

Cultivating GEAR UP Gardens.



New York's 16 GEAR UP partnerships (11 state and 5 federal) were very busy the past year, the first year of the 2005-2011 grant cycle. To use a gardening metaphor, our master GEAR UP gardeners (directors) laid out their GEAR UP gardens, tilled the soil, planted a variety of seeds and provided lots of water.

In this issue of *In Gear II NY Alert*, we feature highlights of some of the "seeds" that were planted to raise awareness of GEAR UP in the schools, and the "water" that was provided over the course of the year to enrich the lives of New York's GEAR UP students around the state. Although we've noted but a smattering of activities in this issue, we hope the ideas inspire you, and look forward to sharing in future editions of this newsletter even more innovative programming, helpful articles and evidence of how our GEAR UP students are growing and thriving.

I hope you will make use of the contact information for the GEAR UP II project directors, and their affiliated schools listed in this newsletter on page 14, as well as contact information for the GEAR UP II "Sector" partners on page 16.

I also encourage you to make note of the preliminary list of events, conferences and workshops offered in 2006-07 on page 16. A more complete calendar of GEAR UP events is maintained on HESC's Web site at www.hesc.org.

As we approach a new academic year, I look forward to watching your gardens grow.

— Susan Nesbitt Perez
Vice President, Outreach Programs and Financial Aid
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The federal government awards GEAR UP grants to states or to local 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 or businesses). Each GEAR UP partnership provides services to a cohort of students at high-need middle schools beginning no later than Grade 7 and follows 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.

In 2005, New York State received its second GEAR UP grant, called "NYGEAR UP II." This new grant follows on the heels of the 1999-2005 GEAR UP grant, and is again administered by NYSHESC. Following a competitive process, NYSHESC awarded funds to 11 local partnerships. In September 2005, these partnerships began providing services to a cohort of 7,285 students currently in Grade 7. These students will be followed through 2011 (funding contingent).

The federal government also awarded funds directly to five local partnerships. These "Federal GEAR UP" partnerships in the state began serving more than 5,000 students in Grades 6 or 7.

A group of key partners in the state's NYGEAR UP program provides additional services to GEAR UP in New York State. These "Sector" partners include: the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CLCU), the Association for Proprietary Colleges (APC), City University of New York (CUNY), State University of New York (SUNY), College Board, and New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA).

In Gear II NY Alert newsletter 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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GEAR UP II Highlights and Accomplishments.

Albany City School District

► College Visit to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

April 4, 2006 for Myers MS; April 6, 2006 for North Albany Academy; April 11, 2006 for Philip Livingston Magnet Academy; April 12, 2006 for Hackett MS

Where: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, NY

Who: 30 Grade 7 NYGEAR UP students, 3 teachers, site coordinators, and 1 project coordinator on each tour

Why: To provide students with an opportunity to set foot on a college campus; take a tour; experience a taste of college life; speak with an admissions counselor.

Agenda:

- 10:00 am: Depart.
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am: Admissions information session.
- 11:30 am – Noon: College tour.
- Noon – 12:30 pm: Lunch with college students.
- 1:00 pm: Return to school.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Michael Moore, Jr., Associate Dean, Enrollment Management

RPI's Michael Moore had an excellent rapport with the students, and encouraged them to focus on the direction they wanted to take in life. The students expressed a lot of excitement and positive energy as they toured the campus. Some discussed an interest in going to college throughout the tour.

“The college visit allowed the students to visit a college campus and get an idea of what college life is like. They were also exposed to the academic aspects of college. It was very informative for the students.”

– Lynette B. Smith, NYGEAR UP Project Coordinator, Albany City School District NYGEAR UP

► NYGEAR UP Fun Day

June 15, 2006

Where: John Boyd Thacher State Park

Who: 60 Grade 7 students, 6 teachers, and 1 project coordinator

Why: To have an outing where the students received NYGEAR UP certificates and “I’m Going to College” T-shirts.

Agenda:

- 9:00 am: Depart.
- 9:45 am – 10:30 am: Free play.
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am: Distribution of T-shirts and certificates.
- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Lunch.
- 1:30 pm: Return to school.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Lynette B. Smith, NYGEAR UP Project Coordinator, spoke to the students. The message addressed the path to college and reminded students that NYGEAR UP will be with them through Grade 12.

Dowling College

► End-of-Year BBQ

June 9, 2006

Where: Olive MS

Who: 150 Grade 7 students, 10 teachers, 1 school counselor, Olive MS principal, 2 Olive MS administrators, 6 Advisory Board members, principal partner representatives, 5 e-mentors

Why: To celebrate the conclusion of the first year of GEAR UP at Olive MS; to distribute awards to students; to meet e-mentors in person for the first time.

Agenda:

- Welcome and congratulations from GEAR UP and school staff.
- Presentation of student awards and 21st Century Certificates to students who did not receive them at the Mock College Graduation in December 2005.
- First time public meeting of e-mentors and their mentees.
- Barbeque.
- Games/fun/outdoor activities.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Dr. Rhoda Miller, Program Director, who presided; Ms. Gina Talbert, Olive MS Principal; Dr. Clyde Payne, Dean of Dowling School of Education; Mr. Frank Pomata, GEAR UP Program Assistant Director; Ms. Marcia Johnson, School Counselor/GEAR UP Liaison; Ms. Julie Casteel, ELA teacher/GEAR UP Liaison

This BBQ event helped the Grade 7 students feel very special about their cohort and was a terrific bonding experience for them. The event generated much excitement among the students and the program's Advisory Board in attendance. The GEAR UP project gained visibility and credibility in the community. Teachers were buzzing; the school counselor stated that GEAR UP was getting incredible “hype” in the building; Grade 8 students wanted to know why they couldn't have GEAR UP.

“This was the first time I was ever called up to get something.”

– Student, Dowling College GEAR UP



Dowling College GEAR UP Grade 7 students pose for a picture at the End-of-Year BBQ.



Grade 7 Dowling College GEAR UP students participate in a Mock Graduation Ceremony at Dowling College in December 2005.

► Mock Graduation

December 14, 2005

Where: Dowling College

Who: 118 Olive MS Grade 7 students, 5 teachers, 1 school counselor, Olive MS Principal Ms. Gina Talbert, Dowling College president Dr. Albert E. Donor and various administrators, principal partner representatives

Why: A kick-off to motivate students and gain visibility for the GEAR UP project.

Agenda:

- Students toured Dowling College's holiday tree and display.
- T-shirts were distributed with "GEAR UP Scholar Class of 2015" on the front and partner logos on the back.
- Breakfast for all attendees.
- Opening remarks by Dowling College's President, the Superintendent of Wyandanch School District, and the Principal of Olive MS.
- Graduation ceremony: Each student was called by name and received a "diploma," a 21st Century Certificate rolled up with a program outlining future GEAR UP events.
- Dr. Kevin Jordan (a Dowling administrator) gave a highly motivating presentation during which going to college became a "battle cry" for the students.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Dowling College President, Dr. Albert E. Donor, and the Superintendent of the Wyandanch School District, Dr. Frank Satchel, officiated along with the Olive MS Principal, Ms. Gina Talbert. Vice presidents and other college administrators also attended. Congressmen and local politicians were invited, but none attended.

