

In Gear

A forum for administrators, counselors, teachers, and partners of New York's GEAR UP
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Dreams realized.

The majority of New York's GEAR UP students have completed their senior year, and are about to begin their postsecondary journeys. Some students are attending 4-year colleges and universities. Some are attending 2-year colleges. Some are joining the military, and some will be entering the workforce. Each and every one of these students is a success story.

All our GEAR UP sites have inspiring stories to tell. Two GEAR UP sites in particular stand out: SUNY Cobleskill and Yonkers Public Schools. SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP achieved a 100% graduation rate with 96% of their cohort attending college in the Fall! Yonkers Public Schools also reached an impressive graduation rate of 98%, with 71% of their cohort attending college in the Fall. According to data gathered from an informal survey in June 2005,

overall New York's GEAR UP programs boasted an 88% graduation rate.

The rate for the state as a whole in 2003 was 67%.

In this final edition of *In Gear*, we consulted a very important source for information on the college process: GEAR UP students themselves. Our feature story, "College-bound GEAR UP students share ideas and experiences," highlights five students who epitomize the success of GEAR UP. Not only will they be attending college this Fall, they also have stepped up to pass on what they've learned about being successful in high school and achieving their college dream.

— Susan Nesbitt Perez
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU)



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. GEAR UP programs provide services to a cohort of students at high-poverty middle schools beginning no later than the 7th grade and follow these students through high school. Services include academic preparation, tutoring and mentoring, admissions and financial aid awareness activities for students and parents, college visits, and professional development for staff. The goal of this mix of direct and indirect programming and services is to build systemic change.

GEAR UP grants are awarded to partnerships consisting of at least one college or university, at least one low-income middle school, high 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 nearly 6,000 students in the 12th-grade in academic year 2004-2005. There are an additional 12 "Federal GEAR UP" partnerships in the state serving 14,500 students in grades 7-12. Six "Sector" partners provide additional assistance to all the GEAR UP sites: 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), College Board, and the State Education Department (SED).

In Gear is published by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, a partner in NYGEAR UP, New York State's GEAR UP program. The editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy; errors or omissions are unintentional.

Inside: Resources, information, and inspiration.

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College-bound GEAR UP students share ideas and experiences.

Who better to offer advice on attaining the college dream than the GEAR UP students themselves? The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) offered graduating GEAR UP students an opportunity to share their experiences.

Kelvin Camilo and America Jaquez

Newtown HS, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP



America Jaquez



Kelvin Camilo

CICU's Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services, Kiersten Hall (KH), spoke with two college-bound GEAR UP students about their experiences in high school. Kelvin Camilo (KC) and America Jaquez (AJ) both participated in the CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP program. These two students have certainly achieved their goals. America is attending St. John's University in the Fall, pursuing her interests in criminology and American history. Kelvin will attend CUNY Queens College and is interested in biology. He hopes to become a doctor.

KH: What information would you pass on to current high school students preparing for college?

AJ and KC: Get involved!

AJ: Being involved in extracurricular activities introduces you to new experiences that will help you in the future. The college experience is not just about studying. Extracurricular activities will help you to develop leadership skills.

KC: Extracurricular activities helped me meet new people and make important connections. Life isn't just work. There are so many people to make you stronger and get you ready for the real world.

KH: What classes did you find most beneficial in preparing for college?

KC: Math.

AJ: Math, writing, time management, and college readiness classes. The GEAR UP program was exceptionally helpful in providing information I couldn't get in class, such as explaining the admissions and financial aid processes.

KC: GEAR UP gave us all kinds of information about financial aid. We went to financial aid workshops and learned about scholarships.

AJ: We were privileged. We got so many services for free.

Both students listed school counselors and college advisors, college students, their peers, and the Internet as important resources for college information. Kelvin added that it would be a good idea to speak with professionals in careers that are of interest to you.

KH: What behaviors should high school students avoid?

AJ: One of my greatest problems was not actively participating in school. I overcame this with the encouragement of counselors and friends who urged me to get involved with more activities.

KC: Slacking off is a dangerous tendency. You have to start working harder in high school, because college will be even harder.

KH: How did you choose your perfect college?

KC: I chose which college to attend by keeping in mind what I wanted to study, as well as the college's location and environment.

AJ: Students should follow their dreams. Don't go somewhere you feel uncomfortable just to make your parents happy. Do it on your own — it's your future.

KC: Follow your heart. You have to be happy with your decision.

Lewelin Polanco

Newtown HS, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP

Entering high school was a very nerve racking experience for me. I didn't know what to expect, who I might meet and if I was ever going to make it. As the four years passed, I noticed myself growing into the successful young lady I hoped to be. But going through that transition was not a journey I took alone. I had my friends, family, teachers and the GEAR UP program. How I incorporated them in the choices I made was completely up to me. See, that's the trick about high school; it is all about choice. As soon as you enter those "intimidating" doors, the cloud of responsibility starts to form over your head. Make a wrong move, and consequences will rain.

In high school, you meet the most influential people you'll come

across. There will be many times when you feel like grouping up with a few friends and cutting school. But this only leads to failing classes and disappointed parents. Then you find yourself, senior year, taking night and Saturday school, trying to make up for those credits you lost. Everything you do is accounted for and will come back to you as a reward, or as a penalty – a little thing called karma.

“One thing I will surely advise others is to always reach for the highest star because when you’re ambitious, the sky is the limit.”

I can honestly say that my high school years would have been much harder without the GEAR UP program. They’ve always taught me never to settle for second when in my heart I know I can be the best. Mentoring sessions with the counselors were a great help when I needed someone to talk to. The trips to different colleges and the internships during the Summer provided me with an incredible amount of experiences. Now I’m ready to go to college and take on the obstacles that life will present me with. GEAR UP provided me with my sword, and now I’m ready to fight. The ladder of success gets higher by the day and high school teaches you how to climb it.

I chose to see high school as the “Pre-K” to life. You learn how to be responsible, how to choose your friends, and most importantly, how to plan your future. One thing I will surely advise others is to always reach for the highest star because when you’re ambitious, the sky is the limit.

Rafael Jaquez

Flushing HS, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP

GEAR UP to me is my savior, my guide – a program I now see was the best thing I encountered while going through junior high and high school. I’ve done so many things with GEAR UP that I feel like I’m the program’s adopted son. I owe a lot of credit to the program because without it I wouldn’t be academically or socially the way I am today – which is just flat out confident. My views on school, college and life itself have changed because of GEAR UP.

I’ve gotten to see things most college-bound students don’t get to see. Mentoring really helped me out because when I first entered Flushing High School I had been cutting a lot. Having a teacher or mentor guiding me, showing me the outcome of doing bad things and always keeping an eye on me, was like having a parent at school; someone to talk about programs and help me whenever I needed it most. It was something I appreciated a lot.

The “College Now” program was a big help, because during my junior high school years I had problems with both English and social studies. Now social studies is one of my favorite subjects. I’ve been in three college courses. Every year I get better and better with my academic performance in school. I feel GEAR UP has a lot to do with that.

The “College Coach” program also helped me because I hadn’t put much thought into college. The teachers explaining the different types of colleges, from CUNY, SUNY to private colleges, gave me a bigger view of the options I could choose. With a lot of talking I got to see the needs of college and it helped me with the process. It was only a matter of time before I felt confident about college also.

The trips we took to the different campuses gave me a look at college

life, something I hadn’t even thought about. Going to Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Baruch College and St. John’s University all gave me a taste of what college campuses and facilities looked like. I hadn’t been to any colleges before that, unless you count my junior high school graduation at CUNY York College, in which we only got to see the auditorium.

I was one of the participants in the St. John’s University Latino College for a Day program. I experienced how a college professor teaches his class. I could see the difference between high school and college. I got to see the dorms, a chance to see how life would be away from home.

Because of these experiences I could see myself leaving my house to go live on a college campus.

“My options because of these experiences have increased in a way that I could now see myself leaving my house to go live on a college campus.”

Socially I owe GEAR UP a lot because I was very immature. I was very quiet and I didn’t like to participate or talk to anybody I didn’t know. The group meetings with the GEAR UP site counselor, Ms. Himmelman, and the social worker at the time, Ms. Rajbhandary, have made me more open-minded. Now I’m not scared to participate, I used to be a follower and now I’m more of a leader. Ms. Himmelman and Ms. Rajbhandary deserve a lot of credit along with a lot of other teachers who were a part of these activities. But in my heart they get the most credit because they were my



CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP and College Now students learn about programs in careers in health and human services offered at LaGuardia Community College.

“mothers” since seventh grade. If I had a problem, I never was scared to tell them and they’ve kept their cool with me from day one.

With GEAR UP’s help I feel like I will succeed and be ready for college. I give thanks to everyone involved with the program. I’ve been in the program for six years and now I feel I’m ready to establish myself with success. I am the adopted son of the program. I’m going to remember the training, the help, the guidance and the programs which all made me who I am today.

