

Building a firm foundation.

One important goal of GEAR UP is to provide the services that can enrich the lives of all students while helping them to establish the skills required to succeed in middle school, high school, and college – the firm foundation they will need for the future.

For example, at Iona College last summer, NYGEAR UP students from the City School District of New Rochelle participated in a program designed to improve their writing, reading, and research skills. In the fall, St. John's University sponsored a "Getting the Word Out" press conference where students spoke about their GEAR UP experiences with the *New York Daily News*, NY1.com, and other media outlets. NYGEAR UP students served by CUNY Brooklyn College Community Partnership are engaged in creative activities after school and on Saturdays with artists at the Brooklyn College Art Lab. Dowling College offered its GEAR UP students intellectual stimulation and outings with trips to the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Fire Island National Seashore, and the Minskoff Theatre to see "The Lion King." The Discovery Institute of CUNY College of Staten Island treated Dreyfus MS students to a performance of multicultural folk music and a chance to experiment with dry ice, while 7th and 8th graders from SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP enjoyed a day-long visit to the Corning Museum of Glass.

In this issue, I invite you to read about these and many other activities offered by our GEAR UP programs in New York.

— 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 that awards grants to states or to local partnerships consisting of at least one college or university, at least one low-income middle school and one high school, and a minimum of two other partners (such as community organizations or businesses). Each GEAR UP partnership provides services to a cohort of students at high-need 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. Systemic change is the goal of this mix of direct and indirect programming and services.

In 2005, New York State received its second GEAR UP grant, called "NYGEAR UP II." This new grant followed on the heels of the 1999-2005 GEAR UP grant, and is again administered by NYSHESC. After a competitive process, NYSHESC awarded its NYGEAR UP funds to 11 community partnerships. In September 2005, these partnerships began providing services to a cohort of 7,285 students. These students, in grade 9 in academic year 2007-2008, will be followed through 2012 (contingent on federal funding).

The federal government also awarded six-year grants directly to five community partnerships in 2005. These "Federal GEAR UP" partnerships began providing services to more than 5,000 students in grades 6 or 7. In 2006-2007, three additional partnerships received six-year federal GEAR UP grants to serve an additional 4,600 students beginning 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 (cicu), the Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC), City University of New York (CUNY), State University of New York (SUNY), the 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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Sharing Ideas and Successes.

The NYGEAR UP Sites



City School District of Albany (CSDA)

► June 2007 clcu College Quest June 25 – 27, 2007

Location: Le Moyne College, Niagara University, Syracuse University, and University of Rochester

Participants: 16 students, 4 family members, 7 chaperones, 2 CSDA staff members, 2 clcu staff members

Purpose: To introduce students, families, and chaperones to college opportunities and make connections with campus officials, to learn about financial aid programs and college admissions requirements, and to experience college life. This tour was organized by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu), with the assistance of tour consultant Frank Brightwell.

Agenda:

Day 1

- Departed from Albany HS on charter bus
- Arrived at Le Moyne College; campus visit and lunch
- Arrived at Syracuse University; campus visit and dinner
- Arrived at Niagara University; welcome and check-in at residence hall

Day 2

- Breakfast at Niagara University (NU)
- Activities at Niagara University
 - Simulated college classes
 - Campus tour
 - Information session with NU admissions and financial aid staff for parents/guardians and chaperones
 - Lunch
 - Networking reception for families and chaperones
- Maid of the Mist boat tour of Niagara Falls
- Dinner at Niagara University
- Guided tour of New York State Power Vista
- Recreational time with pizza party

Day 3

- Breakfast at Niagara University
- Departed Niagara University
- Arrived at University of Rochester; campus visit and lunch
- Returned to Albany HS

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Lynette Smith, NYGEAR UP Project Coordinator, CSDA; Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President, Outreach and Financial Aid, clcu; Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services, clcu; Silvia Ferlazzo, NYGEAR UP Director and Director of Pupil Personnel Services, CSDA

This event was successful because the students were able to experience campus life and learn about college opportunities. They especially enjoyed staying in the residence hall at Niagara University.

► 2nd Annual Albany NYGEAR UP Kick-Off Dinner

October 4, 2007, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: Albany HS

Participants: 45 students, 60 family members, 20 CSDA staff, 20 NYGEAR UP partners

Purpose: To celebrate and highlight the NYGEAR UP program and inform students and families about NYGEAR UP services.

Agenda:

- 5:30 – 6:00 pm: Registration
- 6:00 – 6:30 pm: Superintendent's remarks, followed by student-created PowerPoint presentations about their 2007 April and June clcu College Quests
- 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Dinner
- 7:30 – 8:00 pm: Raffle/Visit NYGEAR UP partner booths (APC, clcu, NYSHESC, College Board, NYSFAAA, SEFCU, SUNY University at Albany)

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Eva C. Joseph, Superintendent of Schools, City School District of Albany; April and June 2007 clcu College Quest students

► Visit to Bryant & Stratton College October 26, 2007, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Bryant & Stratton College, Albany, NY

Participants: 43 students, 2 school guidance counselors, 2 NYGEAR UP staff

Purpose: To introduce students to a proprietary (for profit) college.

Agenda:

- 10:00 am: Left Albany HS for Bryant & Stratton College
- 10:30 – 11:30 am: Mock presentation at Bryant & Stratton College based on the TV program "The Apprentice"
- 11:30 am– 12:30 pm: Lunch and admissions presentation
- 12:30 pm: Returned to Albany HS

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Kelly Mooney, Associate Director of High School Relations, Bryant & Stratton College

The students discovered there are alternatives to a traditional four-year college. They enjoyed the presentation on how to sell a new brand of lemonade.

CUNY Brooklyn College Community Partnership (BCCP)

► College Experience Days October 2007 – January 2008

Location: CUNY Brooklyn College

Participants: 100 students, 2 counselors, 3 NYGEAR UP staff

Purpose: To introduce students to CUNY Brooklyn College and to BCCP's Brooklyn College Art Lab (BCAL). Students were invited to return to BCAL after school and on Saturdays, when BCAL is open to them and other students in the BCCP network.

Agenda:

- Campus tour
- Admissions information session
- Visited BCAL, with activities involving electronic music, art, and time in the recording studio

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Andre Davis, Teaching Artist, BCAL; Derek Rada, Admissions Recruiter, CUNY Brooklyn College; Quinton Spikener, Teaching Artist, BCAL

► 21st Century Community Learning Center After School Program September 2007 – January 2008

Location: Brooklyn College Art Lab, CUNY Brooklyn College

Participants: 300 students, 3 teaching artists, 6 NYGEAR UP staff

Purpose: To offer students exposure to the arts and an opportunity to be creative in a safe and congenial environment.

Agenda:

- Illustration/Cartooning activities
- Video/Multimedia activities
- Electronic music
- Table games
- Project Peace activities

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Clarisa James, Teaching Artist, Bushwick HS Campus; Ivan Katz, Teaching Artist, Bushwick HS Campus; Andres Martinez, Teaching Artist, Bushwick HS Campus

Additional Activities**► SUNY Workshops**

From November 2007 to January 2008, 200 students, 18 teachers, 2 counselors, and 4 NYGEAR UP staff participated in time management and study skills workshops led by Kwasi Fenteng, SUNY Administration Program Associate. Students learned how to manage their time, give priority to their schoolwork, and work more efficiently.

► Community Service Day

On December 17, 2007, 4 students, 1 counselor, and 2 NYGEAR UP staff collected toys and clothes for Health and Education Alternatives for Teens (HEAT), a facility operated by the SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Charles Shepherd, a case manager at HEAT, presented.

► Gang Awareness Workshops

In February 2008, 100 students met to talk about gangs, involvement with gangs, and the problems being in a gang can cause. Alternative activities and useful strategies to avoid pressure to join a gang were also discussed. Sukele Lewis, a case manager at HEAT, led the sessions.



St. John's University GEAR UP staff participate in a team-building exercise during a staff retreat on September 22, 2007.

Long Island University/Brooklyn

► Stress Management Techniques Workshop

August 1, 2007, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

Participants: 5 high school teachers working with the NYGEAR UP student cohort

Purpose: To aid teachers in managing and reducing their own stress levels and those of their students.