By a show of hands, over half of the students acknowledged that this was their first college visit. Students provided informal positive feedback to their teachers and counselors. Many expressed the desire for a campus tour at a future date.

SUNY Binghamton University

► Basketball Clinic at SUNY Broome Community College with the men's basketball team

May 10, 2006

Where: SUNY Broome Community College (BCC) in Binghamton, New York

Who: 25 Grade 6 and 7 students, 5 SUNY Binghamton University students (mentors/tutors), the entire BCC men's basketball team, and 4 GEAR UP staff members

Why: To increase college awareness; visit a local college; increase basketball skills; and develop a better sense of community.

Agenda:

- After school, students and staff boarded a bus that brought them to BCC.
- At the college, students were introduced to the coach and players on the men's basketball team. Students were divided into groups that were each led by a few BCC players. Each group worked on basketball skills with help from the head coach. At the end of the skill development activities, the groups played a game against each other, with some college team members included in each group.
- Afterwards, everyone who participated walked through the campus to the cafeteria for a pizza party.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: SUNY BCC men's basketball team

The students were disappointed to leave. All students asked for autographs and stated that they really enjoyed the opportunity and hoped to do it again. Several of the students made comments about how they would like to play basketball in college.

"This event was effective because it involved constant interaction between middle school students and college students on a college campus, and also involved activities that increased college awareness."

– Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director, SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP

► Diversity Café, a weekly after-school program at Binghamton West Middle School

Every Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm throughout the school year

Where: Binghamton West MS

Who: 15 Grade 6 students, 25 Grade 7 students, 1 teacher, 1 teacher's aide, 9 SUNY Binghamton University college students, and 1 high school senior

Why: Every week, we hold an after-school program to give the students a safe and enjoyable place to go when the school day ends.

Agenda:

- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm: The students receive a snack and drink and do their homework with the help of the SUNY Binghamton University students.
- 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Each week, we have a different activity for the students. They participate in multicultural activities, career-oriented activities, and sometimes just an arts and crafts activity. In addition to these activities, the students take part in presentations, listen to speakers, and go on occasional field trips.
- 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm: Students are given dinner and have a chance to socialize and connect with the college students, teachers, and GEAR UP staff.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Some of the activities and presentations at Diversity Café during the past few months:

- Mental Health Players performed "Forming a Conscience During Peace and War"
- Arts and crafts
- Viewing of The Children's March video
- A chiropractor visited to talk about his profession
- Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network gave a 3-part presentation on "Exploring Healthy Relationships"
- Game Night
- Red Cross presentation
- Ukrainian eggs

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*SUNY Binghamton University
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- A former West MS student spoke about his experience in Guatemala over the summer
- Painted clay pots for Mother's Day
- Made lollipops
- The Crime Victims Assistance Center spoke to the students about Internet safety, bullying, victimization, and ways to avoid becoming a victim

We consistently have 35 to 40 students who attend the program every week. Students asked why they can't have Diversity Café every night.

"Diversity Café is very effective as it gives students a safe, structured environment to be in once the school day ends. The middle school students get help with their homework from someone other than parents and teachers and have a chance to really interact on an informal, very personal level with the college students. The students are exposed to thought-provoking activities, as well as to careers and ideas they might otherwise not have a chance to experience."

– Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director, SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP

► SUNY Cortland Football Game
October 29, 2005

Where: SUNY Cortland

Who: 8 Grade 6 students, 9 Grade 7 students, 5 Binghamton University students, 3 GEAR UP student assistance coordinators

Why: To expose the students to SUNY Cortland and a fun event that takes place on the college's campus.

Agenda: We arrived at the college and ate the lunches that we brought with us. We walked around the part of the campus that houses the football stadium and attended the football game.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Some of the students had their pictures taken with SUNY Cortland's mascot, the Red Dragon.

Students enjoyed seeing another college campus. They talked about how it would be fun to be part of a college team, either as a player, or as a cheerleader, dancer, etc.

"This event was effective because the middle school students were able to experience first hand one of the many exciting activities that occurs on a college campus. Students were able to see the campus, as well as interact with the college students in a fun way."

– Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director, SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP

► Tour of SUNY Binghamton University
April 19, 21, 27, and 28, 2006

Where: SUNY Binghamton University (BU)

Who: 250 Grade 7 students (entire Grade 7 class), 2 Grade 7 social studies teachers, 2 Grade 7 math teachers, 2 Grade 7 English teachers, 2 Grade 7 science teachers, 3 Grade 7 special education teachers, 2 Grade 7 integrated math and reading teachers, 4 classroom special education aides, 1 school counselor, 3 GEAR UP student assistance coordinators, 1 GEAR UP parent and activities coordinator, 3 parents, and 8 BU college students

Why: To expose the Grade 7 students to the BU campus and college activities.

Agenda:

- The GEAR UP parent and activities coordinator set up the schedules with BU in advance.

- Students were divided into five groups with one college student and one teacher assigned to each group.
- A college student led each group on a tour of the campus.

Each group's tour included the following:

- Visit to the events center, where the BU basketball teams play, and also where many concerts take place. Students walked on the court, toured the locker rooms, and saw the weight room.
- Visit to the Anderson Center to learn about concerts and performances at BU. Students saw behind the scenes: the dressing rooms, costume shop, where props are made, and the Green Room; stood on stage, and sat in the concert halls.
- Visit to the greenhouse, which has a room for each type of climate.
- General tour of the campus, including visits to a large lecture hall to see a lecture in progress, the library, and the campus bookstore, along with other places of interest.
- General college talk. The GEAR UP parent and activities coordinator spoke to the students about college in general. Students learned about the number of 2- and 4-year colleges, ways to pay for college, and what to do now to prepare for college.
- Visit to a residence hall to see a dorm room, lounges, and other facilities.
- Meal (lunch) in a campus dining hall along with college students.
- Visit to the student union to learn about campus groups and activities. Students visited the campus bowling alley, pool hall, and newspaper. They also visited the campus radio station and had an opportunity to talk on the air.



Victoria Nuñez from SUNY Sector presents a workshop on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens to Grade 7 SUNY Cobleskill Jefferson CS GEAR UP students on June 1, 2006. Here, the students learn to "Synergize."

Student comments about the trip:

"I can't wait to go to college!"

"I always thought college was for geeks, but now I know anyone can go."

"I'm going to go to college here!"

"I wish I was in college now!"

"I didn't know you could do so many things at college."

"This trip is the one that has the most impact on students every year, and opens students' eyes to what college is really like. Without the opportunity to go on this trip, a majority of the students would never have the chance to experience, at such a young age, all the neat events and activities normally available to college students. This trip is a great way to get students thinking about college and realizing that it is something they can achieve. Going on this trip makes college less foreign and more of a reality."

– Idalmis Batista-Blair, Director, SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP

SUNY Cobleskill

► College Tours

Various times during spring 2006

Where: SUNY Cobleskill

Who: Students from schools served by SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP

Why: To show students a college campus.