Edward Yu

Newtown HS, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP

I guess this is it. The conclusion of high school, four years at Newtown High, done. Four great years, all memorable, all dear to me, every second, minute, every hour, day, every week, month — all four years have been spent with joy, happiness, laughter, and even some moments for tears and prayers — all extraordinary.

No. Extraordinary comes nowhere close to everything I felt and experienced. This word (my invention) may express it better:

“GEAR UP will forever remain my family, exactly what kept me on my feet because of the support they gave.”

extraordinaryphenomenalsuperterrific-bethereforyoualwaysbbyoursidethrough-sadthroughgoodlifechanginganother-family. If one day it appears in a dictionary, people may be astounded by the length of it, but most of all by its definition.

I really don’t know where to start. GEAR UP has walked me through my first day in high school to where I stand today.

When I first entered Newtown High School as a freshman, I had never participated in extracurricular activities, I had six friends, an abundance of fears, was socially challenged, had no support, lacking goals, and the list goes on. Confidence? Nope. Inspiration? Nope. A leader? More a follower. I was lost, so lost I even lost my identity. I blended into any background very well. Teachers overlooked me. Students passed by me. To me, I saw the world as a playground for building dreams, a

beautiful place for our minds to wander off and search corners for purposes. Find success, find happiness, find best friends, find love, and find more! A lifetime journey and I cheated myself for fourteen years. To the world, I was oblivious.

Hiding under the desk, behind classroom closets, trying to fit into any classroom background just shows my character. Indeed, I was shy, timid, soft spoken and lacked confidence. When did the great change occur?

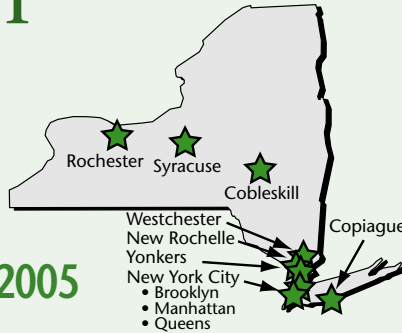
The power of friendship is perhaps one of the best gifts life can offer. One of my best friends encouraged me to join a GEAR UP sponsored program. With every effort he pushed me to go.

GEAR UP took my hand and slowly, gradually, walked me into a place where my potential could be manifested. They made me feel like I was placed on a pedestal for the world to see. No matter what, they helped me grow by actively engaging me in programs that teach skills to become successful. They helped show us we are leaders. I completely changed.

This change, the changes within every student GEAR UP touched, is the definition people will be most astounded by. GEAR UP will forever remain my family, exactly what kept me on my feet because of the support they gave. The GEAR UP counselors made it happen, a second father, a second brother, a second relative dear to me. GEAR UP is the stepping stone that has helped me and other students to reach for that vast blue sky. No more boundaries. Now, a place to reach beyond.

10 NYGEAR UP Sites.

Programs funded through New York State's six-year federal GEAR UP grant, 1999-2005



Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Supplied college-bound students with college readiness kits.
- Held 2 FAFSA Nights for GEAR UP parents and students.
- Coordinated a post-holiday party and a "Senior Send-Off Dinner" for mentors and mentees.
- Held "College Finances 101" workshop for parents and students.
- Supplied our top 15 students with Palm Pilots.
- Supplied the entire cohort with Merriam-Webster's electronic dictionaries/thesauruses.

Copiague Public Schools

Contacts

Laurence W. Aronstein, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Marisa Alleyn, NYGEAR UP Co-Director
Sarah Boles, NYGEAR UP Co-Director

Who in Spring 2005

292 12th-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. Also support teachers and other school staff working with GEAR UP students.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 292

235 graduating in Spring 2005

190 attending college in Fall 2005

1 entering the military

87 attending a 4-year institution

55 attending a 2-year institution

57 attending a private college or university

85 attending a public college or university

147 accepted to New York State colleges or universities

23 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

76 accepted to private colleges or universities

41 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities

13 accepted to proprietary colleges

11 accepted to CUNY colleges

"I appreciate the role and influence GEAR UP has had on our students. We have seen the program blossom over the years — the offerings, services and participation of the students. Awesome to see and be a part of. Thanks!"

– Staff at Vanguard HS, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

"GEAR UP is a hand that holds mine and constantly pulls me upwards."

– A student at Vanguard HS, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP



CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP students attend a presentation at a Community College Sampler.



CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP students attend a book talk with Francis Bok, author of Escape from Slavery.

CUNY Consortium – 7 CUNY Colleges and the Office of Academic Affairs

Contacts

Donna Linderman, Project Director
Ciji Portis, Project Coordinator, Advising and
Counseling
Nakeba Stewart, College Assistant

Program Coordinators:

Nadira Buckery
Rosa Cruz-Cordero
Moe Mpela
Al Nilsen
Nura Poursharif
Elizabeth Rose
Katie Straub
Mayra Valdes
Ann Walsh

Who in Spring 2005

2,200 12th-graders

Where

20 New York City public schools

Bronx – CUNY Lehman College

Christopher Columbus HS

DeWitt Clinton HS

Evander Childs HS

Harry S. Truman HS

Brooklyn – CUNY Brooklyn College

Bushwick HS

*Brooklyn – CUNY 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
and Finance)

HS for Fashion Industries

Norman Thomas HS

Manhattan – CUNY Hunter College

Manhattan Center for Science & Math

Vanguard HS

Washington Irving HS

Queens – CUNY Queens College

Queens Gateway to Health Sciences
Secondary School

Staten Island – CUNY College of Staten Island

Curtis HS

New Dorp HS

Partners

CUNY Collaborative Programs

CUNY Office of Admission Services

Focus

Provide academic enrichment and social
support for students and their transition into
college, project-based learning activities, arts
education, professional development, and
information workshops on college awareness
and financial aid.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans (approximate)

Cohort total: 2,200

1,760 graduating in Spring 2005

200 graduating in August 2005

1,700 attending college in Fall 2005

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- The CUNY GEAR UP Awards ceremony was held at the CUNY Graduate Center on June 29, 2005. Students competed for various award levels by completing an application, and submitting a transcript, letter of college acceptance, recommendations and essays. 19 merit award winners received a Dell Laptop and \$350 Barnes & Noble gift cards; 71 special achievement award winners received \$200 Barnes & Noble gift cards; and 172 book award winners received \$50 Barnes & Noble gift cards. Merit and special achievement award winners and their families were invited to the ceremony.
- On July 9-10, 2005, CUNY GEAR UP hosted a College Survival 101 Weekend for students and their families. Teaching artists from the Creative Arts Team performed vignettes of college life situations and engaged students and parents in discussions on making successful transition into school. Families attended a Broadway performance of the musical, *Rent*, and enjoyed a picnic at Riverbank State Park in Harlem, NY.
- Produced and distributed an interactive, Web-based financial aid tutorial, "College Sense: How to Pay for College." The tutorial introduces six different students, each with varied financial aid challenges and demonstrates how they overcame them. A financial aid expert also explores critical college issues.
- College Advisement Mentors continued meeting individually with GEAR UP students and holding small group sessions to complete college applications and discuss college issues.
- Co-sponsored financial aid nights with high schools and recruited speakers for some of the Spring 2005 evening events.
- CUNY Queens College GEAR UP students created senior video diaries to capture precious high school moments before heading off to college.
- CUNY Hunter College GEAR UP collaborated with community health agencies at the annual health fair at Vanguard High School.

"We always thought we'd go to college, but GEAR UP made me think about how to make that happen."

– A student at Queens Gateway HS, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

- Co-sponsored college fairs at Fashion Industries High School, School of International Studies, and School of Global Studies.
- The Central Office GEAR UP program conducted home visits to talk with parents and families of struggling students at George Washington Educational Campus about alternatives.
- CUNY Lehman College GEAR UP continued their successful Saturday Academy program focusing on academic preparedness and arts education.

Long Island University

Contacts

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

Who in Spring 2005

303 12th-graders

Where

Benjamin Banneker Academy
Science Skills Center

Partners

Brooklyn Law School
Community Development Corporation
Institute for Student Achievement

Focus

Provide outreach, awareness, academic support, and leadership skills for students and parents and help our cohort transition into college.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 303

200 graduating in Spring 2005
50 graduating in August 2005
200 attending college in Fall 2005
140 attending a 4-year institution
60 attending a 2-year institution
40 attending a private college or university
150 attending a public college or university
75 accepted to private colleges or universities
100 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
200 accepted to CUNY colleges
10 accepted to proprietary colleges
150 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- 25 12th-graders are taking credit bearing courses at Long Island University.

“Even if they are busy, the GEAR UP staff listens to you. They are good listeners.”

– A student at Curtis High School, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

New Rochelle College for Me Partnership

Contacts

Spencer H. Wiles, Assistant Superintendent,
Pupil Personnel and Curricular Services
Diane Massimo, Assistant Superintendent,
Secondary Education

Who in Spring 2005

261 12th-graders

Where

New Rochelle HS

Partners

Cornell University
Iona College
New Rochelle School District

Focus

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

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 261

120 attending a 4-year institution
43 attending a 2-year institution
4 entering the military

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- As a result of the pre-AP Summer enrichment courses in math and social studies, the number of GEAR UP students taking AP exams increased 59% this year.
- 10 GEAR UP students provided tutoring in Math A for underrepresented middle school students enrolled in an accelerated math class.
- GEAR UP students acted as peer tutors in the middle school.
- 30 GEAR UP seniors visited the middle school to participate in a 7th grade career day where they talked with 7th grade students about college and the importance of strong academic achievement.