Agenda:

- Presentations, including sections on motivation, personal empowerment, and resiliency
- Presentation by Mzuri Hudson, consultant on stress management techniques
- Q&A
- Feedback

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Mzuri Hudson, Consultant, Empowerment Through Self Management and Adjunct Professor, LIU and CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Participants found this workshop very helpful. We plan to offer similar activities this summer.

► Domestic Violence Workshop

July 19, 2007, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

Participants: 5 high school teachers working with the NYGEAR UP student cohort

Purpose: To educate teachers about domestic violence issues that might affect their students. The Safe Homes Project, which began in 1976 as the Park Slope Safe Homes Project, offers crisis intervention, legal advocacy, counseling, emergency shelter, and other resources to victims of domestic violence.

Agenda:

- Presentations by speakers about domestic violence
- Q&A
- Feedback and discussion

The Domestic Violence Workshop was very informative, and the participants asked that a similar workshop be offered this coming summer to their colleagues.

► HIV/AIDS Workshop on Risk Reduction

July 13, 20, and 27, 2007

Location: Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

Participants: 5 9th grade teachers

Purpose: To inform teachers about health issues that may affect the families of their students. The workshop was facilitated by Church Avenue Merchants Block Association (CAMBA), a nonprofit agency that offers a number of health-related programs, and Life Force: Women Fighting AIDS, Inc., a group whose mission is reducing the incidence of AIDS and HIV and providing support services through the recruitment and training of community members to work with their peers.

Agenda:

- Presentations by speakers
- Discussed services provided by CAMBA and Life Force
- Feedback and evaluations

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Don Kayembe, CAMBA

This successful event sparked some very open discussion.

New Rochelle City School District

► Summer College Program to Improve Literacy Skills

July 7, 2007 – August 3, 2007

Location: Iona College and New Rochelle HS

Participants: 25 9th grade students, 3 certified teachers, 7 Iona College tutors

Purpose: To help students improve their writing, reading, computer, and research skills.

Agenda:

- Breakfast
- During 2 class sessions, students focused on writing a college admissions essay, taking the SAT, researching and writing a college paper, doing Internet research, setting goals, and learning how to use a computer effectively
- Lunch
- College workshop and recreation

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Certified English teachers, undergraduate Iona College students, 1 technology specialist, and representatives of Service, Education, Resources (SER) of Westchester, Inc.

There was a 98% student attendance rate. Students completed electronic evaluations and offered positive comments about the program and their experience on the Iona College campus. Every student received a personal flash drive to create electronic portfolios and also completed hard copies of their written work.

*New Rochelle
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New Rochelle
continued from page 3

► **NYGEAR UP Kick-Off**
October 27, 2007

Location: Linda Kelly Auditorium and Cafeteria, Fine Arts Wing, New Rochelle HS

Participants: About 100 9th grade students and their families, representatives from the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu), Academic Pathways, College of New Rochelle, Iona College, NYSHESC, SUNY, and TOMORROW Leaders, Inc.

Purpose: To launch the NYGEAR UP program at New Rochelle HS, and to review services with students and parents.

Agenda:

- Brunch
- Welcome by Dr. Fred Smith
- Presentations by sector and local partnerships, including Academic Pathways, clcu, Iona College, NYSHESC, Services, SER of Westchester, Inc., and TOMORROW Leaders, Inc.
- Raffle, with gift cards from clcu and calculators supplied by the Association of Proprietary Colleges awarded to 5 students
- PowerPoint presentation, created by Mary Carmen Perez, a NYGEAR UP scholar, with images of NYGEAR UP activities over the past two years

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Gregoria Feliciano, NYGEAR UP Program Director, New Rochelle; Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President, Outreach and Financial Aid, clcu; Lonnie Allgood, former NFL player, Dreams for Kids/Boys Leadership Academy; Angela Campbell, Academic Pathways; Colleen McPhail, Director of Funded Programs, Iona College; Gilma Michelle, SER of Westchester, Inc.; Pamela Minyard, Executive Director, TOMORROW Leaders, Inc.; Alice Roberson, NYGEAR UP Director, NYSHESC; Fred Smith, Assistant Superintendent, New Rochelle City School District

Anecdotal feedback about the event was very positive. The presenters reaffirmed their commitment to the success of the program and discussed with the students and parents the many GEAR UP opportunities available.

► **Sister to Sister International, Inc. Conference on Health Awareness**
September 15, 2007

Location: Westchester Marriott Tarrytown Hotel, Tarrytown, NY

Participants: 6 NYGEAR UP students (graduates of the Girls Leadership Academy), 1 NYGEAR UP director, 1 mentor

Purpose: To take students to a conference about health issues and offer them an opportunity to meet accomplished African-American women.

Agenda:

- Arrived at hotel
- General session with keynote speaker Susan L. Taylor
- Breakout sessions, with youth-centered workshops
- Lunch
- Panel discussions with successful women representing a number of fields, including publishing, theater, and law
- Networking
- Departed from hotel

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Pamela Minyard, Executive Director, TOMORROW Leaders, Inc.; Susan L. Taylor, Editor-in-Chief, *Essence Magazine*

The student evaluations were all positive. A mixture of activities, a diverse group of participants, and hands-on, thought-provoking workshops made for an emotional and uplifting experience.

Additional Activities

► **Women of Justice Conference**

In September, 2007, 8 NYGEAR UP students attended the Women of Justice Conference, an event sponsored by State Farm Insurance to honor prominent female attorneys in Westchester. The students met the honorees and enjoyed dinner.

Rochester Institute of Technology

► **2007 Computer Science Summer Work Program**
July 9 to August 17, 2007

Location: Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, RIT

Participants: 8 NYGEAR UP students, 3 program facilitators, 3 workshop presenters, 1 professor

Purpose: To prepare students for career exploration and employment. Students found out how to conduct themselves during an interview, write a résumé, and develop and practice work skills. They also learned how to assemble a computer and install software. Team building activities were a part of this 6-week program. At the end of the program, students were able to keep their computers if they met the program's expectations.

Agenda:

- Week 1: 9:00 am – Job Readiness (various speakers)
- Week 2: 9:00 am – Computer Building 1:00 pm – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

- Week 3: 9:00 am – Computer Building 1:00 pm – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- Week 4: 9:00 am – Effective Communication
- Week 5: 9:00 am – Effective Communication
- Week 6: Finish Computer Building Projects

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Pamela Brown-Grinion, President, Totally U-nique; Steve Everett, Personal Banker, HSBC; Ansi Fernandes, NYGEAR UP Staff Assistant, RIT; Larry Hill, Professor of Networking, Security, and Systems Administration, College of Information Technology, RIT; Beverly Moore, retired faculty member, Rochester City School District; Denise Smith-Oquendo, NYGEAR UP Program Coordinator, RIT; Dianne Spang, Director, Office of K-12 Partnerships, RIT

The 2007 Computer Science Summer Program offered NYGEAR UP students a chance to prepare for future careers. The students learned about interviewing techniques and résumé writing; they also developed individual and team skills by building their own computers. The program concluded with the students, as a team, offering presentations on all of the topics they covered.

► **RIT Open House**
October 8, 2007

Location: Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Participants: 11 9th grade students from Bioscience and Health Careers High School, East High School, Global Media and Arts High School, and International Finance and Economic Development Careers High School, 4 chaperones, 1 tour guide

Purpose: To introduce students to RIT, campus life, and the admissions process.

Agenda:

- 8:00 am: Bus pick-up at Rochester City School District
- 8:30 am: Students arrived at Rochester Institute of Technology; open house registration at Gordon Field House
- 9:00 am: Opening session
- 11:30 am: Academic meetings
- Noon: Special Group tour at Student Alumni Union
- 12:30 pm: Lunch at Gracie's (Grace Watson Hall)
- 1:30 pm: Residence hall tour
- 2:30 pm: Services and Activities Fair
- 3:00 pm: Admissions presentation at Student Alumni Union
- 3:30 pm: Students boarded bus at the George Eastman Building of RIT
- 4:00 pm: Returned to Rochester City School District

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Colleen Peterson, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, RIT; Dan Shelley, Assistant Vice President and Director of Undergraduate Admissions, RIT

Students completed evaluations and many expressed interest in visiting other colleges, too.

