep courses.
- Co-sponsored school-based financial aid workshops for parents and students.
- Tested every student in the cohort with the Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS).
- Provided weekly adolescent development workshops for mentors.
- Invited teachers, school counselors, and school administrators to participate in Advanced Placement (AP) workshops.

#### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Offer test-taking skills course in after school and summer programs in preparation for the PSAT in October 2003.
- Provide college admission and financial aid information.
- Offer an employment/career exploration course during summer program 2003.
- Sponsor a college visit with undergraduate mentors as campus tour guides.



*CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College GEAR UP students during the "Saturday Morning Scholars" program explored potential careers on-line and the benefits of financial responsibility.*

# Self-expressions.

Written work and visual art by  
GEAR UP students.

# In Gear

2002-2003

## “Why is college so important to me?”

By *Fabienne Eliezer*  
New Rochelle Partnership  
GEAR UP Program

There are many reasons that I can give for wanting to go to college. I should go to college only for myself, but I will go for my parents as well. I want a career! I will go to college to prove to people that regardless of race, sex, or culture I can do anything if given the opportunity.

Why is college so important to me? When I think about my future, I cannot imagine myself not going on to college. I want to be a physical therapist. I have had this goal for myself since 8th grade at Isaac Young Middle School.

I chose physical therapy because I interact well with people and I enjoy using my hands. I want to alleviate suffering and heal people’s bodies. I want to help them get well and resume normal lives. Healthy bodies lead to healthy minds.

In my native country, Haiti, women are not encouraged to pursue careers. They are encouraged to be mothers and housewives. I am not against a marriage and a family, but I want to prove that women can do just as well as men and contribute to society.

Black women in America have a great deal to prove. We are as good if not better than we are thought to be. However, I know there will be obstacles other than culture, sex, and race. I want to plan my future, including how to deal with the many obstacles that will try to prevent me from reaching my goal.

In my Haitian culture, religion comes first. If worse comes to worse, I will pray. God will always help me out when things go wrong. He gives me courage, strength, and wisdom to conquer obstacles and fears that may occur on my way to success.

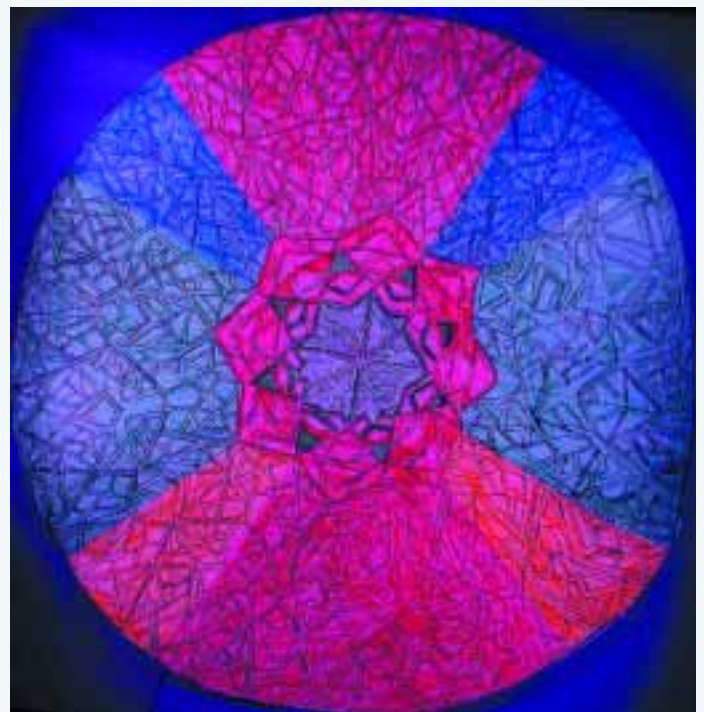
My family is also a big part of my life. They support and encourage me to pursue my dreams of being a physical therapist or anything else I might want to achieve. I want to make life easier for my parents who work hard now to see that I get ahead in my life. Finally, I want to remember all those in my life who believe and support me. I won’t let them or myself down. I want to make the world a better place through my work.



Title: *Monkey*  
Pencil  
Drawing

Artist: *Kada Gleason*

*Fowler HS*  
*Syracuse University*  
*NYGEAR UP*



Title: *Mandala*  
Artist: *Jessie Temple*  
*Fowler HS*  
*Syracuse University NYGEAR UP*

## "You can do a lot in the world"

By Carmelo Quinones  
IS 166  
CUNY Bronx CC

A lot of people have influenced my decision to go to college. They have all shown me different and positive reasons for going to college. I am grateful to my mom, to Ms. Prieto-Lopez, to Mr. Hernandez, and to Mr. Adib who is my GEAR UP counselor.

I'll start with my mom. She has done so many things for me in life; she gave birth to me so I am very grateful for that. Ms. Prieto-Lopez was my sixth grade teacher. When I first got to school #166, I was a bad kid. But over the years, she helped me with a lot of things so I thank her for that. When I first saw my teacher, Mr. Hernandez, I thought he was a great man because he taught me that you can do a lot in the world. What he did was great. He was in the army reserves and is still there.

Now to my final person, Mr. Adib, my GEAR UP counselor. He told me that it does not matter what I do, as long as I always try to do my very best. What he does with us and the way he helps us is very important. He does a great job, too.

I have two reasons why I would like to go to college: I want to go to Harvard Law School to get my law degree and after I graduate from college I would like to enlist in the army. I want to defend my country from terrorists. I don't want them to do what they did to New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania ever again. And after I go to the army, I would like to use my law degree to become an F.B.I. agent. I will try to do good things for the community.



Title: Coil Basket  
Artist: Jeff Lashbomb  
Fowler HS  
Syracuse University NYGEAR UP

## "I want to have a better life"

By Silvana Carrion  
IS 166  
CUNY Bronx CC

There are many reasons why I want to go to college. First, I want to have a better life. If I go to college I will have a better education. Without an education you cannot find a good job. Also, my mother went to college and finished her associate degree in business, but she could not keep on going because she had to raise her family. My father came from a poor family and didn't go to college because he had to start working at an early age.

I would also like to go to college because I want to be myself which means I don't want to depend on anybody, and I don't want to be homeless or a drug addict. I also want to be someone in this world and have a better job than my parents. In my family I am the oldest child so that means I must be a good example to my brother by continuing schooling after high school.

When I grow up I want to be a teacher because I like to teach and I like children. If I don't become a teacher, I would like to be a fashion designer because I like to create different designs.

The reasons that I want to go to college are to make my parents proud, to be a positive role model and to become a teacher. For all of the reasons listed above and opportunities I have available today I will continue studying for a better future.

## "I want to go to college to better my community"

By Chelsea Olmeda  
IS 166  
CUNY Bronx CC

I want to go to college because I want to have a good career. I don't want to live my life depending on someone else all the time. I always told myself I'm going to make it to college. Now I will prove myself right. Besides making myself happy I want to make my mother happy.

I want to go to college to better my community and to do that I must have an education. Once I have an education I can set an example for everyone who doesn't have an education. When I have an education I can get a good job.

One of the jobs I would like to have is pediatrician. I want to be a pediatrician because I like kids and I would like to help them.

I would also like to become an actress so that I can show everybody that life is not all about the ghetto in the way that they portray it on TV.

I will have to learn to live on my own. Living on my own means not having to depend on someone else to pay my bills or take care of me. Although asking for help is not bad, I want to have the ability to be independent.

The main reason I'm writing this essay is to let people know the world is bigger than the corner that the boys chill on. You won't go anywhere without your college education. Once you have an education you can be whatever you want to be, and go wherever you want to go.

## “The most expensive thing about a college education is not getting one”

By Diana Linares  
John Bowne HS  
LaGuardia Community College

One of the most important things in life is going to college. College is a very serious matter because it prepares you for your future and helps you make something out of yourself. My teacher once stated: “The most expensive thing about a college education is not getting one.” I completely agree with this statement because I think people who have the opportunity to go to college should take advantage of it because it is a very valuable thing.

I want to go to college because I want a good career. There are many good jobs out there in the world but I want a professional job that satisfies me. My current interests include architecture, business, and computers. I enjoy drawing, writing, and working with others. Some of my strengths include being a good listener, a helping person, and encouraging and motivating others to look at life in a positive way. I consider my family’s advice on getting a good education and studying something I like. They tell me this because they do not like their jobs and hope that I can learn from their experiences. This explains why they keep telling me how important school is and why I am taking school seriously and trying to do my best. It will take a lot of effort and dedication to accomplish my goals, but I am sure that it will all pay off later in life.

