



College Connections **clcu**

NEW YORK'S 100+ PRIVATE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

CLASSROOM COLLEGE QUEST

This fall, 182 students at five schools in the SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP program participated in "Classroom College Quests," workshops designed to help students understand how to make college choices, conducted by cIcu's Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Programs. Using several worksheets, students learned how to assess their own skills and interests, and then how to find colleges with the qualities that mattered most to them.

The "Seven Clues to Help You In Getting Started" worksheet allowed students to identify what classes most interested them, what

activities they most enjoyed, and what their "dream jobs" would look like. The "Functional Skills Worksheet: Knowing Your Strengths" allowed students to assess their own skills. "A College Search Worksheet," available in cIcu's *Your College Search* publication, enabled students to match the kinds of colleges they sought (urban or suburban, small or large, near or far from home, etc.) with their academic interests at specific institutions. The workshops helped prepare students to launch their own college quests.

For more information about these workshops, contact Kiersten Hall at kiersten@cicu.org.



cIcu GEAR UP College Quest 2007 at Niagara University

FEATURED CAMPUSES

Niagara University (NU)

NU was founded in 1856 as the College and Seminary of Our Lady of Angels, and became Niagara University in 1883. NU is home to almost 3,000 undergraduate students who study more than 50 majors. The picturesque campus is located near Niagara Falls and the cities of Buffalo and Toronto, Canada. NU welcomed cIcu's April and June 2007 College Quests for Students and Parents/Guardians. June's visit included overnight accommodations in a residence hall and a full day of activities on campus. For more information about NU, visit <http://www.niagara.edu/>

St. Joseph's College

St. Joseph's College was one of the stops on cIcu's Summer 2006 College Tour for GEAR UP Educators. Founded in 1916, it is a private, coed college specializing in the liberal arts. At its Brooklyn campus, located in the historic Clinton Hill area, over 1,000 students combine campus life with the cultural opportunities of New York City, while its Long Island campus in Patchogue serves almost 4,000 students. Programs of study include more than 22 majors. For more information about St. Joseph's College, visit <http://www.sjcnyc.edu/>

Syracuse University (SU)

Founded in 1870, SU was also a stop on cIcu's College Quest for Students and Parents/Guardians in June 2007. The university's long history is reflected in the varied architectural styles of its buildings. With nine undergraduate colleges representing liberal arts and professional fields of study, SU offers more than 200 majors. Nearly 12,000 undergraduate students take advantage of a campus that offers renowned academic and athletic programs. For more information about SU, visit <http://admissions.syr.edu/>



Keith Outlaw, Associate Dean of Admissions at St. Joseph's College welcoming the cIcu GEAR UP College Tour for Educators

RESEARCH

Breaking Through the Barriers to College: Empowering Low-Income Communities, Schools, and Families for College Opportunity and Student Financial Aid

University of California Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis

www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/pdf/BreakingthroughBarriersfinal.pdf

This study of the college admissions and financial aid process identifies obstacles that can keep low-income students from successfully navigating the college admissions process. The analysis offers suggestions for overcoming these barriers.

First-Generation Students: Undergraduates Whose Parents Never Enrolled in Postsecondary Education

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/98082.pdf>

A study comparing first-generation college students to other college students. Income levels, differing expectations, and obstacles to success are among the factors analyzed.

GETTING READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Graduating with a Regents diploma and with good grades is an indication that a student is well prepared to meet the demands of college; it also makes a student eligible for an Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), a new federal grant that can provide up to \$750 for the first year, and up to \$1,300 in the second year of undergraduate study. Completion of a rigorous high school program is one of the key eligibility criteria for the ACG Grant.

In New York, a rigorous high school program is defined as completing a program that culminates in a Regents diploma with honors or advanced

designation, a set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative, or at least 2 Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses with test scores of at least 3 for AP and 4 for IB.

For the Regents diploma with Advanced Designation, students must pass Regents exams in English, U.S. History and Government, Global History and Geography, Mathematics (2 or 3 exams), Science (1 in a life science and 1 in a physical science), and a foreign language.

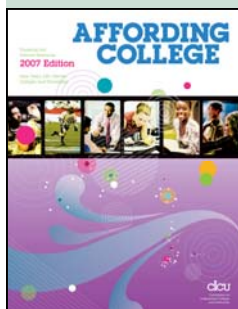
For more information about the requirements for New York's Regents diploma and the Regents diploma with

Advanced Designation, go to: www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/2007GradReqDetails.html

A chart listing graduation requirements for all of New York's high school diplomas is available online at www.nysed.gov/ - search for "graduation requirements" on the site.

To find out more about the ACG, go to: www.studentaid.ed.gov/ and search for "ACG." To learn about other Federal grant programs that can help students pay for college, go to: www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/grants.jsp

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE RESOURCES



◆ **Just published!** clcu's annual fall publication about financial aid, *Affording College* and its Spanish edition, *Como pagar la universidad*, are available for free viewing or download at www.nycolleges.org/resources.php

(Note: A print edition is not currently available).

New York's 100+ Private (independent, not-for-profit) colleges and universities host a Web site. www.nycolleges.org. Updated regularly, the site provides information about each campus, academic programs offered, as well as helpful publications and resources for middle and high school students, families and counselors. www.nycolleges.org

◆ **Federal Student Aid for Counselors** provides information about Federal aid

available to college students with downloadable handouts and links to information about how to answer students' questions, planning financial aid nights, and how to advise parents about the financial aid process. www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/cotw/main.jsp

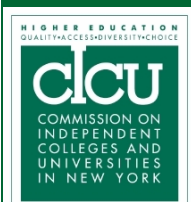
◆ **The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund** provides a list of college scholarships available to students who do not have a Social Security number, legal residency in the U.S., or U.S. citizenship. www.maldef.org/pdf/

COMPARING COLLEGES

Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu)

clcu is a statewide association representing more than 100 independent (private, not-for-profit) colleges and universities in New York State. clcu Outreach Programs has provided admissions and financial aid information for more than 25 years.

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A new Web site, www.UCAN-Network.org (University and College Accountability Network), can help students learn about and compare private colleges.

Developed by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), a nonprofit organization that represents almost 950 private institutions around the country, the UCAN-Network site features profiles of approximately 500

private colleges and universities, including over 50 in New York State, with plans to add about 200 more, enabling students to compare colleges in a uniform format instead of having to search multiple sites.

Students can browse alphabetically, by state, or by religious affiliation, and can also check out U-CAN-Network.org on Facebook and YouTube. Each profile of a college or university includes

statistical data in easily readable bar and pie charts about admissions, graduation rates, class size, the diversity of the student body, cost of tuition, most popular majors, accreditation, where students come from, campus housing, the percentage of students who graduate, financial aid, student life and campus safety. All of the profiles also have hyperlinks to specific pages at each college's Web site that contain additional relevant information.