► **NYGEAR UP Kick Off Event**
November 27, 2007

Location: East High School, Rochester, NY

Participants: 20 9th grade students, families of students, 18 volunteers, 3 school administrators, 10 NYGEAR UP partners

Purpose: To introduce East HS students and families to NYGEAR UP in an entertaining atmosphere.

Agenda:

- 6:00 pm: Opening welcome and introductions
- 6:10 pm: Dinner and entertainment
- 6:35 pm: NYGEAR UP partner presentations
- 7:45 pm: Q&A and raffle

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Dianne Spang, Director, Office of K-12 Partnerships, RIT; Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President of Outreach and Financial Aid, clcu; Cynthia Farmer, NYGEAR UP Program Associate, NYSHESC; Barbara Hoerner, Financial Aid Staff, Enrollment Management and Career Services, RIT; Karen Iglesia, CEO and President, Iglesia Services, Inc.; Kate Oakley, NYGEAR UP Program Manager, Center for Youth Services; Beverly Pringle, Principal, East HS, Rochester City School District; Denise Smith-Oquendo, NYGEAR UP Program Coordinator, RIT; Shirley Sommers, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Education, Nazareth College

Rome City School District

► **SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) Workshop**
November 28, 2007

Location: Rome Free Academy, Rome, NY

Participants: 175 9th grade students, 6 SUNY MVCC representatives, 1 NYGEAR UP coordinator, 6 9th grade teachers

Purpose: To educate students about the benefits of college, preparing for college, and the various fields of study they could pursue at either SUNY MVCC or other colleges. These fields included business, technology, medicine and health care, human services, and hospitality.



Albany CSD NYGEAR UP students visit SUNY Hudson Valley Community College.

Agenda:

- 30-minute presentations on college majors and fields of study
- Students completed surveys rating the effectiveness of the presentation and how helpful it was in deciding on a major

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Michael Badolato, Enrollment Management Specialist/Student Services Counselor, SUNY MVCC; Denise Heater, Instructor, Science, Health & Professional Studies, SUNY Canton; Shane McGovern, Director of High School Programs, SUNY MVCC; Bruce Neil, Department Head/Assistant Professor, Hospitality, SUNY MVCC; Christopher Peterson, Instructor, Airframe and Powerplant, SUNY MVCC; Ashley Roach, Senior Account Clerk, SUNY MVCC

Students offered positive feedback. Many expressed a desire to sit in on other sessions in the future. They also wanted to learn more about various fields during college campus visits. Many asked for hands-on activities to help them gain more understanding of particular fields.

► **NYGEAR UP Advisory Meeting for School Counselors: College Planning Workshop**
December 6, 2007, Noon – 2:00 pm

Location: Library, Rome Free Academy

Participants: 1 NYGEAR UP coordinator; 1 director of curriculum, Rome City School District; 1 director of NYGEAR UP/NYSHESC; 1 director of financial aid, Wells College; 1 vice president of outreach and financial aid, clcu; 25 guidance counselors from Central New York/Syracuse/Utica

Purpose: To provide school guidance counselors with resources and knowledge to help their students plan for college. Attendees gained a better understanding of programs offered at many colleges, and also received an in-depth look at financial aid and the college acceptance process.

Agenda:

- Noon: Lunch and networking
- 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm: Presentation on basic steps in financial preparation for college and the resources offered by NYSHESC by Alice Roberson
- 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Presentation on overview of changes in the financial aid process by Cathy Patella from Wells College and NYSFAAA
- 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm: Presentation on college admissions process, with emphasis on private colleges and universities, by Susan Nesbitt Perez from clcu

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President, Outreach and Financial Aid, clcu; Cathy Patella, Director of Financial Aid, Wells College; Alice Roberson, NYGEAR UP Director, NYSHESC

The participants found the presentations helpful, and planned to share the information with their students. Counselors said that they would appreciate similar workshops in the future.

St. John's University

► **NYGEAR UP Pre-Summer Program**
June 4 – 8, 2007, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location: St. John's University, Queens, NY

Participants: 95 NYGEAR UP and federal GEAR UP students

Purpose: To prepare students for the transition from middle to high school.

Agenda:

- The week-long camp included:
- 10 Tips to Surviving High School
 - Creating Your College Portfolio
 - What's the Buzz/Alcohol 101
 - Who Am I? (Self-Esteem)

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St. John's University
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- Brain Challenge Game Show
- Understanding the Quadratic Equation

Forums with guest speakers included:

- Race and the Struggle for Education in American Schools
- The Power of the Media
- The Souls of Black Girls (video documentary)

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Gloria Browne-Marshall, Assistant Professor, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Todd Steven Burroughs, Lecturer, Communication Studies, Morgan State University; Daphne Valerius, McNair Scholar and Director, "Souls of Black Girls"

► **Back to School Bash**

October 20, 2007, 9:00 am to Noon

Location: Long Island City High School

Participants: 130 NYGEAR UP students and their families

Purpose: To reintroduce students to GEAR UP, to remind them of the program's services, and to distribute GEAR UP materials, registration forms, and school supplies.

Agenda:

- Welcome by Yvette Morgan
- Met the GEAR UP staff
- Viewed GEAR UP infomercials and public service announcements
- GEAR UP overview and upcoming events
- GEAR UP Student Recognition Awards
- Raffle (4 graphing calculators, courtesy of APC)
- Distributed GEAR UP materials and supplies

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Yvette Morgan, GEAR UP Co-Director, St. John's University

► **Youth Leadership Conference**

November 10, 2007

Location: St. John's University, Queens

Participants: More than 40 GEAR UP students from St. John's University, Dowling College, and CUNY MGI sites, college mentors, 1 teacher, 1 counselor, GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To help students identify leadership qualities in themselves and others.

Agenda:

- St. John's University campus tour
- "Edge to High School Success," with Jean Fedora
- Student panel discussion on overcoming obstacles
- Money Wise 411 (financial aid module, NYSHESC)
- Am I a leader? (discussion of leadership qualities and how to develop them)
- Drug and alcohol awareness
- Becoming a community leader
- Sorority STEP show

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Lez Edmond, Associate Professor of Psychology, St. John's University; Jean Fedora, motivational speaker, Making It Count; Louis E. Saavedra, Coordinator of Academic Service-Learning, St. John's University; members of Delta Sigma Theta and Sigma Gamma Rho sororities

Additional Activities

► **Freshman Orientation**

On August 29 and 30, 2007, GEAR UP students, families, teachers, school administrators, and guidance counselors received information about GEAR UP and all of the program's services.

► **Faculty Conference**

On August 31, 2007, Long Island City HS administrators and teachers received an overview of GEAR UP and Project CHANGE (Changing How Adolescents Nurture and Guide their Education), the curriculum that offers high school freshmen weekly lessons on the transition to high school, a commitment to learning, exploring college, and clarifying values.

► **GEAR UP Staff Retreat**

On September 22, 2007, 12 GEAR UP staff members discussed roles and responsibilities, how to create a multisensory learning environment, learned about Project CHANGE, and engaged in team building exercises.

► **"Getting the Word Out" Press Conference**

On October 14, 2007, students shared their GEAR UP experiences with various media outlets, among them NY1.com, the *New York Daily News*, and others. The GEAR UP project director presented information about the program's mission and outcomes to date.

► **Meet the Author**

On November 14, 2007, GEAR UP students and members of the SJU community heard Fumio Matsuo, a Japanese journalist who spent many years in the U.S., discuss his new book, *Democracy with a Gun*. Each student received a signed copy of the book.

► **Parent Association (PA) Meeting**

On November 20, 2007, GEAR UP students, their families, a parent coordinator, and the Parent Association president met to discuss the school report card, how to know if a child is using drugs, ESL, and technology classes provided by GEAR UP in collaboration with the 21st Century Leadership Program.



St. John's University GEAR UP students pose with Fumio Matsui, author of *Democracy with a Gun*, at a book signing on November 14, 2007.