College will help me to get a good job in a field I enjoy. I can see how employers prefer someone with a college degree because they know college takes dedication and a lot of hard work. A college degree will surely convince them that I am a person who will be devoted to my job and will take my work seriously. Getting a college degree will also satisfy my needs by providing me with a respectable career and positive self-esteem.



Title: Mandala  
Artist: Jeimi Lee Rodriquez

Fowler HS  
Syracuse University NYGEAR UP

## “I picture myself helping the helpless”

By Salina Nawaz  
John Bowne HS  
LaGuardia Community College

I know that going to college causes many dilemmas and problems as I have seen and learned from my older siblings who have already gone to college. Yet, that is no reason to not go to college.

The reason why I want to go to college is because I see myself, ten years from now, working very hard to achieve my goals. Since I have chosen my occupation to be a medical doctor, I picture myself wearing a laboratory coat with my name, “Dr. Nawaz,” stitched onto it. I see myself helping the helpless and the sick.

I feel I should go to college and try to obtain the highest honors possible. Going to college means you have made a commitment to take charge of your career. It means you are serious and mature enough to choose a good path that will reward your hard work and effort in success.

I want to go to college so that all my hard work and effort will result in my obtaining a good job in which I would be highly paid. I want to make my family, especially my parents, proud of me so that they can hold their heads up high in society and realize that they have done a good job in raising me.

Students should always have the support of their parents because they are the “backbone” of the family. Parents should encourage children to continue their educational and personal goals and provide motivation and inspiration. I believe every child needs their parents to support them 100% in their educational goals in order to achieve success in life. My parents have done this for me and that is why I want to go to college.

## "Attending college is an important goal"

By Priscilla Rehpani  
Long Island City HS  
St. John's University GEAR UP

**M**y name is Priscilla Rehpani and I am in the St. John's University GEAR UP program. I attend Long Island City High School. My interests are sports, music, and cooking. I enjoy subjects such as math and science. I generally consider myself a hard worker. Attending college is an extremely important personal goal.

I want to attend college for many reasons. I want to make a good living for myself, own a home and car. I would also like to help out my family. I'd like to become an

accountant or a registered nurse therefore I need to attend college for at least two to four years.

I believe college will be a wonderful experience. Since college offers many activities and clubs, it also allows you to interact and meet many interesting people. I believe college strengthens and matures a person.

The St. John's University GEAR UP program has helped me in many ways. They have opened my eyes to see many things I never knew about. For example, I attended a workshop at Long Island City High School where I researched colleges in the computer room along with my peers. In that workshop an instructor lectured students on

colleges and requirements needed in order to be accepted into college. I learned a lot from the workshop and in that same workshop I received a free computer. I use my computer for everything — the Internet, research information and school reports.

Attending college is something I will continue to work hard for — not only for my well being in the future, but for my family. I know that without a good education, it is very hard for someone to become successful. Thanks to St. John's GEAR UP program, I am staying focused on my goals and I know I will be successful.



Artist: Jose Morales  
Fowler HS  
Syracuse University NYGEAR UP

## Teens on the Job

By Donicia Hodge  
Walter G. O'Connell Copiague HS

**O**n January 31, 2003, I had the opportunity to experience a "Teens on the Job Shadow Day" with my friend Candace Gulley. "Teens on the Job" is when you pick a career that you are interested in and you actually go to the job and see what it's like to experience that career.

The career we chose to shadow was dental hygienist. We went to Dr. Beague's office in Elmont, New York. During the day, he and the other people who worked there were very nice to us. We helped the doctor and hygienists with the patients who came in and we talked about what it was like being a dental hygienist. Dr. Beague bought pizza for us and we got to watch television while we cleaned the tools and did other jobs. It was a very good day. I learned a lot about being a dental hygienist and being in the work world.



## Call for Entries

We invite students in your cohort to submit an entry for our "Self-Expressions." 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 may vary, preference will be given to those entries that deal with a student's thoughts about life, college, opportunity, and the benefits of GEAR UP. Authors please note we may edit for length. For our next issue, please submit entries no later than November 20, 2003. 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](mailto:susan@cicu.org). *In Gear*, Vol. 3, No. 2.  
© by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cIcu), 17 Elk Street, P.O. Box 7289, Albany, NY 12224-0289

# Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College

## [formerly Bronx Educational Alliance (BEA)]

### Contacts

Betsy Hernandez, Acting Director

Cohort Coordinators:

- Kevin Anthony, District #11
- Cassandra Dixon-Bowen, District #7
- Lisa Franklin, District #10
- Karla Morales, District #8
- Elsie Padilla-Ayala, District #12
- Josefina Tavaréz, District #9

### Who

1,375 9th-graders  
99 8th-graders

### Where

Adlai Stevenson HS  
Alfred E. Smith HS  
DeWitt Clinton HS  
John F. Kennedy HS  
Truman HS  
Walton HS

### Partners

BI ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities  
for Education)  
BI Project Partners  
Boy Scouts of America  
CUNY Bronx Community College  
Community School Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
CUNY Lehman College  
F.E.G.S.  
Fordham University  
CUNY Hostos Community College  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club  
Morris Heights Health Center  
Rainbow After-School Programs  
Young Athletics, Inc.

### Focus

BI GEAR UP provides educational enrichment to more than 1,400 students in six Bronx school districts. The program links an "Education Corridor" consisting of middle school, zoned high school, partner college, district representative, and a community-based organization. Program components include tutoring, mentoring, extended day and after school activities, college and career exploration, professional development and more. Communication is enhanced between home and school by the BI GEAR UP Home Computer Program which provides each GEAR UP home with a full computer system, including printer and Internet access.

### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Cohort coordinators transitioned into high schools along with the students, becoming part of the school leadership teams.
- The new "Saturday Academy" at each partner institution provided a setting for participants to access GEAR UP services outside the high school. Activities included photography, journalism, basketmath (tutoring), Web design, Princeton Review Smart courses, and Regents preparation.
- BI Math Tutoring Institute provided 20 trained part-time math tutors for GEAR UP/ENLACE students.
- Six sabbatical teacher mentors from the Lehman College Sabbatical Mentor Program supported BI GEAR UP in the high schools by mentoring new teachers, assisting cohort coordinators collect data, contacting parents and students, and organizing special events.
- More than 200 8th-graders attended a five-week transition to high school Summer 2002 Enrichment Program at Fordham University. Activities included SAT Prep in ELA and math, college and career counseling, sports, videography, and art.
- Nearly 900 students and families received 12-hours of free computer training, e-mail and Internet access, and complete IBM computer systems for use at home.

### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Provide family support as a key to student success. Outreach activities will include ongoing communication, leadership training, peer mentoring, and information on colleges.
- Empower parents through involvement in the Corridor Leadership Team and parent mentoring and counseling services.
- Increase parents' career and college awareness through partner input and the use of technology with a Home Computer Program.
- Promote students' and families' literacy and research skills through the home-based computer program and encourage responsibility in caring for a computer.

---

## CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

### Contacts

Sandra Rumayor, Director of BMCC  
Partnerships  
Deirdre Anderson, GEAR UP Project Director

### Who

152 9th-graders

### Where

Louis D. Brandeis HS (District 71)

### Partners

Carver Federal Savings  
Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society  
(Alpha Kappa Chapter/BMCC)  
The Valley, New York (CBO)

### Focus

Empower and provide our cohort of 152 students with skills that will allow them to enroll in the college of their choice with minimal need for remediation in math and language arts.

### Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- GEAR UP students created a "Millionaire Carnival" where they explored the benefits of financial responsibility. Players won prizes based on their ability to master and use a financial vocabulary, in addition to drills in basic math and math money problems. Every player opened an interest-bearing savings account at Carver Federal Savings in Harlem. The bank matched student passbook savings dollar for dollar.
- In collaboration with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, students collected teddy bears for Christmas distribution to a local elementary school's K-2 grades. Ninth graders worked at teddy bear donation tables in the lobby of BMCC and worked with mentors baking cupcakes for the sale.
- Seventy-five students regularly attend scheduled Saturday classes at BMCC for Regents prep in math and language arts.

### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Hold a GEAR UP Summer Academy at BMCC where students will produce a video in the college's state-of-the-art media center and also have the opportunity to build their own computer.
- Early College Awareness Tour of three upstate New York colleges: Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Union College and Syracuse University. Students must submit an essay and attend two college prep awareness classes on how to research a college Web site. Our aim is to empower our cohort to make an informed, personal decision about what makes a college the right choice.
- In October 2003, collaborate with the BMCC Department of Career Services to host a Youth Career Summit coordinating opportunities with industry recruiters.
- Collaborate with Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Community Colleges to provide students with a day-long college shadowing experience.