New Rochelle College for Me Partnership GEAR UP students' final trip as a group to "Medieval Times."

Rochester Institute of Technology

Contacts

Dianne Spang, Director, Office of K-12 Partnerships Program

Michelle Allevato, Coordinator, NYGEAR UP Program, Edison Technical and Occupational Center

Vanessa Davis, Coordinator, NYGEAR UP, Wilson Magnet HS and East HS

Who in Spring 2005

149 11th- and 12th-graders

Where

East HS (43 students)

Edison Tech HS (51 students)

Wilson Magnet HS (55 students)

Partners

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection
Rochester City School District

Focus

Our focus for the year has been to ensure that each student has met all the necessary requirements for graduation and finalize the admission and acceptance process for those who have chosen to go to college.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 149

109 graduating in Spring 2005

79 attending college in Fall 2005

1 entering the military

47 attending a 4-year institution

32 attending a 2-year institution

14 attending a private college or university

49 attending a public college or university

63 accepted to New York State colleges or universities

14 accepted to private colleges or universities

49 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities

2 accepted to proprietary colleges

16 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Financial aid and scholarship workshops were held to assist students in comparing award packages and finding the one that was economically best for them.
- College readiness workshops were offered to promote the transition of living away from home and taking on adult responsibilities.
- Students visited local area colleges in Rochester to view what it was like to be “away but yet so close” to home.
- This year, graduating seniors were invited to a celebratory dinner at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, where they received Certificates of Achievement along with a NYGEAR UP backpack. In addition, 20 students active in the program who were admitted to their respective colleges and returned paperwork on time received a Palm Pilot for their initiative.
- J.C. Wilson High School students received many awards, scholarships and gifts offered by Hillside Work Scholarship and the Urban League of Rochester. Wilson was also named as the 27th school in the nation to be recognized for academic excellence!
- An outstanding GEAR UP student, Kenneth Madison, a student at East High School, received special recognition. Kenny attended a special dinner in his honor, and was awarded a complete Dell computer package. Kenny graduated in the top ten percent of his class, and was the recipient of a 2005 Wegmans Scholarship, a Wilcox Scholarship, and an Iglesia Scholarship. He also was inducted into the National Honor Society, and was recognized as a Black Scholar.
- GEAR UP staff attended the NYGEAR UP Annual Conference and the College Board Middle States Conference to keep abreast of changes and new developments.

St. John's University

Contacts

Yvette Morgan, Co-Director

Andre McKenzie, Vice President of Academic Support Services, Co-Director

Who in Spring 2005

550 9th-, 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-graders

Where

Long Island City HS (250 students)

32 Other High Schools (300 students)

Partners

HANAC Community Center

Long Island City HS

St. John's University Educational Talent Search, McNair Scholars Program, and Student Government

Focus

The mission of the St. John's University GEAR UP Program is to serve as a vehicle that will enable academically and economically disadvantaged students to graduate middle and high school and pursue postsecondary education. Through a broad range of academic and social support services, we aim to provide our scholars with a solid academic background that will enable them to succeed and become lifelong learners.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 230

80 graduating in Spring 2005

61 attending college in Fall 2005

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Each GEAR UP participant received academic counseling twice during the year where we assisted students with the completion of admissions and financial aid forms.
- On February 12, 2005, in celebration of Black History Month, students and parents visited Morgan State University, a historically black college. They toured the campus and attended a college basketball game.
- 60 students and parents submitted the FAFSA electronically through a GEAR UP-sponsored “FAFSA Online” workshop on February 9 and 12, 2005.



St. John's University GEAR UP students prepare for their tour of Morgan State University, a historically black college in Baltimore, Maryland.

Debra and Patrick Meriano
– Parents of a Long Island City HS
student, St. John's University GEAR UP

Dear Ms. Morgan:

On behalf of our son, Matthew Meriano, we would like to acknowledge and thank you and your organization for all you have done over the years. Your personal follow-ups were always welcomed and appreciated.

Matthew became involved with GEAR UP in IS 126 and throughout high school at Long Island City HS. Although he did not take advantage of all the fine programs you offered, he enjoyed and benefited greatly, in our opinion, from your sponsored college visits and the SAT prep courses, among others.

We sincerely hope the program will remain adequately funded for the younger students in the community so that they too can have the same positive experiences our son enjoyed.

Thank you again for all the time and effort you put into this program and taking an interest in our son and all the other children and parents you have helped through the years.

Respectfully yours,
Debra & Patrick Meriano



Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP students pose with New York State Commissioner of Education Richard Mills.

SUNY Cobleskill

Contacts

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

Who in Spring 2005

170 12th-graders

Where

Charlotte Valley Central School, Davenport (26 students)
Jefferson Central School, Jefferson (17 students)
Laurens Central School, Laurens (28 students)
Morris Central School, Morris (28 students)
Owen D. Young Central School, Van Hornesville (16 students)
St. Johnsville Central School, St. Johnsville (30 students)
South Kortright Central School, South Kortright (25 students)

Partners

Hamilton-Fulton Montgomery BOCES
Herkimer BOCES
Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
Otsego-North Catskill BOCES

Focus

To achieve a 100% college application rate and 100% acceptance rate through tutoring, mentoring, interactive college field trips and parent financial aid workshops.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 170
170 graduating in Spring 2005
164 attending college in Fall 2005
5 entering the military
40 attending a 4-year institution

"GEAR UP has helped me throughout high school but most valuable have been the workshops dealing with choosing the right colleges, completing college applications and writing a resume, filling out financial aid forms, and finding careers that would be best for me. Thank you GEAR UP for helping to get me ready for college and the real world."

– Constanza C., Saunders HS, Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP

27 attending a 2-year institution
12 attending a private college or university
78 attending a public college or university
170 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
109 accepted to private colleges or universities
160 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
2 accepted to proprietary colleges
43 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- 100% of our students applied to college.
- 95% of our students were accepted to a college (as of June 1).

SUNY Westchester Community College

Contacts

Seymour Lesh, Director of Grants
Anita Cook, Assistant Professor, Director
Celia Iturralde, Assistant Director
Mark Andujar, NYGEAR UP
Coordinator/Class Advisor, Peekskill HS
Byron Womack, School Counselor, Port
Chester HS

Who in Spring 2005

350 12th-graders

Where

Peekskill HS (170 students)
Port Chester HS (180 students)

Partners

Carver Center
In Courage
Life Support, USA
Peekskill City School District
Peekskill Youth Bureau
Services, Education and Resources (SER) of
Westchester, Inc.
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 delivery of resources and intervention services tailored to meet each high school's unique needs.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 350
299 graduating in Spring 2005
98 accepted to New York State colleges or universities

112 accepted to private colleges or universities
44 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
5 accepted to CUNY colleges
11 accepted to proprietary colleges
80 accepted to out-of-state colleges or universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005-August 2005

- 85% of the seniors in our cohort applied to college and applied for some form of scholarship.
- Conducted a night school to enable potential seniors to earn the credits they needed to graduate with their cohort. The courses included U.S. History, Math A, English, and Global Studies.

Syracuse University

Contacts

Horace Smith, Associate VP
Lena Kochian, Director
Christine Greene, Program Coordinator
Tonya Smith, School Coordinator
Lauren Stover, Office Coordinator

Who in Spring 2005

441 12th-graders

Where

Fowler HS (160 students)
Henninger HS (281 students)

Partners

Brighton Family Center
Dunbar Association, Inc.
Fowler High School Parent-Teacher
Organization
Henninger High School Parent-Teacher
Organization

"I was so excited to go on the Boston college tour. There I was, a GEAR UP student from Yonkers, NY, walking on the campuses of Harvard University and Northeastern University! I had never dreamed that was possible in my life. If I had not gone on this trip, I don't think I would have ever thought about going to Northeastern and now I plan to apply there."

– Stephanie E., Roosevelt HS, Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP

Huntington Family Center
Le Moyne College
O'Brien & Gere Engineers
Onondaga Community College
Partners for Education & Business, Inc.
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
State University of New York Medical Center
Syracuse City School District
Vincent House

Focus

Within the 12th-grade core curriculum, deliver instructional objectives through technology-based learning and include after school tutorials, a mentor program, parent involvement, community partners' support, and staff development for teachers and counselors.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 441
441 graduating in Spring 2005
360 attending college in Fall 2005
18 entering the military
102 attending a 4-year institution
153 attending a 2-year institution
185 attending a public college or university
70 attending a private college or university

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Offered SAT prep for English and math at both Henninger and Fowler one day a week for two hours.
- The "SAT Strategies" workshop presented by College Board's Nadine Austin provided practical tips on how to achieve better results on the SAT.