SUNY Cobleskill

► **College Field Trips**

October 1, 23, 29, and 30, 2007;
November 2, 15, 16, and 28, 2007

Location: Hamilton College; Hartwick College; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI); St. Elizabeth College of Nursing; SUNY College at Oneonta; Syracuse University

Participants: 21 9th grade students, 2 tutors, 1 teacher (Hamilton College trip); 12 9th grade students, 1 tutor, 1 teacher (Hartwick College trip); 59 9th grade students, 8 adult chaperones, including NYGEAR UP staff and school staff (3 RPI trips); 5 9th grade students, 2 tutors, 1 teacher (St. Elizabeth College of Nursing trip); 21 9th grade students, 1 tutor, 1 teacher (SUNY College at Oneonta trip); 33 9th grade students, 2 tutors, 1 NYGEAR UP

director, 1 guidance counselor, 1 school staff (Syracuse University trip)

Purpose: To explore the diverse opportunities available at a number of colleges and universities.

Typical Agenda:

- Students arrive on campus
- Admissions presentation
- Campus tour
- Lunch on campus
- Students depart

Students enjoyed these trips and are forming opinions about what kinds of colleges they would like to attend.

► **Classroom College Quests**

September 24 and 26, 2007; October 22, 2007; November 19 and 20, 2007

Location: Fort Plain CS; Laurens CS; Richfield Springs CS; St. Johnsville CS; Stamford CS

Participants: 30 9th grade students, 1 teacher, 1 tutor (Stamford CS, September 24); 30 9th grade students, 1 guidance counselor, 1 tutor (St. Johnsville CS, September 26); 29 9th grade students, 2 teachers, 1 tutor (Laurens CS, October 22); 32 9th grade students, 2 tutors (Richfield Springs CS, November 19); 68 9th grade students, 1 tutor (Fort Plain CS, November 20)

Purpose: To familiarize students with the college search process and to help them begin to think about what they want in a college.

Sample Agenda:

- Presenter distributes materials
- Overview: Discussion about students' plans for college
- With "Choosing a College" worksheet as a guide, students think about what characteristics to consider when looking at colleges, among them: size/diversity of student body; location/distance from home; academic programs; campus life/extracurricular activities; surrounding community (urban, suburban, rural); and type of college or university (liberal arts, technical, religious affiliation, female only)
- The "Seven Clues to Help You Get Started" worksheet provides a springboard to a discussion about college choices
- A "Functional Skills" worksheet allows students an opportunity to assess the skills they have mastered and ones they need to work on
- With "A College Search" worksheet, students use the clcu publication *Your College Search* to become familiar with finding information about specific colleges and universities

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services, clcu

► **Trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame**

November 5 and 11, 2007

Location: The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, NY

Participants: 11 St. Johnsville CS 9th grade students, 1 teacher, 1 NYGEAR UP tutor (November 5); 72 9th grade Middleburgh CS and Stamford CS students, 10 teachers, 2 parents, 2 NYGEAR UP tutors

Purpose: To give students a day at The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, which offers 13 interactive educational modules that use baseball to explore subjects such as mathematics, geography, civil rights, women's history, economics, industrial technology, and communications.

Agenda:

- Arrived at Baseball Hall of Fame
- Students divided into groups
- Attended a workshop from 9:30 – 11:00 am
- Departed

The students, even those who are not baseball fans, loved it.

Additional Activities

► **Working with Challenging Students**

On December 7, 2007, 20 SUNY Cobleskill NYGEAR UP, GEAR UP, and Liberty Partnerships tutors and school staff learned about how to use behavioral management techniques to help students build on success. Tara Kim Russell, a behavioral specialist and special education teacher at Sand Lake CSD, presented. NYGEAR UP/HESC Program Associate Cynthia Farmer, Rome CSD NYGEAR UP Director Matt Holupko, and Matt Zarro of College Board also attended.

SUNY Jamestown Community College

► **College 101**

October 18, 2007, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Dunkirk HS, Dunkirk, NY

Participants: 23 NYGEAR UP students, 9 family members

Purpose: To provide students and families with guidance on the importance of college, what choices they should be making, and how to begin planning financially.

Agenda:

- "Why College?" presentation by Marilyn Zagora
- NYGEAR UP resources presentation by Faith Graham
- Career Path (SUNY JCC's Web-based college and career exploration tool) presentation by Nelson Garifi

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Nelson Garifi, Director of Marketing, SUNY JCC; Faith Graham, NYGEAR UP Coordinator, SUNY JCC; Laurie Vorp, Director of Financial Aid, SUNY JCC; Marilyn Zagora, Dean of Academic Affairs, SUNY JCC

This event provided an opportunity to meet with students and families in a familiar and convenient location. SUNY JCC and the staff at Dunkirk CS worked together to develop the agenda.

► **SUNY JCC College and Career Night**

October 23, 2007, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: SUNY JCC Student Union and Physical Education Complex

Participants: 49 NYGEAR UP students, 27 family members, 400 local non-NYGEAR UP attendees

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for students to begin considering careers, college, and financial planning for college.

Agenda:

- NYGEAR UP Kick-Off reception, with welcome and overview
- Presentation on the College Board's College Ed program for parents and guardians
- Students and families visited booths for information about NYGEAR UP services and other college-related materials and resources
- Sessions on Career Path, SUNY JCC's Web-based college and career exploration tool
- College and Career Fair

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Kiersten Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services, clcu; Nadine Austin, consultant, College Board; Nelson Garifi, Director of Marketing, SUNY JCC; Marilyn Zagora, Dean of Academic Affairs, SUNY JCC

More than 60 colleges and 60 career fields were represented at this event.

► **NYGEAR UP Football Team Visits to SUNY University at Buffalo**

October 27 and November 17, 2007

Location: UB Stadium, SUNY University at Buffalo

Participants: 23 football players from Dunkirk HS, 5 chaperones (October 27); 18 football players from Jamestown HS, 2 chaperones (November 17)

Purpose: To provide information about college athletics, the recruiting process, and how to prepare for both college athletics and academics.

SUNY Jamestown Community College continued on page 8

SUNY Jamestown Community College
continued from page 7

Agenda:

- Presentations on college athletics
- Tour of weight room
- Tour of locker rooms
- Observation of pre-game warm-ups
- Attend a game

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Turner Gill, Head Football Coach, and Paul Bittar, Director of Football Operations, SUNY University at Buffalo

Students saw a college campus from the perspective of an athlete. The students loved seeing the facilities and enjoyed standing on the football field. They also learned that college football requires more than being a star on a high school football team. Head Coach Turner Gill conveyed the importance of developing as a whole person.

Syracuse University

► **Summer Enrichment Transition Program**

July – August 2007

Location: Corcoran HS, Fowler HS, Henninger HS, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central, Nottingham HS

Participants: 550 8th grade NYGEAR UP students transitioning to 9th grade

Purpose: To introduce students to careers and colleges, while supporting their core academic work.

Agenda:

- Summer classes were offered at the high schools students were to attend in September 2007. Students were introduced to school policies and procedures, important staff members, and locations such as the main office, guidance office, cafeteria, gymnasium, locker areas, and nurse's office
- To learn about careers, students visited several businesses: Syracuse Hancock International Airport; Carpenters Union; C & S Engineers, Inc.; Everson Museum of Art; Fowler HS Food Services; Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, Inc.; Museum of Science and Technology; Onondaga Historical Association; Syracuse Post Standard; Rosamond Gifford Zoo; Rural Metro, Inc.; United States Post Office
- Visits to colleges, including: Le Moyne College, Onondaga Community College, and Syracuse University
- Presentations by guest speakers

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Speakers were invited from the following organizations: American Red Cross; Laboratory Alliance of Central New York, L.L.C.; M & T Bank; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Seneca Data, Inc.; Syracuse Federal Credit Union; Merit (a musical group); Syracuse Fire Department; and the United Radio Service

Although this program was designed to aid students during their transition to 9th grade, academic achievement was also an essential component. Overall, students earned passing grades in close to 80% of all courses taken. Almost 95% of the students indicated that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the career information that they received. 99% of parents felt that their children would attend college, but still felt that they do not know enough about college applications or financial aid.

► **GEAR UP Training**

October 30 and 31, 2007, and January 15, 2008

Location: University College Building at Syracuse University; Fowler HS

Participants: More than 100 9th grade teachers from Corcoran HS, Fowler HS, Henninger HS, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central, Nottingham HS

Purpose: To provide teachers with WorkKeys and Virtual College and Career Center (VCCC) training so that they are prepared to help students develop necessary career and employment skills.