# CUNY Bronx Community College (BCC)

## Contacts

Cassandra Levine, Executive Director  
Dr. Andre Williams, Principal  
Community Intermediate School #232  
Ms. Nelida Gonzalez-Marquez, Principal  
Community Intermediate School #166

## Who

400 6th- to 10th-graders

## Where

Students from three local Bronx housing complexes and surrounding areas attending 7 middle schools and 12 high schools

## Partners

Black Media Foundation  
Bronx Community College - College Now Program  
Bronx Community College - Liberty Partnership Program  
Bronx Community College - STEP Program  
Bronx Community College - Tech Prep Program  
Bronx Community College - Upward Bound Program  
Bronx HS Superintendent's Office  
Community Board #4  
Community Board #5  
Community School District #9  
I Have a Dream Foundation, Inc.  
Junior Achievement of New York

## Focus

BCC GEAR UP Project is a nontraditional, pre-collegiate, community-based program serving young people and their families who reside in the area of three local public housing complexes. Services include after-school tutorials; seven-week Summer Bridge Program; service learning/leadership training; a Saturday Academy; college and university tours; individual and group counseling; a parent support group; computer training; personal development workshops; career evaluation and assessment.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- A seven-week Summer Bridge Program gives added support to 7th-graders who constitute the fall incoming class and to graduating 8th-graders who have some academic challenges and need the additional attention during the transition to high school. The Program provides four hours of project-based and collaborative instruction in subject areas including journal writing, reading comprehension, math/science, and personal development. Students research and develop a community service learning project. In the

afternoon students attend the National Sports Program.

- In November 2002, BCC GEAR UP and the campus-based Upward Bound Program partnered together to take program participants on an upstate weekend tour to Ithaca College, Syracuse University, and Cornell University. Parents and students received orientation and research material about each institution before the trip, which helped prepare them for the visits.
- Students in the Saturday Media Journalism Program, designed to improve skills in 8th, 9th, and 10th graders' language arts, met on Saturday's at the Bronx Community College campus to create video projects. Faculty from Fordham University provided instruction in the following six areas: integrated learning, language for social interaction, language for critical analysis and evaluation, language for literacy responses and expression, speaking and writing, and language for information and understanding. Using the six areas as a foundation, students showed their completed video projects on public service announcements to the community at large at a closing program.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Potential restructuring of operation. In response to new requirements for local school districts from the Chancellor's office and the federal Department of Education, BCC GEAR UP will be moving from a community-based to a hybrid school-based model effective Fall 2003.
- Identify additional resources to support the needs of our LEP students and their parents. A significant number of participants (60% on average) are from families who have immigrated into the U.S. in the past five years.
- Investigate funding for enhanced computer technology for GEAR UP families.

- Submit proposals to federal agencies that fund projects aimed at closing the digital divide in underserved communities. Our goal is to provide access for all of our families.

# CUNY College of Staten Island (CSI)

## Contacts

Dr. Leonard Ciaccio, Co-Director  
Dr. James Sanders, Co-Director  
Dr. Deirdre Armitage, Project Director

## Who

1,200 students in grades 6-8  
350 9th-graders

## Where

Dreyfus Intermediate School (IS 49) - grades 6-8  
New Dorp HS  
Curtis HS

## Partners

The Beacon Program at IS 49  
College Now Program of the City University of New York  
College of Staten Island, Discovery Institute  
Project Connect at IS 49

## Focus

Improve the expectations and academic achievement of students so that a maximum number enters college. The program makes a major commitment to the professional development of teachers through the Discovery Institute where college faculty work side by side with teachers formulating and testing new teaching materials that employ discovery-based interdisciplinary activities to enable students to investigate key



*CUNY Bronx Community College GEAR UP students, assisted by senior student tutors, tour the SONY Science Center.*

concepts in each subject. To maximize the impact of improved instruction, we provide extensive tutoring with Teaching Scholars (College of Staten Island students training to become teachers), as well as counseling, cultural enrichment, college awareness, and opportunities for parent involvement.

**Highlights and Successes —  
Fall 2002/Winter 2003**

- Last year IS 49 was one of two Intermediate Schools designated as “Schools that Work” by the supervisory council and by the Project Connect Foundation.
- Teachers at each participating school completed integrated, interdisciplinary, discovery-based instructional curricula for the four high school grades.
- More than 90% of the 8th-graders requiring summer school successfully completed the GEAR UP enhanced summer school. All but 12 of the 8th-graders were promoted to the 9th-grade.
- Ten of this year’s graduates have been admitted to Staten Island Tech HS, the most competitive of Staten Island’s eight public high schools, a four-fold increase over prior years.
- More than 200 GEAR UP students visited the College of Staten Island to attend a special theatre discussion program and a professional performance of *As You Like It*.
- The GEAR UP 9th-graders attended two science days at CSI where they conducted a science lab, participated in a related computer workshop, enjoyed a lunch in the Campus Student Center with college staff and participated in a college life workshop.

**Priorities and Plans —  
Spring/Summer 2003**

- Continue to emphasize the improvement of classroom teaching, and the inclusion of College Teaching Scholars in the classroom.
- Teachers and College Teaching Scholars will participate in workshops in July.
- Students will participate in one or two college day visits per semester to the College of Staten Island and to other college campuses.
- During the summer, 9th grade students will participate in a 4-week college research exploratory program.
- Teaching Scholars (exemplary CSI students in all majors) provide support to teachers in the classrooms. CSI also provides counseling, college awareness and opportunities for parent involvement.



*CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP students at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.*

## CUNY LaGuardia Community College

**Contacts**

Dr. Arlene Kahn, Principal Investigator  
 Hazel Carter, Director  
 David Johnson, Assistant Director  
 Patricia Burke, Director of Student Activities  
 Flushing HS: Carole Himmelman, Site Counselor; Jabina Rajbhandary, Social Worker  
 John Bowne HS: Bhavna Engineer, Site Counselor; Gisela Bravo, Social Worker  
 Newtown HS: Joe Meglio, Site Counselor; Mary Ellen Pastor, Social Worker

**Who**

3,062 10th-graders

**Where**

Flushing HS  
 John Bowne HS  
 Newtown HS

**Partners**

Bank Street College of Education  
 Community School Districts 24, 25, & 30  
 Flushing HS  
 John Bowne HS  
 LaGuardia Community College  
 Newtown HS  
 Queens Borough Public Library  
 Queens Child Guidance Center  
 Queens Urban Partnership  
 Regional Operational Centers 3 and 4  
 Teaching Matters Inc.

**Focus**

Empowering over 3,000 students from John Bowne HS, Newtown HS, and Flushing HS with the academic skills, motivation and college

preparation necessary for persistence and success in post-secondary education in full partnership with their families and the greater community. The program is dedicated to creating permanent and sustainable institutional changes that will enable students to meet high standards and make informed decisions about their future schooling and career path while allowing for a smooth transition from middle school to high school and from there to college.

**“There is truly a GEAR UP identity in the school building throughout the year. Hopefully that makes kids more a part of the school.”**

*-John Ficalora, Newtown HS Principal, LaGuardia CC GEAR UP*

**Highlights and Successes —  
Fall 2002/Winter 2003**

- The Saturday Program at LaGuardia Community College offers a choice of three different classes and opportunities to share new learning. “Culture and Theater” gives students an opportunity to learn playwriting, create theatrical sets and costumes, and give public theater performances. “Culture and Dance” pairs the exploration of various cultures and social expression with discussion of ethnic diversity and social quests for unity through choreographed original dances. The third, “Film, Literature and the Internet,” allows students to explore these forms to encourage writing on a variety of subjects from world peace and the environment to schools’ treatment of students and parents’ attitudes towards teenagers.

**CUNY LaGuardia Community College  
continued on page 16**

## **CUNY LaGuardia Community College** *continued from page 15*

- Offered instructional Review Sessions, taught by high school teachers in English language arts and mathematics, as well as Math A Regents Prep classes.
- Recruited teachers at the high schools to provide mentoring services to selected groups of students to work on time management, academic issues and social problems. Teacher mentors and students attended a cultural event, a museum and the planetarium. Some also have developed contacts with students' families, and kept in touch with them throughout the year.
- The High School Bound Program provided a series of workshops in math and reading, and orientation visits to Flushing, John Bowne and Newtown High Schools to help prepare students for the transition to high school for both the 9th-graders still attending JHS 189, and the 8th-graders at IS 145 and IS 61.
- Provided professional development workshops to teachers at our GEAR UP middle schools and high schools. Instructional Strategies Seminars included "Math in the Mirror," a workshop that empowers teachers to see beyond the way they think or have thought about mathematics; "Using Improvisation and Theatre Games in the Classroom" teaches the basic rules and principles of how to adapt theatre games and improvisation to classroom needs; and "Active Learning in Social Studies" offers various strategies for engaging students actively in social studies through role-play and debate.