35 CUNY BMCC GEAR UP students visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. site while on a five-day college tour to Atlanta in late April, 2005.

- A College Essay workshop organized by Deirdre Murray at both Henninger and Fowler high schools allowed counselors the opportunity to review students' college applications and admissions essays.
- College Board offered a workshop on AP courses to guidance staff and teachers.
- Monthly staff development meetings and presentations were held to discuss new developments in teaching, along with tours to businesses in Syracuse. The meetings educated teachers about current careers available to students.
- 25 students from Henninger and Fowler attended college tours to SUNY Cortland and Tompkins County Community College.
- After school tutorials were held Monday through Thursday at each high school. Extra help was available in math, science, English, and social studies.
- Held PTO meetings to provide information to parents and students about SATs, financial aid, and the college application process.
- Organized an open house to provide parents and students with information about the services available to seniors.
- Dr. Anne Shelly and Michael Cahill presented a workshop on how to select an appropriate college/university.
- 13 students took a 3-credit Occupational Study Skills, Integrated Learning and Options course at Le Moyne College in Spring 2005. Classes were held Saturdays from 9am-noon.

“Throughout my four years in high school, the GEAR UP program has helped me in so many ways. It has given me numerous study guides, maps, dictionaries, a thesaurus, even a graphing calculator, and provided me with weekly tutoring to help me pass my Regents exams! However, the best part was the trips to college campuses, where I got a chance to see first hand what college was really like.”

– Erica M., *Yonkers HS, Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP*



St. John's University GEAR UP students participate in a "FAFSA Online" Workshop.

Yonkers Public Schools

Contacts

Fern Eisgrub, Director, Magnet Programs,
Yonkers Public Schools

Who in Spring 2005

238 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-graders

Where

Gorton HS (58 students)
Lincoln HS (46 students)
Roosevelt HS (45 students)
Saunders HS (56 students)
Yonkers HS (13 students)

Partners

Iona College
Junior Achievement
Manhattanville College
Mercy College
SUNY Purchase

Focus

Engage students in academic projects; raise parent awareness and participation; and provide tutoring and enrichment programs with a focus on college preparation, the college admissions process, academic success, continuation of GEAR UP programming in all high schools after the end of the grant.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 177
154 graduating in Spring 2005
19 graduating in August 2005
125 attending college in Fall 2005
10 entering the military
60 attending a 4-year institution
38 attending a 2-year institution
33 attending a private college or university
93 attending a public college or university

“The SAT prep workshops helped me obtain higher scores, especially in the verbal section. The Saturday tutors and STEP Program at Manhattanville College helped me to better understand and organize my class notes.”

– Lenny E., *Saunders HS, Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP*

88 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
40 accepted to private colleges or universities
50 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
33 accepted to CUNY colleges
9 accepted to proprietary colleges
16 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- On February 15, 2005, held a Yonkers Summit featuring “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens” workshop.
- In March 2005, offered a training to discuss designing GEAR UP Web sites throughout the district.
- From November 2004 – May 2005 students participated in college visits to Iona College, SUNY Purchase, CUNY Lehman College and CUNY Bronx Community College, Monroe College, Harvard University and Northeastern University.
- Continued Saturday SAT prep classes at each site.

Self-expressions.

Written work and visual art by
GEAR UP students.

In Gear

2005

Purple Sky Morning

by Channel Smallwood
Copiague HS
Copiague Public Schools GEAR UP

Sandy shores out of reach.
Waves crashing, speaking.
At dawn,
The birds begin to chirp in harmony
For the start of a new day
And a new sun
To glisten across the translucent waters.

Palm trees sway in the delicate breeze,
Leaning, bowing to daybreak
With utmost respect.

Tranquility creeps over the sea,
As does the light.

The purple sky tells all, tells me
The story of a new start,
A new beginning
Not to be wasted.



Students experience the Niagara Falls Power Vista at the cIcu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 weekend at Niagara University.

Mentors Matter

by Leanne Bruno
New Rochelle HS
New Rochelle College for Me Partnership GEAR UP

I've never received a grade from her; never saw her name on my schedule, but Mrs. Fouchecourt is one of my most appreciated teachers. Her patience, dedication, compassion, and diligence earned her the title of my most beloved mentor and friend. It is people like her and their unwavering influence that have inspired me to be a teacher.

I don't know how I will be able to cope with not being able to visit her when I part from this school. It does break my heart that one of the most influential people in this building will no longer reside in it.

Fouchy, know that you've touched the lives of so many kids. Half of us got our determination and hope from you. You see something in everyone and I commend you for that. It's easy to give up. You taught us that it's just not an option.

Thank you always.

"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."

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University GEAR UP

College Thoughts.

*by a student at Roosevelt HS,
Adelphi University GEAR UP*

“I think entering college after high school is very important because it will help you later on with your career. You’ll be able to have a good income and a nice house.

College broadens your horizons after high school. In college you’ll have a chance to meet new people and join clubs. There are many activities on campus and even some off-campus. There are also many sports teams. Not every school has every sport. Some schools are really good in one sport, like basketball, and other schools are good in another, like soccer. All of these things I learned from GEAR UP. I am only a high school sophomore and I already know a lot of things about college. College is one place I want to go after I graduate from high school.”

“Life without GEAR UP is like the sea without fish, like the sky without the sun or clouds.”

– A student at Roosevelt HS, Adelphi University GEAR UP

College Breaks Boundaries.

*by a student at Hempstead HS,
Adelphi University GEAR UP*

“Life can take you many places. It all depends on the choices you make. I feel that life can be good, but it all depends on how you live it. For instance if you decide to go to college and get your education, you will most likely live a good life. Unlike someone who does not get an education, they will have to work harder than a person with an education.

There are many opportunities for young people today. Some decide to waste their opportunities and that’s how they end up in bad situations as adults. A lot of young people waste time and don’t realize it until it’s too late. I think the reason why they waste their opportunities is because they don’t think about their future and just worry about the things in the present.

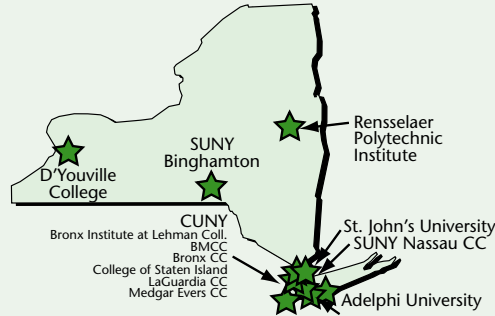
GEAR UP has a lot of benefits like helping students get into college, which is essential to making it in today’s world. My philosophy is that education can break many boundaries.”



CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP students meet with author Francis Bok.

12 Federal GEAR UP Sites.

Programs funded through federal GEAR UP grants



Adelphi University

Contacts

Fred Carr, Director
Wanda Moore, Assistant Director
Larissa Ebron, Administrative Assistant

Who in Spring 2005

488 12th-graders

Where

Hempstead HS (350 students)
Roosevelt HS (138 students)

Partners

Adelphi University
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – Eta Theta Lambda Chapter
American Red Cross, Nassau County Chapter
Bethpage Federal Credit Union
Brooklyn/Queens/Long Island – Area Health Education Center (BQLI-AHEC)
Catholic Charities
Circulo de la Hispanidad
Citibank/Rockville Centre Branch

Coalition on Child Abuse and 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
NYS Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper
NYS Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.
Operation Get Ahead
Planned Parenthood of Nassau County
Roosevelt Board of Education
Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby
Urban League of Long Island

Focus

During the sixth and final year of the grant, emphasis was placed on preparation for college, which included college tours, college fairs, financial aid workshops, college essay writing, and mentoring and tutoring. In addition, college mentors assisted mentees in doing Web-based college searches as well as using hard copy material for college searches.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 290
285 graduating in Spring 2005
129 attending college in Fall 2005
15 entering the military
12 attending a private college or university
125 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
57 accepted to private colleges or universities
113 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
8 accepted to CUNY colleges
14 accepted to proprietary colleges
75 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

“GEAR UP helps us prepare for life and college. It is a good opportunity to help us prepare for college because the mentors tell us about things we need to do or things we should look forward to. They also help us with problems that we have in school now. It’s just a great way to prepare us for things that are going to happen in the future.”

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University
GEAR UP

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Co-sponsored a school-based financial aid workshop for parents and students.
- Provided weekly workshops for mentors on contemporary issues dealing with adolescents.
- Held workshops on study skills and test-taking skills.
- Sponsored a College and Career Day at Adelphi University.
- Sponsored students to attend an 8-day college tour to historically black universities and colleges.
- Students will attend a 4-day, 3-night summer Leadership Development Institute (LDI) program at St. John’s University for leadership and college preparatory workshops and a community service project.

“GEAR UP is helping me get information about college and college costs. It is helping me think about how I can go to college.”