Agenda:

- "Why Are We Here?"/Overview of WorkKeys
- Attendees heard a presentation on the Certificate of Workplace Competency program offered by Syracuse University
- Virtual College and Career Center training
- College Ed training

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Nadine Austin, Consultant, College Board; Andrea German-Willis, Assistant Director, WorkKeys Center, Syracuse University; Tom Hadlick, Executive Director, WorkKeys Center, Syracuse University

Teachers took away ideas that would help them integrate some of the activities in their daily lessons.

Additional Activities

► **Partnership for a Work-Ready Syracuse**

On October 19, 2007, to ensure that high school graduates are prepared for the workforce, GEAR UP presented students with opportunities to participate in a variety of career preparation activities, including WorkKeys training, presentations by speakers, VCCC training, job shadowing, and field trips.

► **NYSHESC Services**

On November 8, 2007, to better prepare students for the college search process, a representative from NYSHESC presented information to counselors about college admissions and financial aid.

► **GEAR UP Teacher/Counselor 30-Hour In-Service Course**

From January 2008 through May 2008, professional development is being offered to 30 GEAR UP teachers and school guidance counselors to help them introduce their students to the idea of college, preparing for college, and making the connection between academics and the workplace.

Yonkers City School District

► **NYGEAR UP Summer College Camp Program**

July 3 – 31, 2007

Location: Columbia University, Emma Willard School, Iona College, Manhattanville College, SUNY Purchase

Participants: 93 rising 9th grade NYGEAR UP students, 1 guidance counselor

Purpose: To provide academic enrichment in writing, mathematics, science, technology; expose students to college prep skills; and provide trips to museums and colleges.

Agenda:

- At Iona College: 5.5 hours a day for 20 days; activities included a writing workshop and college prep skills
- At Manhattanville College: 3.5 hours a day for 20 days; activities focused on preparation in math, science, engineering, and technology
- At SUNY Purchase: 5 days at an overnight technology camp
- At Columbia University: 7 hours a day for 10 days; technology camp
- Emma Willard School: 14 days at an overnight camp; writing workshop

“The best part of the Iona program was that I had a chance to spend time on a college campus and learn in college classrooms. I feel so much more confident now that I know how to write a cover letter for internships, how to dress for an interview, and how to write a proper thank-you letter.”

–Sicarah F., a Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP student

Responses to student surveys showed that these summer experiences were very rewarding. Approximately 84% of the students said that they gained college prep skills, and nearly 94% replied that they felt more prepared for 9th grade English, math, and science classes, while 80% of the students responded that they would like to attend a summer program again.

► **Visit to Yale University**
November 7 – 19, 2007 (6 trips)

Location: Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Participants: 180 9th grade students from Gorton HS, Lincoln HS, Riverside HS, Roosevelt HS, Saunders HS, and Yonkers HS; 24 9th grade teachers and guidance counselors, and chaperones from the Greyston Foundation (1 per trip)

Purpose: To give students a chance to visit a well-known college, meet with college students, and gather information on admission requirements. The Greyston Foundation, a Yonkers NYGEAR UP partner and an integrated network of businesses and nonprofit agencies that supports low-income families and helps them to become self-sufficient, was the sponsor of these trips.

Agenda:

- Arrived at Yale campus
- Toured campus with student representatives
- Lunch on campus
- Met with admissions counselors
- Departed



Dowling College GEAR UP students and mentors holding a captured German flag, part of a historical research project at Wyandanch Memorial HS.

“November 16, 2007, was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I was able to see the extraordinarily beautiful Yale University campus. Walking around the campus, meeting Yale students, especially one from Yonkers, and visiting the dorms, made me feel like I was actually a student attending Yale. Hopefully, Yale will be seeing me very soon....in about 3 years.”

–Sierra B., a Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP student from Riverside HS for Engineering and Design

Additional Activities

► **High School Information Night**

On October 9, 2007, 65 NYGEAR UP parents met with an assistant director of guidance, high school guidance counselors, the NYGEAR UP Project Director, a NYGEAR UP administrative assistant, and Leslie Williams of LifeSupport USA, an organization that supports strengthening connections between parents and children. The parents received information on high school graduation requirements, AP courses, and service learning opportunities available in the six Yonkers City School District high schools.

► **The Glass in My Throat – A Discussion with Brian R. White**

On October 11, 2007, Brian R. White, a graduate of Gorton HS who is now a successful businessman and the author of *The Glass in My Throat*, a book about his struggle to succeed, shared his story with 150 Gorton

HS NYGEAR UP students, offering tips on staying focused in high school and avoiding pitfalls.

► **Visit to Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY**

On October 24, 2007, to expose students to professional designers and artists, 25 Riverside HS for Engineering and Design NYGEAR UP students and 3 teachers toured the Museum of Art and Design.

► **Green Policy Task Force**

On November 7, 2007, school administrators, teachers and Yonkers City Council members introduced 40 students from Riverside HS for Engineering and Design to important environmental issues. Students were encouraged to participate in local green initiatives.

► **College Story Day**

On December 18, 2007, teachers at all six of the Yonkers high schools devoted the last 5 minutes of each class to sharing a story about their own college experiences with their students.

“clcu gave me the opportunity to attend a two-week creative writing workshop at the Emma Willard School this summer. I learned so many things to improve my writing skills, such as tips on how to make my stories more descriptive and interesting. This was a new experience for me and it was just wonderful.”

–Alexandra L., a Yonkers City School District NYGEAR UP student

Enrichment and Empowerment.

Federal GEAR UP Sites in New York State



Bronx Institute (BI) GEAR UP Network at CUNY Lehman College

► **Play/Writing Workshop**
November – December, 2007, every Tuesday for 6 weeks

Location: DeWitt Clinton HS, Classroom 148, Bronx, NY

Participants: 18 9th grade DeWitt Clinton HS GEAR UP students, 2 GEAR UP project associates

Purpose: To hone students' skills in the mechanics of writing and allow them to find their own voices as writers. Students examined the grammatical function of punctuation marks and explored how a writer's punctuation can affect a piece of writing and alter its voice and meaning.

Agenda:

- Session One: "Punctuation Plays"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Prop bag; handouts with lines of conversation
Objectives:
 - Use punctuation to make different meanings out of a sequence of words
 - Define speaker, audience, and occasion for the stories narrated
 - Punctuate lines of conversation according to their interpretation of the words
 - Work in groups to dramatize and present short scenes they have created
- Session Two: "What's the Point?"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Journals; copies of "I carry your heart with me" by e. e. cummings; copies of text excerpts for analysis of the period punctuation mark; copies of punctuation mark packets
Objectives:
 - Share and discuss goals and expectations for the upcoming workshop
 - Define the function of different punctuation marks
 - Analyze poetry and prose for how punctuation is used for stylistic and rhetorical effect

- Edit past work, using punctuation to create rhythm and meaning in their writing
- Session Three: "Reading/Revealing Ourselves"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Journals; copies of "Iblac" by e. e. cummings; copies of electronic communications by students; copies of *New York Times* articles about emoticons; copies of *A Dash of Style: The Art and Mastery of Punctuation* by Noah Lukeman
Objectives:
 - Conduct close reading, critical analysis, and interpretation of written texts
 - Study and acquire literary techniques of personification and voice
 - Build vocabulary related to emotions in order to express the meanings of punctuation marks
 - Engage in focused editing of one another's work and revise their own writing in multiple drafts
 - Share, listen, and respond constructively to one another's work
- Session Four: "Setting the Scene I"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Prop bag; journals; copies of "The Prize" by C. R. Kaczynski
Objectives:
 - Collectively narrate a story based upon a particular setting
 - Define the purpose of establishing a setting
 - Read and analyze the prose description of a setting in a scene
 - Discuss the elements of an effective setting
 - Set down the settings for their own scenes
- Session Five: "Setting the Scene II"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Journals; copies of "in time of daffodils" by e. e. cummings; copies of excerpt from *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange
Objectives:
 - Read one scene from a play and discuss the role and importance of dialogue, stage direction, character development, and conflict

- Write and act out scenes of a play with attention to dialogue, stage direction, character development, and conflict
- Engage in focused editing of one another's work and revise their own writing in multiple drafts
- Share, listen, and respond constructively to one another's work
- Session Six: "Playing It Out"
Class Time: 90 minutes
Materials: Journals; copies of "you shall above all things be glad and young" by e. e. cummings; video camera
Objectives:

- Stage dramatizations of scenes the students wrote
- Share, listen, and respond constructively to one another's work

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Jessica Fei, Project Associate, BI at CUNY Lehman College GEAR UP Network and designer of this workshop; Rachel Francois, Project Associate, BI at CUNY Lehman College GEAR UP Network

Students were engaged, enthusiastic, and committed to the Play/Writing Workshop. They were interested in the ways in which each new session creatively evolved from the previous sessions' activities. All students were given the space to share and interact with one another through their writing and their short dramaturgical demonstrations.