### **Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003**

- The College Bound program will work with select groups of students through the College Coach and College Portfolio Programs. Teachers will engage students in workshops about college and will go on visits to college campuses.
- The Queens Borough Public Library will continue to work with GEAR UP students through Author Programs, Poetry Workshops and Video Teleconferences.
- Parent Workshops will continue to be offered to enable parents to play an active role in their child's upcoming transition to college.
- Summer Internship Program will be the theme for our four-week Summer Program at LaGuardia Community College. The program will include academic classes, PSAT prep, internships at various work sites, career exploration and job readiness as well as weekly trips.
- A total of 41 students attended the various NYGEAR UP summer residential programs at SUNY Cobleskill, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute, St. John's University, and c1cu/NYSACAC Weekend, "Camp College" at Union College, and the "Camp College" at Niagara University.

---

**"The GEAR UP Program has helped me tremendously in my academics. The mentors and counselors have provided me with classes and help to push me to my limits and do well."**

*-Edward Yu, LaGuardia CC GEAR UP student from Newtown HS*

---

## **CUNY Medgar Evers College**

### **Contacts**

Carolyn Beck, Director, Central Brooklyn GEAR UP Partnership  
Kaemanje Thomas, GEAR UP Liaison  
Letitia Bridgeman, GEAR UP Liaison  
Gisella Oliver, GEAR UP Liaison, High Schools

### **Who**

1,000 7th, 8th, and 9th-graders

### **Where**

Intermediate School 55  
Middle School 394  
Boys & Girls HS  
Clara Barton HS  
George W. Wingate HS  
Middle College HS at Medgar Evers College

### **Partners**

Anderson Biz Kids  
Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment (BCUE)  
Cablevision  
Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York  
Mentoring Partnership of New York  
The New York Times  
New York YMCA (Bedford Stuyvesant)

### **Focus**

Provide early intervention activities to help prepare students for high school and college-level courses, with an emphasis on science and math. Activities include college tours, information about summer programs and one-on-one tutoring and mentoring opportunities.

## **Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003**

- Offered a Princeton Review prep course for the NYC Specialized High Schools Examination.
- Offered an after school science program at one of our middle schools.
- Sponsored "GEAR UP Days" at both middle schools and all high schools. For the high school GEAR UP Day, we worked with one of our partners, the Bedford YMCA, to include information on college requirements, health and fitness, and to have fun. These were days for parents and students to gather important information about the services of GEAR UP.
- Worked in collaboration with teachers at both middle schools to encourage and support the use of *The New York Times* in daily lesson plans. Teachers participated in *The New York Times* workshops where demonstrations were given on how to use the newspaper in the classroom.

### **Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003**

- Recruit additional tutors in middle schools and increase our list of mentors.
- Bring on board additional partners to enhance services to the youth we serve.
- Create and implement a summer program that includes both academics and recreation.
- Organize a parent financial aid workshop to assist parents and give advice on financing college for children.



*CUNY LaGuardia Community College  
GEAR UP students at the train station in  
Washington, D.C.*

# D'Youville College

## Contacts

Dottie Bellanti, Director, GEAR UP I and II  
Taharka Odinga, District Liaison

## Who

900 9th- and 10th-graders in GEAR UP I  
860 6th- and 7th-graders in GEAR UP II

## Where

### GEAR UP I:

Grover Cleveland HS  
Riverside HS  
McKinley HS  
Seneca Vocational HS  
Hutchinson Central HS  
Burgard Vocational HS  
Emerson Vocational HS  
Kensington HS  
Lafayette HS  
Seneca HS  
South Park HS  
Lackawanna Senior High

### GEAR UP II:

Hightate Heights Elementary  
Houghton Academy  
PS #18  
PS #71

---

**“My daughter has made a 360 degree turn since she became involved in GEAR UP.”**

*-D'Youville College GEAR UP parent*

---

## Partners

### GEAR UP I:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo  
Canisius College  
Community Action Organization (CAO)  
D'Youville College  
EOC@SUNY Buffalo  
Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)  
Junior Achievement (JA)  
Medaille College  
SUNY College@Buffalo  
Trocaire College  
Villa Maria College

### GEAR UP II:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo  
Canisius College  
D'Youville College  
EOC@SUNY Buffalo  
Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)  
Junior Achievement (JA)  
Medaille College  
SUNY College@Buffalo  
Villa Maria College

## Focus

The purpose of GEAR UP I and GEAR UP II is to increase the number of low-income students who enroll, and succeed in post-secondary education. The GEAR UP programs simultaneously address academic achievement, career and college awareness, teacher development, and family support through before/during/after school tutoring, leadership development, college visits, summer camps, after-school recreation, interactive career fairs followed by career mentoring, extensive parent workshops, and on-going staff development.

## Highlights/Successes

### Fall 2002—Spring 2003

- Students in GEAR UP I and GEAR UP II have increased their attendance rate, decreased the tardiness rate, raised their scores on standardized tests, and raised their GPA. Parent involvement is increasing dramatically and teachers have higher expectations.

## Priorities/Plans

### Spring 2003—Summer 2003

- Host extensive planning sessions with administrators and teachers to coordinate our efforts and continue to best serve our population.
- Hold leadership training institutes for students.
- Host summer programs with a strong career exploration focus.

---

# New York University

## Contacts

Dr. Jeanne Adair, GEAR UP Program Director  
Brian Williams, Project Associate

## Who

360 students in grades 6-10

## Where

Choir Academy of Harlem

## Partners

Boys Choir of Harlem/Girls Choir of Harlem  
Choir Academy of Harlem  
The LINKS Foundation  
The New York Times

## Focus

Prepare students to enroll in and complete higher education programs by providing academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, college preparation and financial aid information to them and their parents. Provide professional development to teachers, and encourage parent involvement.

---

**“GEAR UP has made such a profound impact in our school that saying ‘Thank you’ doesn’t seem like enough.”**

*-D'Youville College GEAR UP School Principal*

---

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Administered and proctored (with College Board staff) the Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) test for 60 10th-grade students on March 7. Planned a follow-up to review the test results.
- On March 26, 40 students in grades 9-11 traveled to Lincoln University in Chester, PA, and to the University of Pennsylvania, and the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia, PA. Each visit provided students with admission and financial aid information, a campus tour including residential halls, and the opportunity to observe some classes.
- Held a HS Career Fair on April 16 for 120 HS students in grades 10-12 to show successes that result from education. Seven speakers from various career clusters provided students with information on their careers and background. Career fields included: law and government, media and entertainment, allied health, business, finance and banking, and entrepreneurship.
- Provided current 11th-grade students with college readiness workshops to help with the transition from high school to college. Workshop topics included: researching colleges, identifying scholarships, college essay writing, researching and applying for internships, the admissions process, what to expect in college and intensive Saturday SAT preparation classes.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Continue to provide intensive academic enrichment through extensive tutoring for the state wide 8th-grade mathematics exam.
- The GEAR UP staff and Choir Academy of Harlem faculty will be trained, and will begin using The College Ed materials developed by The College Board with 6th through 8th-grade students to provide structured workshops in college awareness and exploration.
- Explore the possibility of incorporating the Junior Achievement entrepreneurial and mentoring program as part of the NYU summer program at the Choir Academy of Harlem.
- Plans are currently underway to facilitate a group of students to participate in the week-long summer residential college experiences.

# Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – RAISE Partnership

## Contacts

Mark Smith, Dean of Students  
Joan Kruegler, Project Director

## Who

881 10th-graders

## Where

Cohoes HS  
Heatly HS  
Lansingburgh HS  
Rensselaer HS  
Troy HS  
Watervliet HS

## Partners

RAISE Partnership schools:  
Hudson Valley Community College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
The Sage Colleges  
Cohoes HS  
Heatly HS  
Lansingburgh HS  
Rensselaer HS  
Troy HS  
Watervliet HS

## Focus

The mission of the Rensselaer Alliance to Increase Student Excellence (RAISE) is to increase the college attendance of the students in our RAISE schools. Our goal is 95% college attendance for our Class of 2005.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Coordinated and funded campus field trips for approximately 500 of our cohort to 12 local colleges. Students were bussed to the colleges, learned about financial aid and admissions, had a tour, spoke to students and ate lunch in the campus cafeteria.
- Coordinated PSAT infusion workshops and curriculum development with 30 ELA and math teachers at our high school.
- Helped to prepare over 100 cohort students for the math Regents exam with tutorial assistance from RPI students.
- Hosted the second annual RAISE Parent's Conference at the RPI Heffner Alumni House, which was attended by 138 people - parents, teachers, school administrators, cohort students and partnership members. This is the first year that students attended.
- At our annual Parent's Conference, our parents' committee awarded 14 teacher-nominated students with the RAISE Fortitude Award for academic improvement, or an increase in grade in a subject.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring 2003/Summer 2003

- Increase business involvement with RAISE to support scholarships.
- Increase the number of students who take the PSAT.
- Increase teacher participation in RAISE activities.

# St. John's University

## Contacts

Dr. Andre McKenzie, VP of Academic Support Services  
Dr. Deborah Saldana, St. John's University, Associate Professor (prior to Sept. 10, 2003)  
Yvette Morgan, Director (effective Sept. 10, 2003)  
SJU GEAR UP Program Web site:  
[www.stjohns.edu/gearup](http://www.stjohns.edu/gearup)

## Who

310 10th-graders

## Where

Long Island City HS (180 students)  
32 other high schools (130 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

## 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 2002/Winter 2003

- Hosted a "Latinos Look to the Future - College for a Day" in October. Participating students (15) were paired with a Latino college student enrolled in a program of their interest. Students had the opportunity to attend college classes and get first-hand information about college.
- 30 students and their parents attended a theatrical performance of *Othello* by the Chappell Players at SJU and an overview workshop before the play.
- Held another series of computer workshops for 25 GEAR UP students and their parents. Participants heard important information about financial aid, the SAT, Regents Prep classes, and had the opportunity to create a student profile using the [www.nymentor.org](http://www.nymentor.org) Web site. At the end of the two-week/six-hour training, families received a Dell computer.
- Organized the first Leadership Retreat at the St. John's University Manhattan campus for 48 students from SJU GEAR UP, LaGuardia CC GEAR UP, and Camp Rising Sun. Students engaged in problem-solving and learned teamwork skills in workshops focusing on leadership and what it means to be a good leader.
- Offered a series of SAT Prep Workshops on Saturdays in March. Administered the College Board's Preliminary SAT Scoring Service followed by a SAT Prep Workshop.
- Hosted a series of Parent Workshops entitled "Parents as Partners" that addressed the new structure of the NYC Department of Education and provided parents with vital information about their children's academic progress and graduation requirements.
- Developed a series of workshops for students and parents on four Saturdays in March that focused on test-taking and time



St. John's University GEAR UP students practice critical thinking during the human knot activity at the Leadership Retreat.

management, handling peer pressure and self-protecting, the effects of drugs and alcohol, and finding a career interest.

#### **Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003**

- Plan college tours.
- Develop a Multicultural Youth Summit to focus on racism.
- Work to facilitate summer employment for students through the HANAC Community Center.
- Plan the St. John's University residential summer camp experience, "USENY," for 100 students August 3-9. It will include leadership workshops, field trips around NYC, as well as team-building activities and special events.
- Plan an additional summer camp experience, "ESL NY," at St. John's University for 50 students August 3-9. It will include workshops that focus on literacy across the content areas, field trips around NYC, as well as team-building activities and special events.

---

## **SUNY Binghamton University**

#### **Contacts**

Heather Sheridan-Thomas, Principal Investigator

Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director

Ann Marie Chanecka, Student Assistance Coordinator

Jim Golden, Student Assistance Coordinator

Dan Kosick, Student Assistance Coordinator

Ali Phinney, Student Assistance Coordinator

Monica Perry, Publicity, Recruitment and Training Coordinator

Mary Plumb, Activities Coordinator

#### **Who**

1,949 students 7th-10th-graders

#### **Where**

East MS

West MS

Binghamton HS

#### **Partners**

Binghamton City School District

PSTA (Parents, Students and Teachers Association)

SUNY Binghamton University School of Education and Human Development

*We also collaborate with:*

Boys and Girls Club of Broome County

Gang Prevention Unit from the Binghamton Housing Authority

Roberson Museum After School program

Lourdes Hospital Youth Program

Urban League

#### **Focus**

Our program focuses on mentoring students and parents. We provide mentors to the students at their schools and provide programs for parents focusing on the importance of challenging high school coursework, and the college admission process.

#### **Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003**

- We are collaborating with professors in the School of Education and Human Development who require their students to participate in GEAR UP as part of the curriculum. This year, 54 students from four classes worked as volunteer tutors in the schools.
- In February, the high school invited GEAR UP to be part of the freshman orientation program, validating our role in the school community.
- Last summer we provided scholarships for 14 of our students to attend academic enrichment programs. One of those programs was the Kopernick Science program which is attended by students from all over the world.

#### **Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003**

- Add more mentors and tutors; begin to recruit from community agencies.
- Increase the number of alternative sites so we can provide services after school, on weekends, and during vacation periods.
- Increase parent involvement.
- Make our program more visible to the community at large.

---

## **SUNY Nassau Community College**

#### **Contacts**

Marilyn Monroe, Director

Nilda Garcia, Asst. Director

#### **Who**

1,500 6th-10th graders

#### **Where**

Westbury MS

Westbury HS

#### **Partners**

Central Westbury Civic Association

One to One, Long Island Mentoring Partnership

New Cassel/Westbury Youth Services Project

Harambee Rites of Passage Program

#### **Focus**

"Thoughts become Words, Words become Actions, Actions become Habits, Habits become Character, Character becomes Destiny." As suggested by our motto, the program provides a wide range of holistic services that prepare our students academically, emotionally and socially, enhancing their potential for future success. Supportive interventions include academic skills development, tutoring, mentoring, assemblies, college tours and workshops.

#### **Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003**

- Students received daily academic support from college tutors who simultaneously assisted with scholastic development and modeled the behavior of successful college students.
- GEAR UP "Rites of Passage" students attended an informative and inspirational exhibit entitled: "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Sinking of the Henrietta Marie."
- GEAR UP "Rites of Passage" facilitated a Mother-Daughter Tea during Women's History Month. The girls in the program presented creative projects related to this component's seven governing principles and focusing on their future educational and career plans.
- Offered four empowering assemblies designed to motivate students for college through character-focused and student-centered presentations. The assemblies included presentations by a hypnotist, a rapping English language arts expert, a spoken word artist and a theatre company.
- A parent meeting explored the journey toward college. Faculty from Nassau Community College's admissions department and Westbury Middle and High School counselors presented valuable information about academic requirements, behavioral expectations of college-bound students and financial options for post-secondary learning.

#### **Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003**

- Hold two large end-of-the-year celebrations, one for all GEAR UP students, and one for all the college students who provided tutoring for the GEAR UP program.
- Implement a summer program for students who attended the after school program during the school year to focus on the "Remix Project" which allows students to create a CD of poetry and visual artwork.
- Continue the "Gateway to Success" program to help students and parents plan for and transition smoothly from elementary to middle school by helping them become familiar with the middle school, the GEAR UP program, and services available to them.

# Reaching out.



## The NYGEAR UP Sectors/Partners

- Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu)
- The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC)
- CUNY
- SUNY
- The College Board
- The New York State Education Department (SED)

## 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 2002/Winter 2003

- Produced and distributed to the NYGEAR UP and Federal GEAR UP sites: *In Gear* newsletter (Autumn 2002 issue); student-to-student mentoring letters “From Me to You — Edward” and “College Search Worksheet”; *Affording College 2002 / Cómo pagar la universidad 2002* (English and Spanish versions).
- Participated in the Mini College Fair at New Rochelle High School January 15 to discuss plans for college and to distribute information to 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students. Recruited the following nine independent institutions represented at the fair: Cochran School of Nursing, College of Mount Saint Vincent, The College of New Rochelle, Concordia College, Fordham University, Iona College, Mercy College, Pace University, and Sarah Lawrence College.
- Visited the Westchester CC Winter Recess Program at Port Chester HS and Peekskill HS on February 20; the CUNY Consortium/Brooklyn College’s Learning Studio at Bushwick HS March 18; the CUNY

Consortium/Office of Academic Affairs Conflict Resolution/Video class at Brandeis HS on March 18; and the CUNY Consortium/College of Staten Island Discovery Institute Curriculum Development Workshop for teachers at New York City College of Technology on March 29.