Agenda: Over half our cohort's students got a walking tour of SUNY Cobleskill this spring. This tour was the first of many campus tours they will be offered. Highlights of the tours included SUNY Cobleskill's culinary kitchens; classrooms filled with taxidermy projects, many of which were done by SUNY Cobleskill students; one of the early childhood observation rooms; the greenhouses; various animals and a fish hatchery; John Deere tractors; the new equine center; and, of course, the cow barns.



Victoria Nuñez from SUNY Sector presents a workshop on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens to Grade 7 SUNY Cobleskill Laurens CS GEAR UP students on May 31, 2006. Here, the students work together to build towers.

► GEAR UP Summer Robotics Camp

July 5 – July 14, 2006

Where: South Kortright, Morris, and Fort Plain Central School Districts

Who: 5 technology teachers, 40 students, 7 former NYGEAR UP students, and 5 GEAR UP tutors

Why: To teach the basics of the LEGO Robolab curriculum and build a working robot for a final competition.

Agenda:

- We used the LEGO Robolab Team Challenge Set and LabVIEW software that was developed by Tufts University, National Instruments, and NASA.
- The set introduced groups of students to robotics concepts through problem-solving challenges and enabled them to simulate real-life robotics and robotic systems.
- Each member of the group assumed a role and worked with the others to solve their assignments, thus exposing them to teamwork and project management.
- Students were introduced to reduction gears, torque, ratios, diameter, radius, circumference, friction, time, angles, speed, light, electricity and basic circuits.
- Students learned how to build robots that would perform specific autonomous tasks.
- On Friday, July 14, students traveled to SUNY Cobleskill to compete against one another for prizes. All participating schools were awarded sensors to help equip them for next year's challenge.

"Why was this event effective? It teaches math, science, physics, computer programming, and technology in a fun, hands-on way."

– Paul M. Turner, Director, SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP

► Workshop on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey

3-hour sessions on various dates in May and June, 2006

Where: 9 of the 11 GEAR UP schools served by SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP

Who: Middle school students

Why: To teach good habits.

Agenda:

- Present, review and discuss each of the 7 Habits individually.
- Have students reflect on how they can incorporate each Habit into their own lives, and how it might help them in their college careers.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Victoria Nuñez from SUNY Sector.

Syracuse University

► Jurassic Park: The Study of Ancient Life

July 10 – 14, 2006, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Le Moyne College and various geological sites

Who: 40 Grade 7 students

Why: Using field trips and laboratory work focused on dinosaurs and ancient life, familiarize students who have little formal training in science with major concepts in biology and geology, with fundamental aspects of evolution, the fossil record, and the geologic history of New York.

Agenda:

Through hands-on activities (e.g., fossil collecting, visits to the Colgate University geology museum and the Syracuse Zoo, and building a dinosaur from chicken bones), this paleontology course, specifically developed for GEAR UP Grade 7 students and designed to support NY State Regents Earth Science and the Living Environment:

- Introduced students to the methods of scientific inquiry and major scientific principles.
- Acquainted students with important geologic concepts, including sedimentation, erosion, sea-level change, and the processes by which the primary types of rocks are formed.
- Acquainted students with the history of physical changes in North America.
- Introduced students to the mechanisms of evolution and extinction and the fossil record of evolutionary change.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Lawrence Tanner, Professor of Geology at Le Moyne College

► Syracuse University GEAR UP: Road to College Success (Targeted InService Course)

February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22, June 5, 2006
3:30 pm – 6:00 pm (30 hours)

Where: Syracuse Teacher Center and other sites

Who: 40 middle level teachers and school guidance counselors

Why: To strengthen the partnership between GEAR UP and middle school instructional and guidance staff who are directly responsible for delivering the NYS standards and assessments. The course provided teachers with knowledge, resources, and expertise from partners across the country.

Agenda:

- Understanding and connecting the goals and objectives of Syracuse University GEAR UP to classroom instruction.
- Exploring and using the Virtual College and Career Center's Web site.
- Expanding knowledge of Career Development for Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards and its relationship to authentic instruction.
- Learning how to increase awareness and access to college for all students.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Instructors included Lena Kochian, Director, Syracuse University GEAR UP; Joe Vargo, Executive Director, Partners for Education and Business; Nadine Austin, College Board; Susan Nesbitt Perez and Kiersten Hall, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities; Victoria Nuñez, SUNY; and representatives from the the Association of Proprietary Colleges.

"I liked the discussion on student preparation for college."

"I learned a lot about private colleges and universities in the state."

"I got a lot of information about opportunities for my students."

– Comments from participants at the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' May 15, 2006, Targeted InService Course Workshop for Syracuse University GEAR UP schools.

► Workshop on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey

Various times

Where: 9 of Syracuse University's NYGEAR UP schools

Who: 1,400 students

Agenda:

- Present, review and discuss each of the 7 Habits individually.
- Have students reflect on how they can incorporate each Habit into their own lives, and how it might help them in their college careers.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Student Program Coordinators Ulf Oesterle, Tonya Smith, and Christopher Rowland, who had been previously trained by Victoria Nuñez from SUNY Sector.

Yonkers Public Schools

► NYGEAR UP College Fairs

May 11 and May 24, 2006

Where: Emerson Middle School, Yonkers Middle/High School

Who: 48 parents; 485 students (including Grade 7 NYGEAR UP students from Emerson, and Yonkers Middle Schools, Grade 7 students from Museum MS, plus Grade 11 students at Yonkers Middle/High School); 6 administrators; 36 teachers; 6 Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP project partners; NYGEAR UP Project Director and Project Coordinator; and 37 college representatives and financial aid counselors from private, independent colleges (clcu membership), SUNY, CUNY, and from proprietary colleges (APC membership)

"I was so impressed with the NYGEAR UP Grade 7 students. They were well prepared and asked more detailed questions than most high school students."

– CUNY College representative

"After today's college fair, I know a lot more about college and know that my next steps are to make plans for high school and to start raising money so that I can afford college and live on campus."

– Zaeem, Grade 7 Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP student

"Yesterday was the first annual Yonkers MS College Fair, and it was exactly as I hoped it would be. I had prepared a portfolio and résumé and showed it to the college representatives I visited. I was thrilled when they admired my writing skills and engaged me in conversations about careers in journalism. After today, I feel my future is more important and my perspective on going to college has changed."

– Hayla, Grade 7 Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP student

Why: To have NYGEAR UP students meet college representatives; learn about college admission requirements; discuss the process involved in choosing a major; plan to take the high school courses that will ensure admittance to college; and compare facts about life on the campus of a private college, a SUNY college, a CUNY college, an APC college, and a community college.

Agenda:

- Students prepared portfolios to present to college representatives highlighting their academic achievements, discussed what to expect at a college fair, and received sheets to complete at the fair that compared facts about life on the campus of a private college, a SUNY college, a CUNY college, an APC college, and a community college.
- Students spent a class period at the fair, visiting with college representatives and gathering information.
- Upon returning to class, students presented their findings to their peers, and wrote reflective essays on the experience. (See below for the College Comparison Sheet used at the fair.)