Additional Activities

► Professional Development Training: A Presenter's Guide to a Selection of clcu's Successful Workshops and Activities for Students and Families

On November 6 and 7, 2007, Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President of Outreach and Financial Aid at clcu and Kiersten Hall, clcu's Assistant Director of Outreach Program Services, conducted a professional development workshop at the Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College. The topics included presentations on Time Management, Study Skills, and Note Taking; Classroom College Quest; Opportunity Programs; Essay Writing; and What Every Family of a 9th Grade Student Needs to Know About College. Kmur Handeman, Admissions Associate at Long Island University, offered a presentation about the Higher Education Opportunity Program.

CUNY College of Staten Island (CSI)/Discovery Institute

► Dry Ice Experiment/Environmental Science Activity October 30, 2007

Location: CUNY CSI science laboratory

Participants: 100 7th grade students, 3 teachers

Purpose: To have students gain experience working with scientific tools in a college science lab.

Agenda:

- Presenters explained laboratory safety procedures
- Students learned how dry ice is made
- After finding out about the importance of dry ice and how to handle it, students observed and participated in experiments
- Toured campus

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Ivin Doctor, Teaching Scholars Program Coordinator, Discovery Institute

Students were amazed by the experiments, and enjoyed the lab. After the dry ice experiments, students toured the CUNY CSI campus, and were surprised at the size, scope, and variety of facilities there.

► Meet the Author of *From the Ghettos to the White House Hotel* November 13, 2007, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Dreyfus IS 49, P.O. Carter Auditorium, Staten Island, NY

Participants: 8 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Dreyfus IS 49, 25 family members, 2 teachers, and 1 principal of IS 49

Purpose: To introduce students and families to an author at a book club event that included a reading and book signing.

Agenda:

- Linda Hill, Principal of Dreyfus IS 49, introduced the author



CUNY CSI/Discovery Institute GEAR UP students experiment with dry ice on October 30, 2007.

- Reading and discussion of the writing process by Noel Linton Allen, author
- Q&A with author
- Book signing
- Raffle of *From the Ghettos to the White House Hotel*

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Noel Linton Allen, author; Veoletta Allen, wife of Noel Linton Allen; Linda Hill, Principal, Dreyfus IS 49

Noel Linton Allen engaged students and their parents in a discussion about the process of writing a book. Families and teachers expressed a desire for more programs to encourage an interest in reading and writing.

► Across the Americas November 13, 2007

Location: Center for the Arts, CUNY CSI

Participants: 150 6th grade students, 6 teachers

Purpose: To explore the diverse heritage of North and South America through multicultural folk music.

Agenda:

- Introduction to folk instruments, songs, dances, languages, and legends of the various cultures of North and South America
- Music performance, with students joining in to sing, dance, and play percussion instruments

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Roger Tincknell, musician and solo performer

The students enjoyed the program, which presented a multicultural musical journey through North and South America from Canada to Chile.

Additional Activities

► Meet and Greet for Parents at Dreyfus IS 49

On September 18, 2007, 54 Dreyfus IS 49 parents were introduced to GEAR UP and met school staff members as well as three members of the Discovery Institute staff (Sajdah Um'rani-Mansur, Peggy Travers, and Sherina Peterkin).

► Parents and Students Learning Together

On December 10, 11, and 12, 2007, students and families worked together to develop reading skills. Sessions were held at the Liberian Cultural Center, the Christian Faith Power Center, and the Kids Café. Staff members at all of these after-school GEAR UP sites, along with Discovery Institute staff and teaching scholars, participated in these sessions.

CUNY MGI GEAR UP

► CUNY Lehman College MGI/GEAR UP Summer Academy July 9 – 26, 2007, Monday through Thursday

Location: CUNY Lehman College classrooms, computer labs, student cafeteria, and APEX (recreation and gym facility); Bronx Zoo

Participants: 33 rising 7th and 8th grade students from South Bronx Preparatory, 20 family members, 2 teachers, 2 teaching assistants, 1 GEAR UP coordinator

Purpose: To provide the students with an opportunity to discover what it's like to be a college student by spending an extended period of time on a college campus. Students also learned about Web design basics, working with the Internet, digital photography, and working with photographs.

Agenda:

- 8:30 am: Students arrived and ate breakfast in the cafeteria
- 9:00 – 10:30 am: Class 1 (Web design and digital photography)
- 10:30 am – Noon: Class 2 (career exploration)
- Noon – 1:00 pm: Lunch in student cafeteria
- 1:00 – 2:15 pm: Recreation time (swimming and/or gym)

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Alison Gross, Tufts University student and teaching assistant, CUNY MGI GEAR UP; Cynthia Lopez, teacher, Bronx HS for Law, Government, and Justice; Angel Nunes, 6th and 7th grade advisor, CUNY MGI GEAR UP; Tony Nunes, Executive Chef, Waccabuc Country Club; Lorent Santos, teaching assistant, CUNY MGI GEAR UP

Students enjoyed being on the CUNY Lehman campus. They ate lunch every day with the college students and faculty in the cafeteria, and worked in actual college classrooms and computer labs. The students' finished product in the Web design class was phenomenal. Phone calls and e-mails from parents indicated that their children had a great time.

Additional Activities

► CCNY MGI/GEAR UP 2007 Summer Math Academy

From July 9 – 19, 2007, Monday through Thursday, the City College of New York MGI/GEAR UP program conducted its first Summer Math Academy on the CCNY campus to prepare students for the challenges of 8th grade math. Intense classroom group and individual instruction focused on algebra, geometry, and probability. Students received

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CUNY MGI GEAR UP continued from page 11

math journals and copies of *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure*, a math book that promotes mathematical concepts through writing and games. Students also went on two field trips to the Sony Wonder Technology Lab and the American Museum of Natural History.

► CUNY Hunter College MGI/GEAR UP Program/The Lifecycle of a Nike Gym Shoe

From July 9 – 19, 2007, 8th and 9th grade students from East Side Community School and the Henry Street School improved their literacy skills while exploring how Nike gym shoes are designed, manufactured, and advertised. Students learned basic interviewing techniques and conducted on-the-street interviews with the goal of learning where most T-shirts and shoes are made. They mapped out their results and blogged about their findings. Students also visited the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum to learn about responsible product design and met with activist and documentary filmmaker Jim Keady.

Dowling College

► A Summer of Learning July and August, 2007

Location: Atlantis Aquarium, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Cradle of Aviation Museum, Dowling College (Brookhaven Campus), Fire Island National Seashore, CUNY Hunter College, Minskoff Theatre, Wyandanch Memorial High School

Participants: 20 rising 9th grade students, families, Dowling College staff, BNL staff, Wyandanch HS staff, CUNY Hunter College student ambassadors

Purpose: To provide students with intellectually stimulating activities, to expose them to new settings and career options, and to offer a springboard for the transition from middle school to high school. Students who participated in at least one summer session were eligible to attend a Broadway play at the end of the summer.

Agenda:

- Session at Dowling College, with instruction in math, English language arts, environmental science, aviation, and robotics. Included bus transportation, lunch, and weekly field trips to Atlantis Aquarium, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Cradle of Aviation Museum, and Fire Island National Seashore. Students presented their essays and showcased their robotics projects at Dowling College on August 1, 2007.

- Session at BNL, where students did experiments involving DNA/genetics, nanotechnology, and GPS/telemetry guided by BNL science education staff. Lunch with the BNL scientists each day was included.
- Session at Wyandanch Memorial HS, where students produced 3 videos. These videos were shown at the high school's Open House on September 25, 2007, and each student producer received a DVD with all 3 videos.
- A trip to New York City included a visit to CUNY Hunter College that included an admissions video, a campus tour, and lunch. Students also attended a matinee of "The Lion King" on Broadway.