- Developed, presented, and compiled evaluations from the “What Every Family of a 10th-Grader Needs to Know About College,” workshop for parents and students at: Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School (CUNY Queens College) on November 21; New Dorp HS (CUNY College of Staten Island) March 8; Central Tech Vocational Center (Syracuse University) for students from Fowler HS, Henninger HS, Corcoran HS, and Nottingham HS on March 13; Curtis HS (CUNY College of Staten Island) on March 15; George Washington HS (CUNY Office of Academic Affairs) on March 17; Vanguard HS (CUNY Hunter College) on March 18.
- Arranged for and assisted a Spanish bilingual admissions speaker from Union College at CUNY Office of Academic Affairs, George Washington HS March 17.
- Attended various GEAR UP meetings and conferences, including: a CUNY Consortium program staff meeting in NYC on September 23, the Implementation Action Committee at HESC on September 27, a GEAR UP Director’s meeting at HESC on November 15, a Camp College steering committee meeting at Union College on December 11, a GEAR UP Summer Planning Committee Meeting at HESC on December 19; the GEAR UP RAISE conference at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on March 12, the Syracuse University Advisory Board meeting in Syracuse on March 13, and the annual NYGEAR UP conference in White Plains on March 31– April 2.
- Hosted a Camp College Steering Committee Meeting March 6 at cicu to continue development of the three separate Camp College summer 2003 weekend

residential experiences for GEAR UP students at Union College, Niagara University, and Manhattan College.

- Participated in the annual NYGEAR UP conference in White Plains on March 31 – April 2: co-moderated the admissions plenary panel; presented on the panel for the Summer Residential College Experience workshop; recruited a panel of speakers and moderated the Counseling First Generation Students workshop; awarded mugs and t-shirts to student winners of the HESC “Why I want to go to college” essay contest; and displayed and distributed cicu publications and materials to conference attendees.
- Gathered and compiled data from each NYGEAR UP and GEAR UP site for site specific information to be published in this edition of *In Gear* newsletter, and surveyed the NYGEAR UP sites for feedback on current cicu resources, materials and ideas for future needs.
- Facilitated three college visits for students from the SUNY Cobleskill site to Union College, Hartwick College, and to The College of Saint Rose.

### Priorities and Plans —

#### Spring/Summer 2003

- Produce and distribute to the GEAR UP sites: An expanded *In Gear* newsletter which will include New York’s Federal GEAR UP sites; *Your College Search 2003 / Busca una universidad 2003* (English and Spanish versions); three student mentoring messages: “From Me to You” — Lucky, Joy, and Adam.
- Distribute individualized certificates and T-shirt awards to nominated students in the LaGuardia Community College, New Rochelle College For Me Partnership, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Syracuse University sites, and continue to offer achievement award program to students nominated from other sites.
- Coordinate, in partnership with NYSACAC, three separate weekend residential Camp College summer experiences at Union College, Niagara University, and Manhattan College for 135 GEAR UP students.
- Complete and plan distribution of a workshop resource kit on the college preparation and admission process to facilitate workshops for parents and students in grades 9-12.
- Plan and continue site visits and develop and offer workshops.
- Continue to assist in facilitating and planning college visits.

# 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 develop a summer activity (e.g. computer camp).

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Organized a Career Day at The College of New Rochelle site for students. Ten colleges participated.
- Because of the excellent reception to the publications, "GEAR UP in Math" and "GEAR UP in Algebra," reordered an additional 2,000 copies.
- Developed a new activity, "The College Essay," a workshop for students preparing their college applications.
- Developed a Math A Regents Review workshop.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Schedule workshops in schools for "The College Essay" activity.
- Create new instructional materials on writing and literacy.
- Plan and hold workshops for mentors, tutors, and teachers to accompany all new publications.

# CUNY

## Contact

Donna Linderman, Project Director

## 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. Provide professional development opportunities. Arrange for visits to CUNY colleges.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- CUNY and the College of Staten Island Discovery Institute developed and are currently co-sponsoring a curriculum

development workshop for GEAR UP teachers at New York City College of Technology on Saturdays through May. Teachers work in discipline-specific groups to discuss instruction and develop lessons for their classes. A summer intensive workshop is planned to continue this work.

- CUNY launched a quarterly newsletter in the winter of 2002 that highlights various components of CUNY GEAR UP and provides information on professional development opportunities for teachers, and summer programming available for students. In the spring of 2003 both teacher and student editions were developed and distributed. Each newsletter highlights student writing and profiles teachers and administrators from GEAR UP high schools.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Enroll more teachers in the summer curriculum development workshop at the College of Staten Island.
- Co-host a parent college awareness workshop at the George Washington HS campus with the NYC Chancellor's District.

# SUNY

## Contact

Anthony M. Belcher, Senior Associate for Opportunity Programs and Diversity and Director of SUNY GEAR UP

Tracy Swann, Administrative Assistant  
Kwasi Fenteng, Outreach Counselor  
Victoria Nuñez, Outreach Counselor  
Bill Harper, Outreach Counselor

## Focus

Provide customized educational and counseling services to increase parent involvement, arrange college tours, develop study aids, publications, workshops, and other tools to improve academic performance and literacy and to develop and enhance leadership, communication, time management, and conflict resolution skills, as well as provide career admissions and financial aid information.

## Highlights and Successes — Fall 2002/Winter 2003

- Completed fact-finding site visits to Copiague, Long Island University, The New Rochelle Partnership, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's University, Syracuse University, SUNY Cobleskill, Westchester Community College, and Yonkers.
- Held Study Skills Workshops at Long Island University, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's University, SUNY Cobleskill, Syracuse University, Westchester Community College, and Yonkers.

- Provided complete study/organizational skills packets with customized binders, student agendas, four study skills handouts and a vocabulary log book for the following NYGEAR UP sites: Copiague, Long Island University, The New Rochelle Partnership, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's University, Syracuse University, Westchester Community College, Yonkers, and Federal GEAR UP LaGuardia Community College.
- NYSHESC and SUNY provided all sites with student agendas.
- Assisted with the coordination of a Mini College Fair at New Rochelle, where five SUNY campuses attended. At Copiague, six SUNY campuses were present for an evening parent program.
- Facilitated college tours for the Long Island University NYGEAR UP program to SUNY Purchase, Old Westbury, Nassau Community College and Stony Brook; for the CUNY Hunter College site to SUNY Purchase; and for the SUNY Cobleskill site to Cornell University and SUNY Binghamton. Tours focused on student self-discovery, career selection, and educational opportunities.
- Assisted with the registration and proctoring of the College Board's Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) Test for The New Rochelle Partnership March 5.
- Set-up table displays with SUNY admissions publications and a power point presentation about SUNY campuses at the New Rochelle Partnership Nov. 7 and March 5, and at Copiague Oct. 9.
- Assisted with the development of the "March Madness Math Camp" for Syracuse University held at SUNY Onondaga Community College.

## Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Coordinate "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers" facilitators' training workshops for each GEAR UP site.
- Promote leadership skill-building in GEAR UP students through the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers" workshop.
- Provide leadership training workshops at all summer 2003 experience programs.
- Develop and offer student workshops on time management, career selection, choosing and financing college, personal growth and development, study skills and leadership.
- Plan parent workshops on academic guidance; develop a financial plan for college saving; help students apply to college.
- Organize GEAR UP staff development workshops focusing on getting the most out of a college tour or fair, increasing parent involvement, and identifying study aids.
- Sponsor several College Nights at each site.
- Complete publication and distribution of self-help and motivational manuals.
- Develop College Tour Packages based on each site's special needs.

## The College Board

### Contacts

Brian J. Petraitis, Director of NYS College Board Office

Sabrina Cerezo, Project Director

Kate Cappello, Program Manager

### 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 2002/Winter 2003

- The Preliminary SAT Scoring Service (PSSS) was administered to GEAR UP sites throughout the state in February and March 2003. This previously-administered PSAT/NMSQT is a good test preparation tool for students and a diagnostic for schools. Following administration of the PSSS, all students will receive individualized Score Report Plus reports and each school will receive a Summary of Answers report. Both NYGEAR up and Federal GEAR UP sites participated.
- PSAT Infusion Workshops/Summary of Answers Workshops will be delivered to sites that administered the PSSS. The workshops for administrators, counselors, and teachers provide score information and suggestions on improving curriculum.