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests:

Representatives from New York's 100+ private independent colleges and universities: Adelphi University, Alfred University, Concordia College, Iona College, Ithaca College, Manhattanville College, Marymount Manhattan College, Nyack College, Sarah Lawrence College; from State University of New York (SUNY): Binghamton University, Buffalo State College, New Paltz, Purchase,

Stony Brook, Westchester Community College; from City University of New York (CUNY): Bronx Community College, City College, John Jay College, Lehman College; from APC colleges: Berkeley College, College of Westchester, Monroe College. Also in attendance were representatives from College Board, Princeton Review, and others.

► **NYGEAR UP Summer College Camp Program**

June 26 – July 27, 2006

Where: Various sites, including Iona College, Manhattanville College, Nyack College and SUNY Purchase.

Who: 78 students, NYGEAR UP Project Director and Coordinator, NYGEAR UP College Camp Advisor, SUNY Purchase, Iona College, Manhattanville College, and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu)

Why: To offer a variety of college experiences to students.

Agenda:

- 78 Grade 7 NYGEAR UP students from Yonkers Public Schools participated in a total of 10 different summer college experiences this summer: Students enrolled in **Young Artists @ Purchase** (SUNY) explored the creative process through the visual arts, such as drawing and painting, sculpture and ceramics, and collage.
- The **Young Photographers @ Purchase** (SUNY) program introduced students to the art, science, and history of

photography, and included digital techniques with lessons in black-and-white and color photography. Students were also introduced to the darkroom while learning how to use enlargers and developers.

- Students participating in **Young Filmmakers @ Purchase** (SUNY) spent the summer writing, directing, editing, and acting in original movies, and learning the art of visual storytelling. Starting with short three-frame movies and building to more complicated scripts, students learned how to tell a story through images, develop strong plot lines, compose shots, convey their ideas to actors, use special effects, and edit on a professional digital editing system.
- Aspiring actors and actresses in the Grade 7 NYGEAR UP program enrolled in two programs at SUNY Purchase, **Shakespeare and Youth Musical Theatre**, at which they engaged in activities such as: acting classes; dance/clown/mask; stage combat; singing; and movement.
- Iona College hosted an exciting summer program for 27 NYGEAR UP students that focused on developing business skills in a program called the **Investment Challenge**; taught what it takes to be successful in school with **Junior Achievement**; and offered weekly group golf lessons from the First Tee Golf School.

*Yonkers Public Schools
continued on page 8*

Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP College Fair College Comparison Sheet.

Directions: At the college fair, you must choose three colleges: a private college, a SUNY college, and a CUNY college, and ask the representatives the following questions. Please write the information in the spaces provided below.

	Private College	SUNY College	CUNY College
Name of College:			
Where is the college located?			
How far is it from Yonkers?			
What high school courses does the college require for admission?			
What is the size of the college?			
How many students are undergraduates?			
What percentage of students live on campus?			
Are freshmen guaranteed a place to live on campus?			
What are the college's most popular majors?			
How much does the college cost?			
What type of financial aid is available?			
What kind of sports programs and clubs are offered at the college?			
I would like to go to this college because:			

- Students participating in the **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)** at Manhattanville College got a head start on Grade 8 work in math and science. In addition, day trips to sites such as the Maritime Museum were planned.
- Three extremely lucky students were selected as recipients of clcu's summer scholarship program. Sherin Thomas spent three weeks studying law at the Emma Willard School in Troy, NY; Corinna Walker became an expert in Web design and the creation of "funky" fashions at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY; and Kevin Outlaw worked on perfecting his athletic skills at Nyack College in Nyack, NY.

► **SUNY Purchase College Trip**

April 6, 2006

Where: SUNY Purchase

Who: 68 Grade 7 NYGEAR UP students, 6 parents, 6 NYGEAR UP teachers, and 10 college guides

Why: To introduce NYGEAR UP students to a college campus; to have students learn about college life from college students; and to attend a theatre performance especially created for middle school students.

Agenda:

- On April 26, 2006, NYGEAR UP students spent an exciting day at SUNY Purchase College. They were treated to an informative tour of the campus, lunch, and a performance of *SeeSaw*, put on by the Green Thumb Theatre. *SeeSaw*, a play written for young people, is about four ordinary kids coping with the ups and downs of their lives. The production helped students examine the messages and



Kate Kelly leads Grade 7 Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP students in a Time Management/Study Skills workshop presented by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu).

influences from pop culture (violence, body image, materialism) and how these affect the way they interact with their peers and their parents. The play focused on self-esteem, fitting in, and "doing the right thing." *SeeSaw* also examined bullying behaviors, from the physical to the emotional. Using actors and an array of puppets, *SeeSaw* explored the shifting nature of relationships, the value and importance of friendships, and focused on the creative mind and imagination as a crucial part of learning and growing.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: The Green Thumb Theatre

Overwhelmingly, the students were very impressed with the fact that SUNY Purchase has its own newspaper and television station, and that college students have to be responsible and get to classes on time, because there are no bells.

"The play made me feel grown up and taught me not to judge people until you really get to know them."

"The play made me feel not alone, because I once was a bully like Adam, but just like him, I changed."

"The message from the play was that people can change their attitudes, so you really need to give everyone a chance."

– Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP Grade 7 students' reflections on the play SeeSaw



Grade 7 Mark Twain MS Yonkers Public Schools NYGEAR UP students prepare to welcome college representatives to their spring college fair.

GEAR UP I Highlights and Accomplishments.

City University of New York (CUNY) Consortium

► CUNY NYGEAR UP Alumni Reunion
June 8, 2006

Where: CUNY Hunter College

Who: 80 alumni and guests, including 68 students, 6 guests (family and friends), 2 former staff members, and 3 current staff members

Why: The reunion was our closing/ culminating event for the CUNY NYGEAR UP program and a reunion for NYGEAR UP alumni who either had just finished their first year of college or were on their way to college in the fall.

Agenda:

- Participants shared college experiences and had the opportunity to see former classmates.
- The evening started with GEAR UP Bingo, an ice breaker activity where each student walked through the room seeking other students who had shared similar first year experiences in 24 categories.
- During a barbeque dinner, students took turns sharing a "lesson learned" or a college experience with the group.

Speakers/Leaders/Special Guests: Event leaders were Lead Case Manager Rosa Cruz-Cordero, and Case Managers Judith Vargas and Ayesha Wilkins.

This event was effective because it gave the students an opportunity to come together, share experiences, and learn from one another.

"NYGEAR UP has helped me beyond a point where words can truly express. The June 8 event, although nostalgic, was the perfect good-bye. We joined together to share our experiences and to wish each other well for the last time, all the while held strongly by a sense of unity unlike any other."

— Johanna Sanchez, former George Washington Campus NYGEAR UP CUNY Consortium cohort member; she is currently attending CUNY Hunter College and transferring to Cornell University next semester.

Resources.

Resources for Mentors and Counselors

FSA for Counselors

www.fsa4schools.ed.gov/counselors
Provides information on federal student aid for middle and high school counselors, including access to publications, announcements, training information, and ways to promote college access.