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Robert Gaffney, President, Dowling College; Rhoda Miller, GEAR UP Project Director and Dowling College Director of Student Support Services; Bruce Penn, digital technology teacher, Wyandanch Memorial HS

The students completed surveys at the end of each session and all reported having positive learning experiences. Project Director Rhoda Miller applauded the students for "making the right choices" that summer.

► Dowling College Students as Classroom Tutors 2007 – 2008 School Year

Location: Wyandanch Memorial High School, Wyandanch, NY

Participants: 7 education majors from Dowling College, the 9th grade GEAR UP cohort, and 10 Wyandanch Memorial HS faculty members

Purpose: To implement an extensive classroom "push-in" tutoring program at the high school, to increase the number of personnel available to help struggling students earn the grades needed to succeed in high school and be ready for college. Dowling College students, majoring in education at the field placement level, were recruited as tutors, and benefited from working in varied subject area classrooms with 9th grade students of varying abilities.

Agenda:

- August – September 2007: Recruited and hired tutors; priority given to students who had or were pursuing secondary education certification.
- Mid-October 2007: Tutors began classroom assignments.

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Classroom tutors and Dowling College students Rebecca Burkhead; Jenilee Casio; Erica Eddy; Amanda Labusohr; Kamilah McNeil; Evelyn Molina; Eve Robles

Principal Kester Hodge and his staff were pleased by the efforts of the tutors. The tutoring program has demonstrated that Dowling College and GEAR UP are working as partners to improve student performance. These extra resources will be provided to classroom teachers for the rest of the school year.

"Initial reports from the tutors and the high school faculty have been very positive. In fact, our tutors have served as an early warning system, alerting teachers, guidance staff, and GEAR UP personnel to struggling students so that we could intervene to help them. Some of our tutors have also attended departmental meetings and professional development seminars, and chaperoned college visits."

—Frank Pomata, Assistant Director, Dowling College GEAR UP

► Captured World War II German Banner Research Project 2007 – 2008 School Year

Location: Wyandanch Memorial HS Library

Participants: 1 GEAR UP classroom leader, 1 Dowling College student volunteer, 1 GEAR UP project director, 1 high school librarian, 6 9th grade GEAR UP students

Purpose: To expose students to hands-on historical research, through a captured Nazi banner from World War II. The banner, a family heirloom, was brought to a GEAR UP workshop called "Exploring Our Roots."

Agenda:

- A German flag, signed by members of the military, was brought to the first weekly meeting of the group and photographed
- Group prepared questions to be answered over the course of the project
- At each subsequent meeting, students discussed what they had learned about the flag and its history from the Internet, books, retired military personnel and other sources, guided by Rhoda Miller and Tyrone Rose

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Raina Cellini, student (education major), Dowling College; Rhoda Miller, GEAR UP Project Director and Dowling College Director of Student Support Services; Tyrone Rose, classroom aide and

leader, Wyandanch Memorial HS; Erika Wall, Librarian, Wyandanch Memorial HS; and Wyandanch Memorial HS students Jaleek Carter, Teshawn Christie, David Clayton, Erman Robinson, Amir Summers, Bernita Williams

A captured German flag was brought to a GEAR UP workshop, "Exploring Our Roots." Dr. Rhoda Miller saw that this banner had been signed by members of the military, presumably those who had captured it, and convinced the owner to allow the students to research its history. GEAR UP staff members look forward to working with the 9th grade social studies faculty to integrate some of this project's findings into their classroom discussions of World War II. The workshop allowed students to gain valuable research skills that will serve them well in high school and college.

St. John's University

See page 5.

SUNY Binghamton University

► Trip to the Corning Museum of Glass

July 13, 2007, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Location: Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

Participants: 37 7th grade and 38 8th grade SUNY Binghamton GEAR UP students, 4 GEAR UP staff, 7 Binghamton City School District teachers, 2 Binghamton City School District teaching assistants

Purpose: To reward students for their hard work and dedication to the 2007 GEAR UP Summer Service Learning Program, and to teach them about the art of glassmaking.

Agenda:

- 9:00 am: Departed from Binghamton HS
- 10:30 am: Arrived at Corning Museum of Glass
- 10:30 am – 10:50 am: Viewed a live hot glassmaking show
- 10:50 am – 11:45 am: Toured the Corning Museum of Glass
- 11:45 am – 12:15 pm: Ate lunch in the picnic area
- 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm: Students visited the gift shop and participated in interactive exhibits
- 1:00 pm: Departed from Corning Museum of Glass

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: John Cowden, Hot Glass Show Supervisor/Narrator, Corning

Museum of Glass; Eric Meek, Gaffer, Corning Museum of Glass; tour guides, Corning Museum of Glass

Students learned about glassmaking and had fun. Among their comments: "That was really cool!" "I can't believe this is made out of glass!" "The glass show was awesome!"

► College Day 2007

October 17, 2007

Location: Broome County Arena, Binghamton, NY

Participants: 200 East MS SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP 8th grade students, 15 East MS teachers, 2 guidance counselors, 5 GEAR UP college interns, 1 GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To offer students an opportunity to learn about colleges and universities around the country. College and university representatives provided information about the social, athletic, and academic opportunities offered. Students learned which courses they should take in high school, what test scores they would need, and about the college application process.

Agenda:

- Departed from East MS at 1:00 pm
- Toured College Day at Broome County Arena
- Met with representatives from various colleges and universities
- Left Broome County Arena at 2:15 pm

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: College and university representatives

Students gained valuable information that will enable them to start planning for college.

► United Health Services (UHS) Career Expo

October 22, 2007

Location: Wilson Regional Medical Center, Johnson City, NY

Participants: 20 East MS SUNY Binghamton University GEAR UP 8th grade students, 2 East MS school counselors, GEAR UP interns, GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To expose students to the numerous career opportunities in health care, such as nursing, behavioral health, physical therapy, pharmaceutical, and paramedical careers. Students also learned about the educational requirements for certification in various health care occupations and found out about scholarships and financial aid.

Agenda:

- Departed from East MS at 9:30 am
- Explored UHS Career Expo
- Departed from Wilson Regional Medical Center at 11:45 am

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: UHS staff

Students learned about various career opportunities in health care. Comments included: "It was a great trip!" "I want to be a pharmacist!" "I want to come back here again!"

SUNY Cobleskill

► SUNY Cobleskill Residential Summer Robotics Camp

July 8 – 12, 2007

Location: SUNY Cobleskill; SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, Cooperstown, NY; Clark Sports Center, Cooperstown, NY; Howe Caverns, Howe Cave, NY; Iroquois Indian Museum, Howe Cave, NY

Participants: 41 SUNY Binghamton University, Bronx Institute CUNY Lehman College, and SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP students, 1 family member, 2 teachers, 3 tutors, 4 GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To teach students basic principles of physics in a fun, hands-on setting, and to explore geology, aquatic biology, woodlands, and the history of Native Americans in early New York State.

Agenda:

- July 8: • Welcome and icebreakers
- July 9: • Robotics class
- Lunch
- Visited SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station on Otsego Lake
- Dinner
- Low ropes activities
- July 10: • Robotics class
- Lunch
- High ropes and rock wall at Clark Sports Center, Cooperstown, NY
- July 11: • Robotics class
- Lunch
- Visited Howe Caverns
- Visited Iroquois Indian Museum
- Dinner
- Low ropes activities
- July 12: • Robotics competition and awards ceremony
- Departed for home

SUNY Cobleskill continued on page 14



SUNY Cobleskill GEAR UP students sample the bottom of Otsego Lake during a visit to the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station.

SUNY Cobleskill
continued from page 13

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Jim DiLiberto, Adventure Director, Clark Sports Center; Cynthia Farmer, Program Associate, NYSHESC; Dave Gorman, technology teacher, Morris CSD; Mike Packard, technology teacher, Morris CSD; Alice Roberson, NYGEAR UP Director, NYSHESC; Sara Robertson, Director, Schoharie County Youth Bureau; Steve Tommasone, Program Associate, NYSHESC; Jim Varmosy, technology teacher, Middleburgh CSD

This event was successful because the students got to explore things that they would otherwise not have experienced. The city kids teamed up one-on-one with the rural kids, and they learned a lot about one another. Feedback was excellent.