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University
GEAR UP



Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College

Contacts

Dr. Herminio Martinez, Executive Director
Naomi Barber, Associate Director, Bronx Institute

Kevin Anthony, Co-Director, GEAR UP
Elsie Padilla-Ayala, Co-Director, GEAR UP Cohort Coordinators:

Shaunta Clark, Region #2
Cassandra Dixon-Bowen, Region #9
Francis Echevarria, Region #2
Hector Mirabal, Region #2
Karla Morales, Region #2
Leslie Lamberston, Region #1
Josue Veliz, Region #1

Who in Spring 2005

1,600 10th-graders
100 9th-graders

Where

Adlai Stevenson HS (110 students)
Alfred E. Smith HS (45 students)
DeWitt Clinton HS (110 students)
Grace H. Dodge HS (50 students)
Harry S. Truman HS (65 students)
Herbert Lehman HS (105 students)
John F. Kennedy HS (211 students)
Walton HS (90 students)

Partners

ASPIRA of New York
BI ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education)
Boy Scouts of America
College Board
Community School Districts 7,8,9,10,11, 12
Cornell Cooperative Extension
CUNY Bronx Community College
CUNY Lehman College
CUNY Hostos Community College
Fordham University
Gloria Wise Boys & Girls Club
Junior Achievement
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
Learn, Earn & Advance Program (LEAP)
Morris Heights Health Center
Pathways for Youths
Sports Foundation
Young Athletics, Inc.

Focus

The Bronx Institute GEAR UP program will help improve student proficiency in math, science, literacy, and technology, connecting students, parents, and educators with services and activities that promote educational achievement and advancement and enable students to meet high standards and make informed decisions about future schooling and careers. Bronx Institute GEAR UP offers tutoring, mentoring, extended-day and after school activities, college and career exploration, summer enrichment, integration of technology in classrooms, professional development, and more.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort has not yet reached 12th grade.

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- In collaboration with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Thomson Peterson's and other partners, conducted a series of "College Forum" nights for students and families. The topics for the forums included college admissions, financial aid, college life, career awareness, and student academic assessment.
- Bronx Institute GEAR UP and partners will create a "How To" manual/guide on the college application process for students and families. The manual/guide will cover everything from searching and selecting a college to tips on writing the college essay. Information on financial aid and scholarships will be included.



Students at cIcu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 at Niagara University wait to board the Maid of the Mist boat tour of Niagara Falls.

"Life is great. I am going to a great college and play for a good basketball team. All the opportunities are out there, but I just need to find them. The benefits of GEAR UP are that you can learn from others and get most of your questions about life answered."

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University
GEAR UP

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

Contacts

Laurel Coleman, Director of Partnerships
Shira Silverman, GEAR UP Project Director

Who in Spring 2005

150 11th-graders

Where

Louis D. Brandeis HS (150 students)

Partners

Beczak Environmental Center
Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
Floating the Apple
Hudson River Park Trust
J.E.M. (Junior Entrepreneurial Mentorships Merchant's House Museum)
Phi Beta Kappa International Honor Society
The River Project
The Salvation Army
Travel and Tourism/BMCC (Mentor Class)
The Valley, New York

Focus

Empower and provide our students with skills, with a special emphasis on writing skills, that will allow them to enroll in the college of their choice with minimal need for remediation in math and language arts.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort has not yet reached 12th grade.

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- GEAR UP sponsored a workshop for 15 students on library resources in January and February 2005. The workshop consisted of four sessions. Students went on guided tours of Teen Central (The New York Public Library), Bobst Library (New York University), the New York Historical Society, and the A. Philip Randolph Library at CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC).
- 35 students went on a five-day April tour of colleges. Students toured Duke University, Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Emory University. The tour also included trips to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site, the Baltimore Aquarium, and the Great Blacks in Wax Museum.
- Tuesday and Thursday writing workshops continued throughout the Spring semester, with a focus on critical thinking and writing skills. Nearly all of the 30 students who began in September 2004 continued through the end of May, 2005.

- BMCC again offered the "Urban Rowing & Environmental Science Experience" in collaboration with Floating the Apple, a non-profit organization devoted to restoring public access to New York waterways. The program ran from July 11 to August 18. 30 students participated, using the Hudson River as a learning platform during a six-week science, literature, and rowing curriculum. Students spent two days at Pier 40 (Houston Street) learning how to row Whitehall gigs, and two days a week at BMCC, with the morning devoted to language arts. Four students from last year's program returned as youth leaders and apprentice coxswains.

"GEAR UP teaches about life, about the different colleges and about the opportunities and benefits of college. It teaches about what education after high school can do for you and how you can benefit from it."

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University
GEAR UP.

CUNY College of Staten Island

Contacts

Dr. Leonard Ciaccio, Co-Director
Dr. James Sanders, Co-Director
Al Nilsen, Director

Who in Spring 2005

350 each of 7th- to 11th-graders
810 12th-graders

Where

Curtis HS (755 students)
Dreyfus Intermediate School, I.S. 49 (1,050 students)
New Dorp HS (755 students)

Partners

The Beacon Program at I.S. 49
City University of New York – College Now Program

Focus

Improve students' expectations and academic achievement so that a maximum number enter college. The program makes a major commitment to the professional development of teachers. Through the Discovery Institute, college faculty work side-by-side with teachers to formulate and test

new teaching materials that employ discovery-based interdisciplinary activities to enable students to investigate key concepts in each subject. To maximize the impact of improved instruction, we provide extensive in-class or after school tutoring with Teaching Scholars (exemplary College of Staten Island students) as well as counseling, cultural enrichment, college awareness, and opportunities for parent involvement.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 810
674 graduating in Spring 2005
65 graduating in August 2005
730 attending college in Fall 2005
8 entering the military
608 attending a 4-year institution
81 attending a 2-year institution
40 attending a private college or university
689 attending a public college or university
81 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
162 accepted to private colleges or universities
81 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
648 accepted to CUNY colleges
40 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Eight students participated in the clcu/NYSACAC Camp College weekend college experience program.
- 30 students from New Dorp HS visited CUNY Baruch College and CUNY John Jay College on April 15, 2005.
- 40 students from Curtis HS visited Barnard College and Columbia University on April 14, 2005, and will visit SUNY Old Westbury.
- 30 students participated in an Academic Fair.

"I enjoy talking to my mentors and playing educational board games and chess. My favorite part of GEAR UP was the summer program, because I enjoyed the biology class and the activities that we did at Adelphi University."

– A student at Hempstead HS, Adelphi University
GEAR UP



A CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP student participates in a book signing with Francis Bok, author of *Escape from Slavery*.

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Contacts

Dr. Arlene Kahn, Principal Investigator
 Dr. Hazel Carter, Director
 David Johnson, Assistant Director
 Patricia Burke, Director of Student Activities
 Flushing HS:

Carole Himmelman, Site Counselor
 Vanessa Heller, Social Worker

John Bowne HS:

Bhavna Engineer, Site Counselor
 Khiet Long, Social Worker

Newtown HS:

Joe Meglio, Site Counselor
 Jill Fazio, Social Worker

Who in Spring 2005

1,385 12th-graders
 744 students in other grades who entered
 high school in 2001

Where

Flushing HS (593 students)
 John Bowne HS (785 students)
 Newtown HS (751 students)

Partners

Bank Street College of Education
 CUNY LaGuardia Community College
 Daniel Carter Beard JHS 189
 Joseph Pulitzer I.S. 145
 Leonardo da Vinci I.S. 61
 Queens Borough Public Library
 Queens Child Guidance Center
 Queens Urban Partnership
 Regional Operational Centers 3 and 4
 Teaching Matters, Inc.

Focus

Empowering more than 2,129 students from Flushing HS, John Bowne HS, and Newtown HS with the academic skills, motivation and college preparation necessary for persistence and success in postsecondary 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 on to college.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 1,385
 1,300 graduating in Spring 2005
 954 attending college in Fall 2005
 26 entering the military
 180 attending a 4-year institution
 717 attending a 2-year institution
 94 attending a private college or university
 783 attending a public college or university
 1,260 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
 136 accepted to private colleges or universities
 118 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
 1,025 accepted to CUNY colleges
 32 accepted to proprietary colleges
 51 accepted to out-of-state colleges

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- GEAR UP hosted three workshops on Saturdays in January and March at CUNY LaGuardia Community College for 138 students and parents to assist them in filling out the FAFSA online.
- In April, GEAR UP and College Now brought students to CUNY LaGuardia Community College during our Community College Sampler to learn about the various programs available for careers in health and human services.
- In partnership with Queens Borough Public Library, students had the opportunity to meet with authors Gish Jen, Michael Patrick McDonald and Francis Bok. Authors discussed their books and distributed autographed copies of their books to students.
- GEAR UP is offering more than \$107,250 in GEAR UP Merit Stipends for students with high participation and sustained or improved academic achievement in this program. 140 students will receive stipends to use for college expenses.
- More than 250 people including Merit Stipend recipients, their parents and other GEAR UP students were invited to an awards ceremony held after graduation.
- 448 students participated in many workshops on financial aid for students and parents at our high schools.
- Current college students worked with seniors at all three high schools through our College Mentor Program, helping them with college applications and essay writing, financial aid and other areas of advisement, as well as working with failing students to get them on-track.
- Sent six students to the Syracuse University Summer College program.
- On-site counselors met with three quarters of our cohort in small group "Transitional Meetings" to prepare students for college.
- Senior GEAR UP students gave presentations to freshmen offering advice and tips on how to be successful in high school.
- Seniors participated in the "Making it Count" program. They received information on college and careers.
- We continued our collaboration with CUNY LaGuardia Community College's College Connection, College Now, Liberty Partnership and Working on Real Knowledge programs. 626 students participated in these offerings. Those who participated in College Connection and College Now earned college credits.