FSA Pubs

www.FSAPubs.org
Order all federal student aid publications, in single or bulk orders at this site.

Fathers Matter!

www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/fathers
Offers a kit and strategies to aid educators and others who want to increase family involvement in education.

IFAP (Information for Financial Aid Professionals)

www.ifap.ed.gov
A library of information on federal student aid, designed for college financial aid administrators and also useful to high school counselors, GEAR UP staff, and others advising students about financial aid.

Resources for Parents and Guardians

Resources on Preparing for College

For Latino/Hispanic-American Families

www.yesican.gov
www.yosipuedo.gov
A bilingual site with information for parents on how to prepare their children for college. Latino college students, high school students, and parents can also get more information and order free publications at www.chciyouth.org.

Helping Your Child with Homework

www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/index.html
Site in English and Spanish with tips on helping children with their studies.

Homework Survival Guide for Parents

www.naspweb.org/center/parents/parents_homework.html
Advice for parents who want to help their children with homework.

Preparing Your Child for College

www.ed.gov/pubs/Prepare/Index.html
Information on college life, courses, careers, and financial aid.

Parent's Guide to Grades 3-8 Testing

www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/parentguide/home.htm
A guide to the Grades 3-8 testing programs in English, language arts, and mathematics. Includes FAQs, sample questions, and test preparation tips.

2006-2007 State Assessments Test Administration Dates

www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/schedules/ele06-07dates.htm
Elementary- and Intermediate-level test dates.
www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/sched.html
High School-level test dates.

Resources on Paying for College

FastWeb

www.fastweb.com
A search tool that leads to information on over 600,000 scholarships.

Managing the Price of College

www.ed.gov/pubs/collegecosts
Advice for families in various income groups on how to pay for college.

College Savings Plans Network

www.collegesavings.org
Information about state savings and prepaid tuition plans.

Sources: *Counselors and Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid*, 2006-07, U.S. Department of Education
<http://ifap.ed.gov/chandbooks/attachments/0506CMH.pdf>
Jump Start Your Education, Copyright © 2005 by American Council on Education.
www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Jump_Start_Tool_Kit

Student-Led Conferences: A Growing Trend (selected excerpts)

By Sharon Cromwell
Education World®
Copyright © 2005 Education World
http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin112.shtml
Accessed on July 28, 2006.

For years parent-teacher conferences have been the primary means of parent-teacher communication. But now, many schools are trying something new — student-led conferences that communicate not only how a student's doing but also why.

Parent-teacher conferences — we all know how they go. Parents troop into classrooms to talk with teachers about their children's progress in school. Often, the process feels rushed, and parents leave feeling vaguely dissatisfied, as if they didn't really get what they came for.

For years that process has been the norm, but now it is changing. In more and more schools, students are leading conferences, and, overall, the word is that they're doing a fine job.

Many teachers themselves speak enthusiastically of the advantages of student-led conferences over teacher-led ones. "We found the [student-led] conferences most beneficial," said Keith Eddinger of the Marcus Whitman Middle School

in Rushville, New York. "From a teacher's perspective, we were able to get a better picture of each child. It forced us to sit down with each student and review strengths and weaknesses. This conversation often told us the students learned more than perhaps we had measured through conventional assessments."

Eddinger added, "Our post-conference reviews with parents and students were overwhelmingly positive."

Dick Philips of C. L. Jones Middle School in Minden, Nebraska, said, "Most parents listened to their child. It was interesting listening to [children] explain low grades to their parents. It did open the lines of communication."

"Several parents really liked it because it gave them an opportunity to see their child's work," said Sue Yant, another staff member. Yet "some [parents] said they hoped we [would hold] the traditional conference once a year."

STUDENT PREPARATION

"The format is important, but I believe the success of a student-led conference is most determined by how well students are prepared," wrote Laura Hayden, a seventh-grade communications teacher at

Derby Middle School in Derby, Kansas, in "Letting Students Lead Parent Conferences," an article published by the National Association of Elementary School Principals in *Middle Matters*.

The conference format at Hayden's school had students show parents some of their work and explain their grades in a student-led conference. Each team could conduct conferences a bit differently. Hayden's team used an open house arrangement in which students and parents visited all team members' classrooms, but other teams held the entire conference in one classroom.

The significance of format aside, Hayden focused her students on preparation. At the beginning of the school year, she had students set up a binder to contain a portfolio as well as graded work. She explained that students had to keep their binders orderly because they would use them to lead their conferences.

A week before the conferences, Hayden's team sent home a letter informing parents of the conference and the fact that their child would lead it. About three days before conferences, she had students prepare portfolios of their work to date, including a special project, a



Educators from Albany CSD and Rome CSD gather for a tour of St. John's University during cJcu's 2006 College Tour for Educators, July 16 - 19, 2006.



Educators from Albany CSD and Rome CSD gather for a tour of Barnard College during *clcu's 2006 College Tour for Educators*, July 16 - 19, 2006.

quiz, a homework assignment, and one assignment from which they felt they had learned the most. Students also wrote a reflection on their grades and study habits. They set goals for the next semester and organized their graded work section.

The day before conferences, teachers role-played, pretending to be the student, with the student playing the teacher or the parent. Teachers modeled, for example, how to explain a poor grade to parents, and they gave students a checklist of what to cover in the conference.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Educators acknowledge that there are disadvantages as well as advantages to student-led conferences. Although parent attendance seems higher for student-led conferences than for teacher-led ones, a parent's failure to attend a student-led conference leads to a great deal of disappointment for a student who has worked hard to prepare.

Another disadvantage is that some parents want to spend more time with their child's teacher, receiving his or her viewpoint. Nearly all schools with student-led conferences will let parents make separate appointments to confer with teachers.

But the advantages, say most teachers who have participated in student-led conferences, outweigh the downside. Student

accountability is mentioned again and again by educators as a plus for student-led conferences. Another plus is the way even a struggling student can produce something positive for a conference, an art project or an essay, perhaps, that wouldn't show up in a report card grade. Overall, talks with educators indicate, student-led conferences are a growing trend.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (Updated 2005)

Student-Led Parent Conferences

www.idahomiddlelevel.org/studentled%20conf.htm

Tina Bonnett, author of A Guide to Implementing Student-Led Parent Conferences, provides an outline and guidelines for setting up conferences in this format.



Educators from Albany CSD and Rome CSD enjoy lunch while engaging in discussion at *The New School* during *clcu's 2006 College Tour for Educators*, July 16 - 19, 2006.

Student-Led Conferences

www.phoenix.k12.or.us/tms/slc
These session handouts helped guide the teachers at Talent Middle School (Talent, Oregon) as they worked with student-led conferences.

The Highs and Lows of Parent-Teacher Conferences

www.middleweb.com/CSLV2TchrConf.html
This article from "Changing Schools in Louisville" examines student participation in conferences. Tips for making conferences effective for all participants are included. Follow the links to "Parent Conference TIPS for Teachers."

Student-Led Conferences Interdisciplinary Project

<http://mathforum.org/alexandre/frisbie/coyote/interdisciplinary6.html>
This site describes a detailed plan for student-led conferences at Frisbie Middle School in Rialto, California.