### Priorities and Plans — Spring/Summer 2003

- Prepare students for the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT I.
- Provide exam readiness materials to all sites.
- Continue to offer PSSS to all schools.
- Conduct workshops at regional locations to promote maximum attendance.

## The New York State Education Department (SED)

### Contact

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

### Focus

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

## Resources

### Exploring financial aid for college.

- [www.NASFAA.org/publications/2003/r0405counselormaterials091203.html](http://www.NASFAA.org/publications/2003/r0405counselormaterials091203.html)  
2004-2005 NASFAA high school counselor materials available on-line — the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) has updated its Financial Aid Night PowerPoint presentation and related materials for use by high school counselors and aid administrators. Included on the Web site: a guide to planning and conducting a financial aid night; a Financial Aid Night PowerPoint presentation; a suggested presentation script for the Financial Aid Night slide show; and six handouts to help students and parents through the financial aid process.

- [www.nasfaa.org/subhomes/cash4college/index2.html](http://www.nasfaa.org/subhomes/cash4college/index2.html)  
Cash For College: A Guide to Student Aid Programs and Application Procedures — published by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Learn all about the financial aid process.

- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on the Web.

- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
FinAid, the Financial Aid Information Page — provides a comprehensive and objective overview of financial aid opportunities.

- <http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/FYE/index.html>  
Funding Your Education, 2003-2004 — an introductory publication for students not yet enrolled in a postsecondary school, it provides general information about the U.S. Department of Education's federal student financial aid programs and how to apply for them.

- [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html)  
The Student Guide — a comprehensive resource on student financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education.

### College exploration.

- [www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org)  
New York's 100+ private colleges and universities' admissions and financial aid information Web site.

- [www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org)  
New York State Higher Education Services Corporation Web site contains information on colleges and financial aid programs, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other NYS grants and scholarships.

- <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>  
IPEDS college opportunity online is a direct link to nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the United States.

- [www.nysacac.org](http://www.nysacac.org)  
New York State Association for College Admission Counseling Web site for the professional membership association of New York's college admissions professionals.

- [www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/index.jsp](http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/index.jsp)  
U.S. Department of Education's comprehensive information site providing answers to questions on education, career, government and more.

### Career exploration.

- [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)  
U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook.

- [www.nycareerzone.org](http://www.nycareerzone.org)  
A creative Web site designed to provide in-depth information on a wide variety of exciting careers in New York State

- <http://startsomething.target.com/info/index.asp>  
Target and Tiger Woods Foundation's "Start Something" program for students age 8-17 where students follow a curriculum inspired by the Tiger and Earl Woods book, "Start Something." There are 10 two-hour sessions with several activities relating to dreams and goals and planning and carrying out a project. Students completing Part 1 can apply for a scholarship.

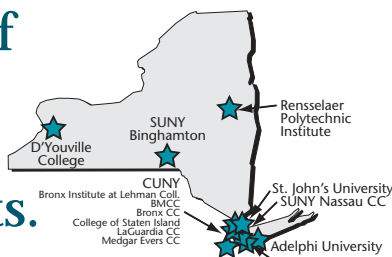
### Homework and Study Skills Help.

- [www.ucc.vt.edu/stdyhelp.html](http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdyhelp.html)  
Study skills self-help.

- <http://caps.unc.edu/TenTraps.html>  
Tips to improve your studying skills/preparing for exams/10 traps of studying.

- [www.ipl.org/dir/aplus](http://www.ipl.org/dir/aplus)  
The Internet Public Library.

# Quick List of New York's Federal Sites and Contacts.



## ▶ Adelphi University

### \* Fred Carr

(516) 877-4958  
fax (516) 877-4172  
carr@adelphi.edu

### Wanda Moore

(516) 877-4957  
fax (516) 877-4172  
moore@adelphi.edu

### Larissa Ebron

(516) 877-4957  
fax (516) 877-4172  
ebtron@adelphi.edu

## ▶ Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College [formerly Bronx Educational Alliance (BEA)]

### \* Betsy Hernandez

(718) 960-7405  
fax (718) 960-7219  
bherna01@lehman.cuny.edu

### Kevin Anthony

(718) 904-5491  
fax (718) 904-5455  
kjant1@aol.com

### Cassandra Dixon-Bowen

(718) 993-5000  
fax (718) 292-1944  
gearuppr@aol.com

### Lisa Franklin

(718) 562-5500  
fax (718) 562-5132  
lisaf01@brnxgearup.org

### Karla Morales

(718) 918-2700 x112  
fax (718) 792-7983  
kmorales76@aol.com

### Elsie Padilla-Ayala

(718) 543-1000  
fax (718) 548-0036  
epadilla@brnxgearup.org

### Josefina Tavarez

(718) 364-7400  
fax (718) 295-3535  
tavarezgearup@aol.com

## ▶ CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

### \* Deirdre Anderson

(212) 220-8052  
fax (212) 220-8319  
dganderson@bmcc.cuny.edu

### Sandra Rumayor

(212) 220-8325  
fax (212) 220-8319  
srumayor@bmcc.cuny.edu

## ▶ CUNY Bronx Community College

### \* Cassandra Levine

(718) 367-9022  
fax (718) 367-9039  
it\_travel@msn.com

### Dr. Andre Williams

(718) 583-7007  
fax (718) 223-2773

### Nelida Gonzalez-Marquez

(718) 681-6334  
fax (718) 537-6043

## ▶ CUNY College of Staten Island

### Dr. Leonard Ciaccio

(718) 982-2325  
fax (718) 982-2327  
ciaccio@postbox.csi.cuny.edu

### Dr. James Sanders

(718) 982-2325  
fax (718) 982-2327  
sanders@postbox.csi.cuny.edu

### \* Dr. Deirdre Armitage

(718) 982-2325  
fax (718) 982-2327  
armitage@postbox.csi.cuny.edu

## ▶ CUNY LaGuardia Community College

### Dr. Arlene Kahn

(718) 482-5046  
fax (718) 609-2148  
akahn@lagcc.cuny.edu

### \* Hazel Carter

(718) 482-5046  
fax (718) 609-2048  
hcarter@lagcc.cuny.edu

### David Johnson

(718) 482-5046  
fax (718) 609-2048  
djohnson@lagcc.cuny.edu

### Patricia Burke

(718) 482-5046  
fax (718) 609-2048  
pburke@lagcc.cuny.edu

### Carole Himmelman

(718) 888-7500 x618  
fax (718) 886-4255  
lucia7498@juno.com

### Jabina Rajbhandary

(718) 888-7500 x617  
fax (718) 886-4255  
jabina1@hotmail.com

### Joe Meglio

(718) 595-8400 x2440  
fax (718) 699-8584  
joemegs@aol.com

### Mary Ellen Pastor

(718) 595-8400 x2440  
fax (718) 699-8584  
moondancepastor@aol.com

### Bhavna Engineer

(718) 263-1919 x3472  
fax (718) 575-4069  
bengine@optonline.net

### Gisela Bravo

(718) 263-1919 x3473  
fax (718) 575-4069  
gisela\_bravo@yahoo.com

## ▶ CUNY Medgar Evers College

### \* Carolyn Beck

(718) 270-6920  
fax (718) 270-6913  
cbeck@mec.cuny.edu

### Kaemanje Thomas

(718) 495-7736  
fax (718) 270-6913  
kthomas@mec.cuny.edu

### Letitia Bridgeman

(718) 756-3164  
fax (718) 270-6913  
lbridgeman@mec.cuny.edu

### Gisella Oliver

(718) 756-3164  
fax (718) 270-6913  
goliver@mec.cuny.edu

## ▶ D'Youville College

### \* Dottie Bellanti

(716) 881-7754  
fax (716) 881-8139  
bellanti@dyc.edu

### Taharka Odinga

(716) 881-8142  
fax (716) 881-8139  
odingat@dyc.edu

## ▶ New York University

### \* Dr. Jeanne Adair

(212) 289-6227 x346  
fax (212) 289-4195  
jeanne.adair@nyu.edu

### Brian Williams

(212) 289-6227 x343  
fax (212) 289-4195  
bw43@nyu.edu

## ▶ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

### Mark Smith

(518) 276-6266  
fax (518) 276-4839  
smithm@rpi.edu

### \* Joan Kruegler

(518) 237-4131 x2356  
fax (518) 237-2912  
jkruegle@cohoes.org

## ▶ St. John's University

### Dr. Andre McKenzie

(718) 990-2532  
fax (718) 990-2383  
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