CUNY LaGuardia Community College
 continued on page 18

CUNY LaGuardia Community College
continued from page 17

- Presenters from North Fork Bank and faculty from CUNY LaGuardia Community College offered students in-class workshops called Mini Seminars on topics including preparing for the CUNY entrance exam, preparing for the English Regents, enhancing reading comprehension, budgeting and finance, and more.
- Students from Newtown and John Bowne high schools participated in a Saturday Academy to help them prepare for the Regents exams in English and U.S. History and Government.
- GEAR UP students and staff participated in the "Relay for Life" for cancer awareness, and the AIDS Walk.

"As an immigrant to the United States, the environment was very difficult for me. GEAR UP taught me to stand up and face the challenges. This program helped me academically and socially."

– *Chun Yan Li, John Bowne HS student, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP*

- Professional development opportunities for faculty at the middle and high schools continued. Chief among them was the Instructional Strategies Seminar program which offered workshops entitled "Urban Word NYC" and "Can We Teach Both Language Skills and Social Studies?"
- All graduating cohort students received a special embossed Webster's dictionary, college edition.
- In partnership with Teaching Matters, Inc., we offered an intensive two-week technology and writing workshop during the month of July to 78 students. Students took part in college preparation workshops. At the end of the workshops, participating students received a laptop to use for college.
- Students had the opportunity to take courses for college credit at CUNY LaGuardia Community College through the College Now and College Connection programs.
- Six of our students served as Junior Mentors at this summer's clcu/NYSACAC Camp College programs at Union College and Niagara University.
- We continued our partnership with the Liberty Partnership Program offering SAT preparation classes during the summer.

CUNY Medgar Evers College Central Brooklyn GEAR UP Partnership

Contacts

Carolyn D. Beck, Director of Central Brooklyn GEAR UP
Fola Vann, Program Aide
Gisella Oliver Boney, Liaison, Middle Schools
Kali Gairy, Liaison, High Schools
Monique Emerson, Mentoring & Tutoring Coordinator

Who in Spring 2005

814 7th- through 11th-graders

Where

Brooklyn Academy of Science and Environment (11 students)
Clara Barton HS (45 students)
George W. Wingate HS (20 students)
Intermediate School 55 (302 students)
Middle College HS (35 students)
Middle School 394 (352 students)
Prospect Heights HS (21 students)
Thomas Jefferson HS (28 students)

Partners

Anderson's Biz Kids
Banking on Our Future
Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment
Brooklyn Museum of Art
Brooklyn Public Library
Junior Achievement
Princeton Review
The New York Times
YMCA

Focus

Provide early intervention activities to prepare students for high school and college-level courses, with an emphasis on science and math. We collaborate with partners who will assist in enhancing the curricula of participating schools and who will provide opportunities for college fairs, college tours, one-on-one tutoring, and mentoring.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort has not yet reached 12th grade.

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- In April of 2005, two students from Intermediate School 55, Allan Selman and Akeen Moonesar, received an Award of Achievement at the annual NYGEAR UP conference.
- In Spring 2005, College Board SAT Infusion Workshops were presented to a majority of our high school teachers, school counselors and college advisors. These were extremely

successful professional development sessions.

- Students participated in an art learning experience by visiting the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Gallery-based discussions and hands-on art activities were offered to our students. Middle school students' art work was exhibited at the school.
- Using Blackboard, a free Web site creation service, CUNY Medgar Evers College faculty and middle school teachers developed an online learning unit for *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.
- Successfully expanded the Mentoring Program this year, culminating with a workshop at Bear Stearns for the students.

D'Youville College

Contacts

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

Who in Spring 2005

900 11th- and 12th-graders in GEAR UP I
860 8th- and 9th-graders in GEAR UP II

Where

GEAR UP I:

Bennett HS (40 students)
Buffalo Academy of Performing Arts (10 students)
Burgard Vocational HS (23 students)
DaVinci HS (10 students)
Emerson Vocational HS (22 students)
Grover Cleveland HS (35 students)
Hutchinson Central HS (40 students)
Kensington HS (32 students)
Lackawanna Senior HS (422 students)
Lafayette HS (47 students)
McKinley HS (62 students)
Riverside HS (55 students)
Seneca HS (35 students)
Seneca Vocational HS (35 students)
South Park HS (32 students)

"Before I joined GEAR UP, I didn't understand my full potential in school or in life. With the help and support of GEAR UP I have learned what I'm capable of inside and outside the school."

– *Kevin Hwu, John Bowne HS student, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP*

GEAR UP II:

Highgate Heights Elementary (215 students)
Houghton Academy (215 students)
PS #18 (215 students)
PS #71 (215 students)

Partners

GEAR UP I:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo
Canisius College
Community Action Organization
D'Youville College
EOC at SUNY University at Buffalo
Every Person Influences Children
Junior Achievement
Medaille College
SUNY College at Buffalo
Trocaire College
Villa Maria College

GEAR UP II:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo
Canisius College
D'Youville College
EOC at SUNY University at Buffalo
Every Person Influences Children
Junior Achievement
Medaille College
SUNY College at Buffalo
Villa Maria College

Focus

Increase the number of low-income students who enroll and succeed in postsecondary education. The programs 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.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 500 (approximate)

409 students graduating in Spring 2005
54 students graduating in August 2005
325 students attending college in Fall 2005

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- One GEAR UP middle school was named a School of Excellence and another GEAR UP middle school was removed from the New York State Schools Under Registration Review (SURR) list.
- We have awarded scholarships to five GEAR UP students, including: Lisa Lesinski, Kyle Pace, Chanquana Jones and Monique Prince.
- High school graduation rates have increased within the GEAR UP high schools.



Students and mentors gather at clcu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 at Niagara University.

“I would describe GEAR UP as a program that is well designed for young students, helping tutor us as well as showing us at such a young age the outstretch of our lives.”

*– A student at Riverside HS, D'Youville College
GEAR UP*

New York University

Contacts

Dr. Jeanne Adair, Director
Brian Williams, Project Associate

Who in Spring 2005

480 6th- through 12th-graders

Where

Choir Academy of Harlem

Partners

Boys Choir of Harlem/Girls Choir of Harlem
Choir Academy of Harlem
The LINKS Foundation

Focus

Prepare students for higher education programs by providing academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, college preparation, and

financial aid information by offering consistent encouragement to the students and their parents, and by providing ongoing professional development for teachers and school staff.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 38
38 graduating in Spring 2005
38 attending college in Fall 2005
32 attending a 4-year institution
6 attending a 2-year institution
16 attending a private college or university
22 attending a public college or university
38 accepted to New York State colleges or universities
16 accepted to private colleges or universities
10 accepted to SUNY colleges or universities
18 accepted to CUNY colleges
16 accepted to out-of-state colleges and universities

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Utilized Peterson's SAT Test Prep and online course to prepare Spring juniors for the SAT exam.
- Conducted workshops in “Seven Habits of Effective Teens,” “Time-Management,” and “Study Skills.”

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Contacts

Joan Kruegler, Project Director

Who in Spring 2005

870 12th-graders

Where

Cohoes HS (160 students)
Heatly HS (24 students)
Lansingburgh HS (174 students)
Rensselaer HS (60 students)
Troy HS (341 students)
Watervliet HS (90 students)

Partners

RAISE Partnership Schools (see listing above)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
The Sage Colleges
SUNY Hudson Valley Community College

Focus

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

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Cohort total: 870
732 graduating in Spring 2005
622 attending college in Fall 2005
37 entering the military
217 attending a 4-year institution (approximate)
405 attending a 2-year institution (approximate)
8 accepted to proprietary colleges

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- 180 seniors received GEAR UP Graduation Awards.
- 85% of the Class of 2005, including alternate education and special education students, will attend college in Fall 2005.

"If high school is a river, I think GEAR UP is the bridge that helps me pass through and cross to the other side."