"I'm going to work hard and do what I need to do so I can go to college too!"

– Grade 7 Albany CSD Myers MS NYGEAR UP student

Books

A School-Wide Approach to Student-Led Conferences: A Practitioner's Guide
By Patti Kinney, Mary Beth Munroe, Pam Sessions; National Middle School Association, June 2000 (paperback).

Student-Led Parent Conferences
By Linda Pierce-Picciozzo; Scholastic, Inc., November 1996 (paperback).

Student-Led Conferencing Using Showcase Portfolios
By Barbara Benson and Susan Barnett; Corwin Press, Inc., December 1998 (paperback).

Engaging Professionals.

On April 24 – 25, 2006, GEAR UP staff, mentors, tutors, teachers and parents of GEAR UP students from around the state met at the Hampton Inn in downtown Albany for NYGEAR UP Sector Partner the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities' (clcu) annual Professional Development Workshop (PDW). The PDW welcomed attendees from the following sites and Sector partners: Albany CSD, SUNY Binghamton University, Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College, College Board, CUNY Medgar Evers, Dowling College, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rome CSD, St. John's University, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Sector, Syracuse University, and Yonkers Public Schools. Delilah Reyes, Director of NYGEAR UP, Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), also attended and held a Question & Answer session on Monday afternoon.

On Monday, April 24, participants rotated through four roundtable discussions, each facilitated by an expert on the discussion topic. School counselor and former SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP tutor Marieke Kearns led a session entitled "Effectively engage students and parents." Ms. Kearns offered a "Quick Tip Guide" to

improving parent and student involvement in the GEAR UP program (see page 13 for Guide).

Yvette Morgan, St. John's University GEAR UP Co-Director, drew from her experiences during the 1999 – 2005 GEAR UP I grant cycle to share successful ideas, events, and programs in her session called "Design and implement successful programming."

The third roundtable topic broached the subject of how to engage students in education. CUNY Medgar Evers College GEAR UP Program Liaison, Kali Gairy, led the discussion and shared his experiences on helping most at-risk students achieve success.

And finally, Dianne Spang, Rochester Institute of Technology GEAR UP Director, addressed the importance of involving area businesses and community based-organizations in a GEAR UP partnership during her session called "Establish and maintain strong, collaborative partnerships."

During lunch, the keynote speaker, clcu President Abraham Lackman, highlighted legislative initiatives and underscored the importance of math and science in preparation for college and future career paths.

The day ended with a tour of Union College in Schenectady.

"I thought that the pace and variety of topics and speakers kept the workshop fresh and engaging."

"It was great. I could have spent 3 days because it was so worthwhile."

"I love attending clcu trainings. The packets are well organized and the information is great!"

"These workshops are very helpful. Even when I am listening to something that I have gone through, I manage to get some ideas from the new kids on the block. Thank you for all your hard work – we appreciate it!"

"Thank you for an exciting and fruitful, educational and pleasant 2 days."

– Comments from clcu's April 24 – 25, 2006 Professional Development Workshop participants

During an on-campus buffet dinner, participants met with Union's Dean of Students, Tom McEvoy, and Director of Financial Aid, Beth Post, to discuss transition to college and social and financial issues many students face on campus.

Tuesday, April 25, began with breakfast and a panel discussion on transition to college. Panelists included Jim Dease, Associate Vice President for Student Services, The Sage Colleges, and Mark Smith, Dean of Students, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Following a lively question and answer exchange with the panelists, participants headed to Saratoga Springs for a tour of Skidmore College. After the tour, attendees enjoyed lunch with Skidmore Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) students and staff.

Overall, the feedback gathered from participant evaluations was overwhelmingly positive. Look for the 2007 clcu Professional Development Workshop next May.



Ann Pangburn from Rome CSD NYGEAR UP, Idalmis Batista-Blair from SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP, and Silvia Ferlazzo from Albany CSD NYGEAR UP confer at clcu's Professional Development Workshop, April 24 - 25, 2006.

Effectively Engaging Students and Parents: A Quick Tip Guide.

By Marieke Kearns, School Counselor and former SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP Tutor; presented at cIcu's Professional Development Workshop, April 24, 2006.

Tips for engaging parents:

- ▶ Go to home sports games
- ▶ Send messages home about a good thing the student has done
- ▶ Call, call, call – keep the conversations in the positive
- ▶ Most schools have middle school (transition) meetings through the guidance/counseling office – ask to be involved in those meetings
- ▶ Provide refreshments – it works!
- ▶ Promote what is free

Tips for engaging students:

- ▶ Every student has something s/he is good at: find it, or help the student discover and nurture it
- ▶ See the student – listen to the student – hear the student. You have to discover where each student's interests lie and then connect those interests to school life and its importance
- ▶ Ask the school counselor for test anxiety reduction information – it can be an easy and fun project to do with students
- ▶ Know what after-school programs and services are available to your students and then make sure both students and parents are aware of the services

Tips for tutors:

- ▶ Make a positive connection with the school counselor
- ▶ Keep yourself separate from the school politics and potential biases of students and families
- ▶ Talk to your directors about ideas, materials and anything you could possibly want for your kids – the GEAR UP program has many connections!
- ▶ Know that what you do is vital, appreciated, and very well worth all your hard work.

Finding Your Way: The Transition to College.

Going from high school to college is an exciting and hopeful time in any young person's life. It's also a time when a student may feel uncertain and overwhelmed. Even students who are sure of their course and career choices and who are adept at life skills may feel homesick, lonely, or out of place at a college that once seemed like it would be the perfect fit.

These difficulties aren't unique. Being aware of such potential problems ahead of time can help you prepare for them. Other possible pitfalls may not be so obvious. The most attractive aspects of college life – the personal freedom, being on your own, meeting new people – can also lead to wasted time, overspending, missing classes, and excessive partying.

Anticipate the challenges of college life, and have faith in your ability to handle them. Here are some tips that should make your adjustment to college easier and more successful:

- ▶ **Make connections.** Find out if there are other students from your high school, town, or community who attend your college, and ask them about campus life. Ask the college for the name of your roommate or roommates, and contact them before you leave home.
- ▶ **Decide what to bring.** Get a list from the college of what first-year students will need and what they're not allowed to bring. Talk to your roommates about what they're bringing and items you might share.
- ▶ **Budget your money.** Plan your spending before you leave and keep track of it once you get to campus. Know how much you'll need for tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and such expenses as laundry, phone, recreation, and personal necessities. Allow for miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses. And pay your bills on time!