### \* Yvette Morgan

(718) 990-2532  
fax (718) 990-2383  
morgany@stjohns.edu

## ▶ SUNY Binghamton University

### Heather Sheridan-Thomas

(607) 777-4169  
fax (607) 777-6041  
hthomas@binghamton.edu

### \* Idalmis Batista-Blair

(607) 777-2468  
fax (607) 777-4187  
ibatista@binghamton.edu

### Ann Marie Chanecka

(607) 768-2861  
fax (607) 762-8398  
annchanecka@yahoo.com

### Jim Golden

(607) 762-8219  
fax (607) 762-8209  
jgolden77@aol.com

### Dan Kosick

(607) 762-8219  
fax (607) 762-8209  
kosickd@bcsgdw.stier.org

### Ali Phinney

(607) 768-3135  
fax (607) 763-8429  
alirae@hotmail.com

### Monica Perry

(607) 777-4039  
fax (607) 777-6486  
mperry@binghamton.edu

### Mary Plumb

(607) 762-6068  
fax (607) 762-8209  
mplumb@binghamton.edu

## ▶ SUNY Nassau Community College

### \* Marilyn Monroe

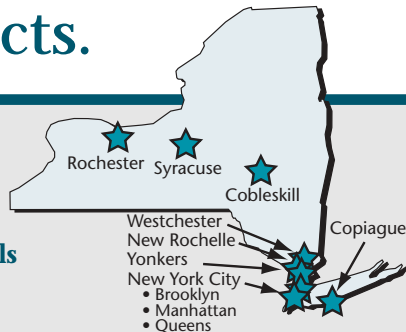
(516) 572-3575  
fax (516) 572-3577  
monroem@ncc.edu

### Nilda Garcia

(516) 572-3575  
fax (516) 572-3577  
garcian@ncc.edu

\* Primary site contacts

# Quick List of State Sites and Contacts.



## NYGEAR UP Sites

### ► Copiague Public Schools

**Laurence W. Aronstein**  
(631) 842-4015 x510  
fax (631) 789-8991  
laronsteincsd@aol.com

\* **Marisa Alleyn**  
(631) 842-4010 x415  
fax (631) 841-4642  
malleyncsd@aol.com

**Sarah Scaffetta**  
(631) 842-4010 x422  
fax (631) 841-4642  
sscaffettacsd@aol.com

### ► CUNY

**John Garvey**  
(212) 794-5747  
fax (212) 794-5706  
john.garvey@mail.cuny.edu

\* **Donna Linderman**  
(646) 344-7352  
fax (646) 344-7329  
donna.linderman@mail.cuny.edu

**Ciji Portis**  
(646) 344-7354  
fax (646) 344-7329  
ciji.portis@mail.cuny.edu

### ► Long Island University

**Diana Voelker**  
(718) 488-1533  
fax (718) 780-4054  
dvoelker@liu.edu

\* **Pia Haynes**  
(718) 488-3313  
fax (718) 780-4045  
pia.haynes@liu.edu

**Gerald Latham**  
(718) 780-4058  
fax (718) 780-4045  
glatham@liu.edu

**Kimberly Lopez**  
(718) 780-4162  
fax (718) 780-4045  
klopez@liu.edu

### ► New Rochelle College for Me Partnership

**Spencer H. Wiles**  
(914) 576-4233  
fax (914) 712-1273  
swiles@csdnr.lhric.org

**Diane Massimo**  
(914) 576-4206  
fax (914) 576-4602  
dmassimo@csdnr.lhric.org

\* **Mary Ann Fouchecourt**  
(914) 576-8205  
fax (914) 576-4560  
mfouchec@hotmail.com

\* **Primary site contacts**

### ► Rochester Institute of Technology

\* **Dianne Spang**  
(585) 475-2984  
fax (585) 475-2888  
dlsop@rit.edu

**Michelle Allevato**  
(585) 475-4456  
fax (585) 475-2888  
mmak12@rit.edu

**Vanessa Davis**  
(585) 475-6307  
fax (585) 475-2888  
vadk12@rit.edu

### ► St. John's University

**Dr. Andre McKenzie**  
(718) 990-2532  
fax (718) 990-2383  
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

\* **Yvette Morgan**  
(718) 990-2532  
fax (718) 990-2383  
morgany@stjohns.edu

### ► SUNY Cobleskill

**Paul Turner**  
(518) 234-2114  
fax (518) 234-2410  
liberty@midtel.net

\* **Linda Carpenter**  
(518) 234-2114  
fax (518) 234-2410  
nygearup@midtel.net

### ► Syracuse University

**Horace Smith**  
(315) 443-5296  
fax (315) 443-5177  
hsmith@syr.edu

\* **Lena Kochian**  
(315) 443-1166  
fax (315) 443-3976  
lkochian@syr.edu

**Tonya Smith**  
(315) 247-7090  
fax (315) 443-3976  
tmsmith@syr.edu

**Kimberly Boston**  
(315) 443-1166  
fax (315) 443-3976  
kyboston@syr.edu

### ► Westchester Community College

**Seymour Lesh**  
(914) 785-6713  
fax (914) 785-6515  
seymour.lesh@sunywcc.edu

\* **Anita Cook**  
(914) 785-6723  
fax (914) 785-6674  
anita.cook@sunywcc.edu

**Celia Iturralde**  
(914) 934-7979  
fax (914) 785-6674  
celia.iturralde@sunywcc.edu

**Mark Andujar**  
(914) 737-0201  
fax (914) 737-2550  
mandujar@peekskillcsd.com

**Byron Womack**  
(914) 934-7950  
fax (914) 934-2998  
bwomack@pcschools.lhric.org

### ► Yonkers Public Schools

**Bernard Pierorazio**  
(914) 376-8667  
fax (914) 793-8584  
bpierorazio@yonkerspublicschools.org

\* **Fern Eisgrub**  
(914) 376-8213  
fax (914) 423-0518  
feisgrub@yonkerspublicschools.org

### ► CUNY

**Donna Linderman**  
(646) 344-7352  
fax (646) 344-7329  
donna.linderman@mail.cuny.edu

### ► SUNY

(718) 722-7520  
fax (718) 722-7891

**Anthony M. Belcher**  
belchean@sysadm.suny.edu

**Tracy Swann**  
swanntr@sysadm.suny.edu

**Kwasi Fenteng**  
fentenkw@sysadm.suny.edu

**Victoria Nuñez**  
nunezvi@sysadm.suny.edu

**Bill Harper**  
(315) 464-4404  
harperwi@sysadm.suny.edu

### ► College Board

**Brian Petraitis**  
(518) 472-1515 x12  
fax (518) 472-1516  
bpetraitis@collegeboard.org

**Sabrina Cerezo**  
(518) 472-1515 x32  
fax (518) 472-1516  
scerezo@collegeboard.org

**Kate Cappello**  
(518) 472-1515 x11  
fax (518) 472-1516  
kcappello@collegeboard.org

### ► NYS Education Department (SED)

**Arlene Way**  
(518) 474-6887  
fax (518) 474-0060  
away@mail.nysed.gov

## NYGEAR UP Sectors and Partners

### ► Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu)

**Susan Nesbitt Perez**  
(518) 436-4781 x30  
fax (518) 436-0417  
susan@cicu.org

**Mary W. Shamblen**  
(518) 436-4781 x23  
fax (518) 436-0417  
mary@cicu.org

### ► Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC)

**Ellen Hollander**  
(518) 437-1867  
fax (518) 437-1048  
lnhol@aol.com

**Joseph Bosco**  
(518) 456-8030  
fax (518) 437-1048  
jbosco@nycap.rr.com

## NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC)

### ► NYGEAR UP Office

(518) 474-9231  
fax (518) 474-2839

**Joseph Tine**  
jtine@hesc.com

**Delilah Reyes**  
dreyes@hesc.com

**Michael Williams**  
mwilliams@hesc.com

**Steve Tommasone**  
stommasone@hesc.com

**Sandra Lopez**  
slopez@hesc.com

**Debra Dunn**  
ddunn@hesc.com

The New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) is the state agency that has been designated by Gov. George E. Pataki to administer the NYGEAR UP program. HESC helps people pay for college by providing a comprehensive range of financial aid services, including the Tuition Assistance Program, guaranteeing student loans, offering guidance to students, lenders and colleges, and administering the nationally-recognized New York's College Savings Program.



New York State is a leader in the national financial aid community, providing more grant money to college students than any other state in the nation.

This publication is part of a federal grant project which provides the majority of the project's total budget. The remaining funds come from the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' Outreach Program.

© 2003 by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, 17 Elk Street, P.O. Box 7289, Albany, NY 12224-0289