– Jian Li Zhu, John Bowne HS student, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP

St. John's University

Contacts

Yvette Morgan, Co-Director
Andre McKenzie, Vice President of Academic Support Services, Co-Director

Who in Spring 2005

550 9th-, 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-graders

Where

Long Island City HS (250 students)
32 other High Schools (300 students)

Partners

Long Island City High School
HANAC Community Center
St. John's University Educational Talent Search, McNair Scholars Program, and Student Government

Focus

The mission of the St. John's University GEAR UP Program is to serve as a vehicle that will enable academically and economically disadvantaged students to graduate middle and high school and pursue postsecondary education. Through a broad range of academic and social support services, we aim to provide our scholars with a solid academic background that will enable them to succeed and become lifelong learners.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

Total 12th-graders in cohort: 300
112 graduating in Spring 2005
85 applied to college in Fall 2005

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Each GEAR UP participant received academic counseling twice during the year, and received assistance with completion of admissions and financial aid forms.
- In celebration of Black History Month, on February 12 students and parents visited Morgan State University, a historically black college. They toured the campus, and attended a college basketball game.
- 60 students and parents submitted the FAFSA electronically through a GEAR UP-sponsored "FAFSA Online" Workshop on February 9 and 12, 2005.

"GEAR UP took my hand and slowly, gradually, walked me into a place where my potential could be manifested ... they helped me grow by actively engaging me in programs that teach skills to become successful. They helped show us we are leaders. I completely changed."

– Edward Yu, Newtown HS, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP



Icu staff Kiersten Hall and Lisa DiStefano and Union College Associate Dean of Admission Kelly Herrington at Icu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 at Union College.

SUNY Binghamton University

Contacts

Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director
Anne Marie Chanecka, East Middle School Coordinator
Dan Kosick, East Middle School Coordinator
Monica Perry, Recruiting, Training and Publicity Coordinator
Ali Phinney, West Middle School, Coordinator
Mary Plumb, Parent/Community Coordinator
Heather Sheridan-Thomas, Principal Investigator

Who in Spring 2005

2,710 7th- through 12th-graders

Where

Binghamton HS (1,729 students)
East HS (481 students)
West HS (500 students)

Partners

Binghamton City School District PTSA
Binghamton University School of Education and Human Development
Boys and Girls Club of Broome County
Center City Coordination Project (C3)
Gang Prevention Unit from the Binghamton Housing Authority
The Haven
Mothers and Babies
Off Campus College Binghamton University
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 college admission process and the importance of students taking challenging high school coursework.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans*

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- More than 294 students at East, West, and Binghamton High Schools participated in our after school programs, "Diversity Café" and "Passport to Success."
- We are collaborating with a community-based organization, Mothers and Babies, and we have a new business partner, Tarco Steel, Inc, a local business that has become involved with GEAR UP and supports our efforts to help our students.
- High school earth science classes visited Ithaca, NY, to observe glacier markings.

* Information not available at time of publication.

- In January and February, juniors and seniors visited upstate colleges including SUNY University at Buffalo, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi, Niagara University, Cornell University, and Ithaca College.
- Anne Marie Chanecka, an East Middle School coordinator, obtained a DJ license so she could take her students to the university to broadcast their own radio show.
- About 150 students attended two plays at the university that they had studied in English class.
- We will conduct a 9th-grade Transition Program again this year and hope to have more than 300 students attending.
- We plan to enroll more than 60 students in the Summer Service Learning Program this summer.
- 10 students per week will participate in overnight Upward Bound experiences.
- We sent 14 students to the cJcu/NYSACAC weekend Camp College experiences at Union College and at Niagara University.

SUNY Nassau Community College

Contacts

Marilyn Monroe, Director
Nilda Garcia, Associate Director
Michael Herbert, Assistant Director

Who in Spring 2005

1,892 6th through 12th-graders

Where

Westbury Middle School
Westbury High School

Partners

Central Westbury Civic Association
Long Island's Mentoring Partnership
New Cassel/Westbury Youth Services Project

Focus

Improve the academic performance of participating students through an integrated educational approach. This is accomplished with program services including tutoring, mentoring, college visits, resource centers, parent workshops and the Rites of Passage Program.

GEAR UP Students' Postsecondary Plans

180 graduating in August 2005

Highlights and Successes

January 2005 – August 2005

- The Rites of Passage Program was successfully adopted by the local community.
- Students were taken on the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity college tour of 17 historically black colleges and universities. They visited classrooms and met with college administrators who helped them assess the relevance of their present course work to higher education success.
- Miriam Pierre attended the Syracuse University Summer College Program and earned a 4.0 average.
- Film production is currently in progress on a short documentary highlighting SUNY Nassau Community College GEAR UP's impact since 1999.
- 65 students received academic scholarships/awards for postsecondary education.



Students gather at cJcu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 weekend at Union College.

NYGEAR UP Sector Partners.



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

Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu)

Contacts

Susan L. Nesbitt Perez, Vice President, Outreach and Financial Aid
 Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services
 Jennifer Beecher, Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services

Focus

clcu, a voluntary consortium of more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities, is the coordinating organization and public policy forum for New York's Independent Sector. clcu assists NYGEAR UP sites by providing targeted information and services to raise college awareness and readiness.

Highlights and Successes — January 2005 – August 2005

- Designed, produced and distributed 18,000 copies of the *In Gear* newsletter Vol. 4 No. 2 to all New York State and New York's Federal GEAR UP sites, to all independent colleges and university presidents, and to admissions, financial aid, HEOP, government affairs and public affairs directors; to all SUNY campus presidents, admissions, and EOP offices; to the memberships of NYSACAC and NYSFAAA; and a quantity to the Association of Proprietary Colleges for a meeting of their admissions directors.
- Produced and distributed to the GEAR UP sites: *Your College Search 2005/Busca una universidad 2005* (English and Spanish versions); the 2005 *Admissions and Financial Aid Bulletin*; *College Quick Tips*; and a campus locator map.
- Produced 10,000 copies of a Premier agenda planner for 2005-2006, containing customized insert pages, for distribution to graduating NYGEAR UP students heading to college in the Fall.

- Distributed 163 individualized certificates with Barnes & Noble gift cards to nominated students in the following GEAR UP programs: Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College: John F. Kennedy HS, Walton HS, Herbert H. Lehman HS, Stevenson HS, DeWitt Clinton HS; Copiague Public Schools: Walter G. O'Connell Copiague HS; CUNY College of Staten Island: Curtis HS; CUNY Medgar Evers College Central Brooklyn: Intermediate School 55, Mary McLeod Bethune School; New Rochelle College for Me Partnership: New Rochelle HS; Rochester Institute of Technology: Wilson Magnet HS, East HS, Edison Technical HS; SUNY Binghamton University: Binghamton HS; Syracuse University: Henninger HS, Fowler HS; and Yonkers Public Schools: Yonkers HS, Roosevelt HS, Gorton HS, Saunders Trade and Technical HS, and Lincoln HS.
- Participated in NCCCEP Capacity Building Workshop in Philadelphia, PA, in February 2005.
- Planned and coordinated a professional development workshop, "Building Formidable Bridges to the Future: Tools, tips and tasks for students and schools" for GEAR UP staff, teachers, tutors, mentors and parents at Marymount Manhattan College. Created fliers, recruited attendees and experts, and produced binders. All 30 registered participants attended the conference. Expert presenters included Heather McDonnell, Director of Financial Aid, Sarah Lawrence College; and Sonaly Rivera, Assistant Director, Upward Bound Program, Pace University.
- Helped coordinate the Annual NYGEAR UP Conference in White Plains, April 2005. clcu Vice President, Susan Nesbitt Perez, presented a PowerPoint presentation on independent colleges and universities in New York State, Camp College, and the availability of resources for GEAR UP students. We also provided speakers for two workshops.
- Participated in the 2005 NYSACAC Annual Conference at Manhattan College, June 1-3.
- Participated in the 2005 NYSFAAA Novice Training at Manhattanville College, June 4-10, 2005.
- Held Camp College at Union College, July 22-24; and at Niagara University, July 29-31, 2005. Students who attended Camp College in the past returned to mentor the current students. These Junior Mentors received luggage filled with college supplies and 2005-2006 Agenda Planners. The invitation of students to serve as Junior Mentors was new this year.
- Designed, produced and distributed more than 5,000 copies of *In Gear* Vol. 5.



Students meet with their mentor groups in front of the Nott at clcu/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 at Union College.

Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC)

Contacts

Ellen Hollander, Association of Proprietary Colleges President
 Shannon O'Neill, Association of Proprietary Colleges GEAR UP Director
 Jenifer Prouty, Association of Proprietary Colleges GEAR UP Outreach Coordinator

Focus

Continue to build relationships between Association of Proprietary Colleges member colleges and NYGEAR UP sites; provide speakers and offer workshops; organize campus visits.

Highlights and Successes — January 2005 – August 2005

- Held Bilingual FAFSA nights on January 10 and 11, 2005, at Copiague HS. Berkeley College provided financial aid counselors to assist parents in both one-on-one and large group formats. clcu provided two financial aid representatives from private colleges: Charlie Markland from Siena College and Veronica Markiewicz from Long Island University.
- Designed a new and improved APC viewbook with program and enrollment data for all 39 APC campuses throughout the state of New York.



Shannon O'Neill, Greg Forbes Seigman and Amy Corbett participated in the 2005 NYGEAR UP Annual Conference in White Plains, NY.