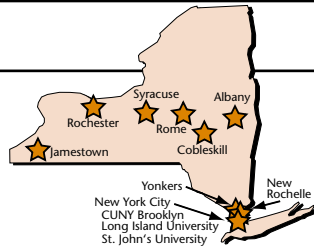
- ▶ **Explore your new surroundings.** Get to know your campus and surrounding community. Take a walk and find out where the student union, bookstore, faculty offices, library, gym, lecture halls, and cafeteria are. Check out your college's Web site for maps and directions ahead of time.
- ▶ **Master time management.** You'll have more free time in college than you did in high school, and more chances to let time slip away. Find out what your professors expect of you, and keep a record of dates for exams and assignment due dates. Keep to a schedule. Plan for the time you'll need to complete your work.
- ▶ **Study hard.** Your courses will be tougher, and even if you were an excellent student in high school, you're likely to be challenged by the work. Take good notes, and review them. Form a study group with other students in your classes or who share your major. If you fall behind, talk to your professors and ask for some help – perhaps tutoring, or ways to improve your work. If you want to drop a course, talk to your advisor first.
- ▶ **Get involved.** The best way to adjust to new surroundings is to get involved. Join an extracurricular sport or club or try to get a job on campus. You will meet other people on campus who share your interests!
- ▶ **Don't fear uncertainty.** Don't worry too much if you feel doubtful of your choices or don't know what you really want to study. Take the required courses and look for nonrequired ones that reflect your interests. College is about discovering who you are and what you do best.

Sources: *College Quick Tips*. (2005). Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. Albany, NY.
Zernicke, K. (April 23, 2006). *College, My Way. Education Life, New York Times*. [Online]. Retrieved June 2006, from www.nytimes.com.

GEAR UP II 2005-2011 Sites and Contacts.

NYGEAR UP

In 2005-2006, the NYGEAR UP cohorts were in Grade 7.



▶ Albany City School District

Contact: Lynette B. Smith
(518) 432-4190
fax (518) 465-6530
lsmith1@albany.k12.ny.us

Cohort size: 833

NYGEAR UP schools:
Academy Park, Hackett MS,
Harriet Myers MS, North Albany
Academy, Philip Livingston
Magnet Academy

▶ CUNY at Brooklyn College

Contact: Denise Paige
(718) 467-7400 x3200
dpaige81@earthlink.net

Cohort size: 325

NYGEAR UP schools:
HS for Democracy & Leadership,
HS for Human Rights, IS 291

▶ Long Island University/Brooklyn

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

Cohort size: 433

NYGEAR UP schools:
MS 113, MS 267

▶ New Rochelle City School District

Contact: Gregoria Feliciano
(914) 576-4378
fax (914) 632-2738
gfeliciano@nred.org

Cohort size: 383

NYGEAR UP schools:
Isaac E. Young MS

▶ Rochester Institute of Technology

Contact: Dianne Spang
(585) 475-2984
fax (585) 475-2888
dlsppop@rit.edu

Cohort size: 780

NYGEAR UP schools:
Frederick Douglass Preparatory
School

▶ Rome City School District

Contact: Ann Pangburn
(315) 338-6547
fax (315) 338-6514
apangbur@romecsd.org

Cohort size: 413

NYGEAR UP schools:
Strough MS

▶ St. John's University

Contact: Yvette Morgan
(718) 990-2532
fax (718) 990-2383
morgany@stjohns.edu

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Cohort size: 300

NYGEAR UP schools:
Albert Shanker School of Visual
and Performing Arts, Oliver
Wendell Holmes School

▶ SUNY Cobleskill

Contact: Linda Carpenter
(518) 255-5362
fax (518) 255-5365
lcarpenter3@yahoo.com

Cohort size: 480

NYGEAR UP schools:
Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain
CS, Jefferson CS, Laurens CS,
Middleburgh CS, Morris CS,
Owen D. Young CS, Richfield
Springs CS, St. Johnsville CS,
South Kortright CS, Stamford CS

▶ SUNY Jamestown Community College

Contact: Faith Graham
(716) 338-1101
fax (716) 338-1454
faithgraham@mail.sunyjcc.com

Cohort size: 562

NYGEAR UP schools:
Dunkirk MS, Jefferson MS,
Persell MS, Washington MS

▶ Syracuse University

Contact: Lena Kochian
(315) 443-1166
fax (315) 443-3976
lkochian@syr.edu

Cohort size: 1,718

NYGEAR UP schools:
Beard School, Blodgett MS,
Clary Magnet School, Danforth
Magnet School, Frazer MS,
Grant MS, Huntington MS,
Levy MS, Lincoln MS, Roberts
MS, Shea MS

▶ Yonkers City School District

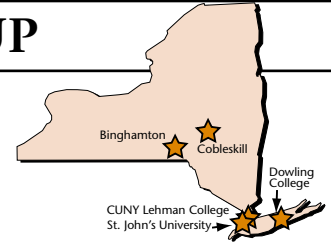
Contact: Fern Eisgrub
(914) 376-8213
fax (914) 423-0518
feisgrub@yonkerspublicschools.org

Cohort size: 934

NYGEAR UP schools:
Commerce MS, Emerson MS,
Mark Twain MS, Museum MS,
Yonkers MS

Federal GEAR UP

2005-2006 Partnerships.



▶ Bronx Institute GEAR UP Network at CUNY Lehman College

Contact: Elsie Padilla
(718) 960-5782
fax (718) 960-7219
elsie.padilla-ayala@lehman.cuny.edu

Grade: 7
Cohort size: 3,399

GEAR UP schools:
Bronx School for Law,
Government and Justice,
Community School for
Technology, Dr. Roland
Patterson MS 229, Elizabeth
Barrett-Browning MS 399,
Frederick Douglass Academy,
Information and Network
Technology School, Isobel
Rooney MS 80, Jonas Bronck
Academy, Leadership and
Journalism MS 244, Marie Curie
School for Nursing and
Medicine, Mott Hall III MS 118,
MS 390, MS 391, Riverdale/
Kingsbridge Academy, Thomas
C. Giordano MS 45, Urban
Assembly School for Applied
Math and Science, West Bronx
Academy for the Future, William
W. Niles MS 118

▶ Dowling College

Contact: Rhoda Miller
(631) 244-3335
fax (631) 244-5088
millerr@dowling.edu

Grade: 7
Cohort size: 161

GEAR UP schools:
Milton L. Olive MS

▶ St. John's University

Contact: Yvette Morgan
(718) 990-2532
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morgany@stjohns.edu

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Grade: 7
Cohort size: 350

GEAR UP schools:
Albert Shanker School of Visual
and Performing Arts, Long
Island HS, Oliver Wendell
Holmes School

▶ SUNY Binghamton University

Contact: Idalmis Batista-Blair
(607) 777-2468
fax (607) 777-4187
ibatista@binghamton.edu

Grades: 6 and 7
Cohort size: 950

GEAR UP schools:
East MS, West MS

▶ SUNY Cobleskill

Contact: Paul Turner
(518) 255-5360
fax (518) 255-5365
liberty@cobleskill.edu

Grade: 6
Cohort size: 480

GEAR UP schools:
Charlotte Valley CS, Fort Plain
CS, Jefferson CS, Laurens CS,
Middleburgh CS, Morris CS,
Owen D. Young CS, Richfield
Springs CS, St. Johnsville CS,
South Kortright CS, Stamford CS



Maureen Nash and Michelle Skibitski from Rome CSD, and Frank Brightwell discuss some of the myriad higher education opportunities in New York City during clcu's 2006 College Tour for Educators, July 16 - 19, 2006.

GEAR UP I 1999-2005 (some extended through 2006) Sites and Contacts.

NYGEAR UP

► Copiague Public Schools

NYGEAR UP schools:
Walter G. O'Connell Copague HS

► CUNY Consortium

Contact: Donna Linderman
(646) 344-7352
fax (646) 344-7329
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NYGEAR UP schools:
Beach Channel HS, Brandeis HS, Bushwick HS, Christopher Columbus HS, Curtis HS, DeWitt Clinton HS, Evander Childs HS, Far Rockaway HS, George Washington HS, Harry S. Truman HS, HS for Fashion Industries, HS for Global Studies, HS for Telecommunications, Arts, and Technology, Manhattan Center for Science and Math, New Dorp HS, Norman Thomas HS, Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School, School for International Studies, Vanguard HS, Washington Irving HS

► Long Island University/Brooklyn

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

NYGEAR UP schools:
Benjamin Banneker Academy, Science Skills Center

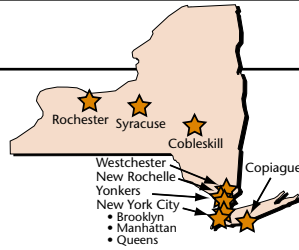
► New Rochelle City School District

Contact: Michael Kenny
(914) 576-4542
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mkenny@newrochelle.k12.ny.us
NYGEAR UP schools:
New Rochelle HS

► Rochester Institute of Technology

Contact: Dianne Spang
(585) 475-2984
fax (585) 475-2888
dlsop@rit.edu

NYGEAR UP schools:
East HS, Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center, Wilson Magnet HS



► St. John's University

Contact: Yvette Morgan
(718) 990-2532
fax (718) 990-2383
morgany@stjohns.edu

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

NYGEAR UP schools:
Long Island City HS and 32 other high schools

► SUNY Cobleskill

Contact: Paul Turner
(518) 255-5360
fax (518) 255-5365
liberty@cobleskill.edu

Contact: Linda Carpenter
(518) 255-5362
lcarpenter3@yahoo.com

NYGEAR UP schools:
Charlotte Valley CS, Jefferson CS, Laurens Central CS, Morris CS, Owen D. Young CS, South Kortright CS, St. Johnsville CS

► SUNY Westchester Community College

Contact: Anita Cook
(914) 606-6723
anita.cook@sunywcc.edu

NYGEAR UP schools:
Peekskill HS, Port Chester HS

► Syracuse University

Contact: Lena Kochian
(315) 443-1166
fax (315) 443-3976
lkochian@syr.edu

NYGEAR UP schools:
Fowler HS, Henninger HS

► Yonkers Public Schools

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

NYGEAR UP schools:
Gorton HS, Lincoln HS, Roosevelt HS, Saunders HS, Yonkers HS

Federal GEAR UP

► Adelphi University

GEAR UP schools:
Hempstead HS, Roosevelt HS

► Bronx Institute at Lehman College

Contact: Kevin Anthony
(718) 960-8404
fax (718) 960-7244
kevin.anthony@lehman.cuny.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Adlai Stevenson HS, Alfred E. Smith HS, DeWitt Clinton HS, Grace H. Dodge HS, Harry S. Truman HS, Herbert Lehman HS, John F. Kennedy HS, Walton HS

► CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

Contact: Laurel Coleman
(212) 220-8053
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lcoleman@bmcc.cuny.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Louis D. Brandeis HS

► CUNY College of Staten Island

Contact: Dr. James Sanders
(718) 982-2325
fax (718) 982-2327
sanders@mail.csi.cuny.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Curtis HS, Dreyfus Intermediate School, New Dorp HS

► CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Contact: Hazel Carter
(718) 482-5046
fax (718) 609-2048
hazelc@lagcc.cuny.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Flushing HS, John Bowne HS, Newtown HS

► CUNY Medgar Evers College

Contact: Carolyn Beck
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cbeck@mec.cuny.edu

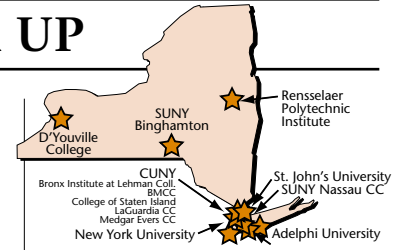
GEAR UP schools:
Boys & Girls HS, Clara Barton HS, George W. Wingate HS, Intermediate School 55, Middle College HS, Middle School 394

► D'Youville College

Contact: Dottie Bellanti
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bellanti@dyc.edu

Cohort: Students in grades 10, 11, fall 2006

GEAR UP schools:
Enterprise Charter HS, Grover Cleveland HS, Hutchinson Central HS, Lafayette HS, McKinley HS, Middle College HS, PS #18, PS #71, Riverside HS, South Park HS



► New York University

GEAR UP schools:
Choir Academy of Harlem

► Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Contact: Joan Kruegler
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GEAR UP schools:
Cohoes HS, Heatly HS, Lansingburgh HS, Rensselaer HS, Troy HS, Watervliet HS

► St. John's University

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GEAR UP schools:
Long Island City HS and 32 other high schools

► SUNY Binghamton University

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ibatista@binghamton.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Binghamton HS, East MS, West MS

► SUNY Nassau Community College

Contact: Marilyn Monroe
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monroem@ncc.edu

GEAR UP schools:
Westbury MS, Westbury HS

NYGEAR UP II Sectors and Partners.

► Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

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► Association of Proprietary Colleges

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► SUNY

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► College Board

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► NYS Financial Aid Administrators Association

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NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

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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.

NYGEAR UP 2006-2007 Events.

(as of August 2006)

September 2006

NYGEAR UP Orientation
Albany, NY
September 13 – 14, 2006

National College Access Network Conference
Orlando, FL
September 25 – 27, 2006

October 2006

HEOP Conference
Buffalo, NY
October 4 – 6, 2006

Paying for College Workshops:
New York Institute of Technology
October 14, 2006
Le Moyne College
October 25, 2006

College Information Day at Hudson Valley Community College
Troy, NY
October 25, 2006

NYSSCA Annual Conference
Bolton Landing, NY
October 27 – 28, 2006

November 2006

NYSFAAA Annual Conference
Lake Placid, NY
November 6 – 8, 2006

College Board Forum
San Diego, CA
November 9 – 12, 2006

NYGEAR UP Final Report
Due: November 30, 2006

February 2007

NCCEP Capacity-Building Workshop
Atlanta, GA
February 11 – 14, 2007

College Board Middle States Regional Forum
Baltimore, MD
February 14 – 16, 2007

March 2007

NYGEAR UP Annual Conference
Long Island, NY
March 26 – 28, 2007

NYGEAR UP Mid-Year Report
Due: March 31, 2007

April 2007

NYGEAR UP Federal Annual Performance Report
Due: April 1, 2007

May 2007

clcu Professional Development Workshop(s)
Location(s) and date(s) TBD

July 2007

NCCEP Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA
July 22 – 25, 2007

“I didn’t know you could do so many things at college.”

– Grade 7 SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP student

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