- On April 5, secured Amy Corbett to present a Personality Workshop at the GEAR UP State Conference in White Plains, NY.
- Distributed copies of Greg Forbes Seigman's book, *The First Thirty*, to GEAR UP State Conference attendees. Additional copies were distributed to staff to share with their students.
- Distributed 12 Jeopardy! game boards to project directors and site staff.
- Promoted the new APC viewbooks by sending out a cover letter and one copy to each GEAR UP program director. Copies are still available from the APC office in Albany.

City University of New York (CUNY)

Contacts

Donna Linderman, Project Director
 Ciji Portis, Project Coordinator, Advisement and Counseling

Focus

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

Highlights and Successes — January 2005 – August 2005

- CUNY Sector produced *College Sense: How to Pay for College*, an interactive financial aid Web tutorial in English, Spanish, Russian and Mandarin for teens and their families (www.nygearup.org/collegesense). Site visitors meet six diverse student characters facing financial aid roadblocks and a financial aid director who speaks about critical financial aid issues, such as dependent vs. independent status, residency, opportunity programs, and undocumented students. Through streaming video, the virtual students share how they overcame their economic challenges and transitioned into college.
- Launched online in October 2004, a CD-ROM version of *College Sense* was shipped to every high school in New York State through HESC.
- CUNY Sector, in collaboration with the CUNY Office of Admissions Services, conducted the final sessions of a three-part college awareness workshop series at partner high schools for graduating high school seniors. Students worked in small groups using interactive techniques and role play to hone their presentation skills for college fairs, open houses, and interviews. Copies of the three-workshop curriculum will be disseminated statewide



Students at the Yonkers GEAR UP Summit participate in a skills-building activity.

through clcu's "Workshops That Really Work" publication.

- CUNY GEAR UP is currently completing a year-long research study examining the relationship between GEAR UP Consortium participation and academic achievement over a three-year period. The 2,200-CUNY GEAR UP cohort was compared with a non-GEAR UP control group of 1,000 students from the original CUNY GEAR UP focus middle schools who attended high schools not served by CUNY GEAR UP. Quantitative data analysis examined academic, demographic and student activity records maintained by CUNY GEAR UP. Non-GEAR UP data was gathered from the NYC Department of Education. Qualitative analysis included student focus groups, a survey of high school partners, and CUNY GEAR UP professional staff. Preliminary data reveal that there is a significant relationship between GEAR UP participation and academic achievement. GEAR UP students' average GPAs were 6% higher than their non-GEAR UP counterparts (69% vs. 62%). GEAR UP students' average daily attendance rates were 10% higher (83% vs. 73%). The study also found that GEAR UP students' had very positive attitudes about their ability to succeed in college, which were consistently attributed to their involvement in CUNY GEAR UP.

CUNY continued on page 24

State University of New York (SUNY)

Contacts

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Kwasi Fenteng, Outreach Counselor

Bill Harper, Outreach Counselor

Victoria Nuñez, Outreach Counselor

Tracy Swann, Administrative Assistant

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; develop and enhance leadership, communication, time management, and conflict resolution skills; and provide career admissions and financial aid information.

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Trained 7 GEAR UP staff members and 250 students in the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers Student Achievement” workshop; 5 Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP and 2 CUNY GEAR UP staff members; 100 Yonkers students and 150 New York University GEAR UP Choir Academy students.
- Assisted with the coordination of the NYGEAR UP 6th Annual Conference, hosting the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” workshop session and training more than 20 GEAR UP staff.
- Facilitated college tours for CUNY College of Staten Island GEAR UP to SUNY Old Westbury and SUNY Binghamton University; New York University GEAR UP to SUNY University at Albany and SUNY New Paltz; Syracuse University GEAR UP to SUNY Onondaga Community College, SUNY Cortland and SUNY Tompkins College; CUNY Hunter College to SUNY Stony Brook; Long Island University GEAR UP to SUNY University at Albany; CUNY Queens College Gateway GEAR UP to SUNY University at Albany and SUNY New Paltz; D’Youville College GEAR UP to SUNY University at Buffalo, Erie Community College and SUNY Brockport; CUNY Lehman College GEAR UP to SUNY Purchase; and CUNY GEAR UP to SUNY Stony Brook College and SUNY Purchase. Tours focused on students’ self-discovery, career selection, and educational opportunities
- Hosted a “Dinner and Financial Aid” event at New York University GEAR UP Choir Academy.



Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP students participate in a tower building activity to understand the importance of having a strong foundation.

CUNY continued from page 23

- CUNY GEAR UP created a “College Survival Guide” disseminated to all graduating New York State GEAR UP students in June 2005. The guide includes tips to help commuter and residential students successfully integrate into college life, offering up-to-date information on CUNY, SUNY and private colleges. The College Survival Guide will be coupled with follow-up services by part-time GEAR UP case managers, who will maintain contact with all CUNY GEAR UP students in their first semester of college.

“Please accept my thanks for the visit last week of counselors from CUNY who helped our students with understanding the college application process. I was so impressed by the overview, the hands-on activities, and the small group process that allowed students to speak up without intimidation. I do hope that we can continue this truly invaluable program.”

– An Assistant Principal, Bushwick HS, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

“GEAR UP is a hand that holds mine and constantly pulls me upwards.”

– A GEAR UP HS student, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

- CUNY GEAR UP conducted a weekend program for college-bound students in July at the CUNY Graduate Center entitled “College Survival 101.” The two-day workshop, co-designed by CUNY GEAR UP Central Office and college partner staff, is intended to help students examine the issues they will face in September as they become college freshmen. Students will work in small interactive groups with teaching artists from the Creative Arts Team (CAT) and explore issues such as study skills, time management, interaction with college faculty and staff, finances, family obligations, work, dating, and health. An afternoon workshop for parent/family members will address how to support their child’s college transition. A dinner and cultural event on Saturday evening, and a picnic and field program will complete the program.

“GEAR UP is a program that gives students [the ability] to look further into college when they may not otherwise have the financial background and opportunity to experience college and other activities.”

– A GEAR UP HS student, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP

College Board

Contacts

Brian J. Petraitis, Director, New York State Office

Matthew Zarro, Program Coordinator

Jelani Dandles, Project Associate

Focus

College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP).

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Implemented the NYGEAR UP Summer 2005 Hotline: 866-502-4400 and E-mail: cbgearup@yahoo.com.
- Created the NYGEAR UP 2005 College Resource and Summer Contact Manual which was made available to all GEAR UP sites. This manual serves as a resource for those students who may not be following the traditional college-going route by providing information on rolling admissions, GED programs, vocational opportunities, scholarships and much more.
- Created the NYGEAR UP Admissions and Financial Aid Contact Manual 2005-2006, which was made available to all GEAR UP sites. The manual contains contact information for admissions and financial aid representatives at every New York State college and university. Each admissions and financial aid contact listed has knowledge of the GEAR UP program and was designated by their institution as the special contact for GEAR UP students and their families.
- Delivered SAT Infusion workshops for GEAR UP teachers and counselors to help them introduce SAT prep into their classrooms.

- Offered “New SAT Overview” workshops to GEAR UP parents, teachers and counselors, to inform them of the changes that took effect with the March 2005 SAT administration.
- More than 50 GEAR UP counselors and teachers attended the College Board Middle States Regional Forum in Baltimore, Maryland in February 2005.
- Sent 65 GEAR UP counselors to the annual New York State Association for College Admissions Counseling (NYSACAC) conference held at Manhattan College in June 2005. The conference offered GEAR UP counselors an opportunity to attend various professional development workshops and network with colleagues and admissions professionals from across New York State.
- Distributed supplies of “The College Dream – A Guide for Parents” to all GEAR UP sites. The guide provides basic information on the SAT, financial planning and the college admissions process.

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.

Highlights and Successes – January 2005 – August 2005

- Offered the opportunity for professional development to GEAR UP staff during the Summer 2005. The Developing a Master Student (DMS) professional development program is designed to address the particular interests of GEAR UP staff to meet the needs of their students.

“GEAR UP helps to unleash creativity and opportunity through activities.”

– A GEAR UP HS student, CUNY Consortium NYGEAR UP



Students learn the importance of working together at the Yonkers Public Schools GEAR UP Summit.

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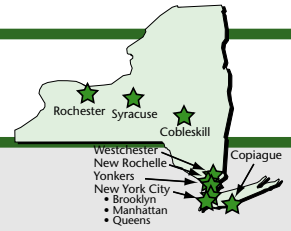
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NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

The New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) is the state agency that has been designated by Governor George E. Pataki to administer NYGEAR UP. 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.

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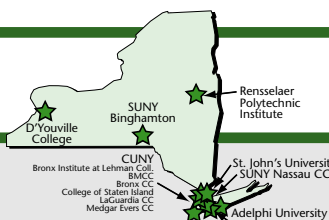
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Learning to bowl — a new experience for many — at CICU/NYSACAC Camp College 2005 at Union College.

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"I wasn't sure what to expect when I get to college but Camp College gave me personal insight on college life. Now, I won't be caught off guard and I'll be ready for whatever college throws my way."

— Rodny Carvajal, John Bowne HS student, CUNY LaGuardia Community College GEAR UP