▶ **Visit to Cornell University and Ithaca College**
September 24 and 27, 2007

Location: Cornell University and Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY; Wegmans, Ithaca, NY

Participants: 44 9th grade South Kortright CS and Jefferson CS students, 11 family members, 7 teachers, 4 GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To explore colleges and careers.

Agenda:

- Departed on charter bus from South Kortright CS (July 24) and Jefferson CS (July 27)
- Arrived at Cornell University
- Toured the Agriculture Quadrangle (Ag Quad), at the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University
- Presentation on SUNY admissions
- Tour of Cornell University campus by bus
- Lunch at Ithaca College
- Tour of Ithaca College
- Presentation on admissions and financial aid at Ithaca College
- Late afternoon pizza at Wegmans
- Departed for home

This trip to two of Central New York's colleges was a great success. The students were well prepared, and had good questions to ask. All learned that a lack of financial resources is not an insurmountable obstacle to going to college.

▶ **College Admissions and Financial Aid Nights**
Fall 2007, various evenings

Location: Fort Plain CS, St. Johnsville CS, Stamford CS

Participants: 53 9th grade students, 73 family members, 3 school counselors, 3 teachers, 5 GEAR UP staff

Purpose: To provide information on how students should prepare for post-secondary education. Financial aid and admissions procedures were discussed.

Agenda:

- 6:00 pm: Guests arrived and went through buffet line; dinner was provided by Brooks' House of BBQ, Oneonta, NY
- 6:30 – 7:45 pm: Presentation by guest speaker from the College Board
- 7:45 pm: Guests departed

Speakers/Leaders/Guests: Robert Hage, consultant, College Board

Feedback about these events was positive. About 50 percent of the families in the schools attended.

Syracuse University

See page 8.

Resources.

FOCUS ON PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Black Excel: The College Help Network

www.blackexcel.org/index.html

This useful portal for students of color includes links to information about scholarships for minorities, tours of historically black colleges, lists of summer enrichment programs for high school students, and internships.

Camino a la Universidad

www.luminafoundation.org/latinos/

Sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, this interactive Web site provides links to studies of institutions that serve Latinos, college readiness among Hispanic students, and educational opportunities for immigrants.

Center for Student Opportunity

www.csopportunity.org/

The Center for Student Opportunity is a nonprofit organization that promotes higher education opportunities for first-generation

college-bound students. This site offers links to an online national clearinghouse of college admissions information, counseling and outreach programs, and many other resources.

College Horizons

www.collegehorizons.org/

At this site, students can learn about College Horizons, a pre-college workshop for Native American students that offers a 5-day summer "crash course" on choosing a college, applying to college, and getting financial aid.

College Navigator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

This site allows students to explore and learn about different colleges and universities as they begin their college search. Students can refine their searches in order to narrow down options, build a list of colleges to compare, and pinpoint locations with an interactive map. Links are provided to nearly 7,000 colleges and universities in the U.S.

New York's Private Colleges and Universities

www.nycolleges.org/

This site, part of the Outreach Programs offered by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, has information about more than 100 independent, private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York state, including locations, information about financial aid, lists of academic programs, demographic information, and detailed profiles of each campus.

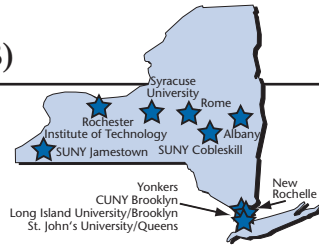
NYMentor

www.nymmentor.com/

This comprehensive online college and career planning guide is sponsored by NYSHESC. Students can log on, create an account, and find out about high school graduation requirements, college admission requirements, and financial aid, as well as use a student planner.

GEAR UP II 2005-2011/12 Sites and Contacts.

NYGEAR UP (9th grade in 2007-2008)



▶ Albany City School District

Contact: Lynette B. Smith
(518) 454-3987 x990
fax: (518) 453-9817
lsmith1@albany.k12.ny.us

Cohort size: 814

NYGEAR UP schools:
Abrookin Vocational Technical Center, Albany HS, Harriet Gibbons HS

▶ CUNY Brooklyn College Community Partnership

Contact: Diane Reiser
(718) 951-5015
fax (718) 951-5927
dreiser@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 440

NYGEAR UP schools:
Academy for Environmental Leadership, Academy of Urban Planning, Bushwick HS for Social Justice, HS for Youth and Community Development

▶ Long Island University/Brooklyn

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

Cohort size: 420

NYGEAR UP schools:
Benjamin Banneker Academy, Science Skills Center HS

▶ New Rochelle City School District

Contact: Gregoria Feliciano
(914) 576-4273
fax: (914) 576-4273
gfeliciano@nred.org

Cohort size: 383

NYGEAR UP schools:
New Rochelle HS

▶ Rochester Institute of Technology

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

Cohort size: 746

NYGEAR UP schools:
Bioscience and Health Career School at Franklin, East HS, Global Media Arts HS at Franklin, International Finance & Economic Development Career School at Franklin

▶ Rome City School District

Contact: Matt Holupko
(315) 334-7200
fax (315) 334-7285
mholupko@romecsd.org

Cohort size: 413

NYGEAR UP schools:
Rome Free Academy

▶ St. John's University

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

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
fax (718) 990-2383
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Cohort size: 308

NYGEAR UP schools:
Albert Shanker School of Visual and Performing Arts, Long Island City HS

▶ 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) 338-1466
faithgraham@mail.sunyjcc.edu

Cohort size: 524

NYGEAR UP schools:
Dunkirk HS, Jamestown HS

▶ Syracuse University

Contact: Bernice Bradway
(315) 443-1799
fax (315) 443-3976
bbradway@syr.edu

Cohort size: 1,747

NYGEAR UP schools:
Central Technical Vocational Center, Corcoran HS, Fowler HS, Henninger HS, Nottingham HS

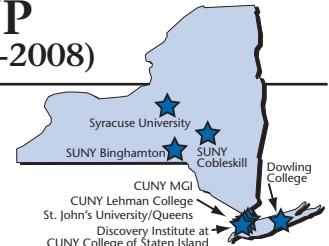
▶ Yonkers City School District

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

Cohort size: 920

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

Federal GEAR UP (7th-9th grades in 2007-2008)



▶ Bronx Institute at CUNY Lehman College

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

Contact: Kevin Anthony
(718) 960-8404
fax (718) 960-7219
kevin.anthony@lehman.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 3,410

GEAR UP schools:
Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice, Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music, DeWitt Clinton HS, Frederick Douglass Academy III, Information and Network Technology Academy, Mott Hall Bronx HS, Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy, Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science, West Bronx Academy for the Future

▶ CUNY MGI GEAR UP

Contact: Sarah McConnell
(646) 344-7353
fax (646) 344-7329
sarah.mcconnell@mail.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 1,000

GEAR UP schools:
East Bronx Academy for the Future, East Side Community HS, Frederick Douglass Academy II, Henry Street School for International Studies, Hostos Lincoln Academy of Science, IS/HS 10 Frederick Douglass Academy, MS/HS 368 Information Network and Technology Academy, Queens Gateway to Health Sciences School, Renaissance Charter School, South Bronx Preparatory, Thurgood Marshall Academy

▶ Discovery Institute at CUNY College of Staten Island

Contact: Sajdah Um'rani-Mansur
(718) 982-2325
fax (718) 982-2327
umrani-mansur@mail.csi.cuny.edu

Cohort size: 772

GEAR UP schools:
Dreyfus IS 49

▶ Dowling College

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

Cohort size: 123

GEAR UP schools:
Wyandanch Memorial HS

▶ St. John's University

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

Contact: Andre McKenzie
(718) 990-1893
fax (718) 990-2383
mckenzia@stjohns.edu

Cohort size: 327

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

▶ SUNY Binghamton University

Contact: Idalmis Batista-Blair
(607) 777-6232
fax (607) 777-4187
ibatista@binghamton.edu

Cohort size: 905

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

▶ SUNY Cobleskill

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

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

▶ Syracuse University

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

Cohort size: 3,400

GEAR UP schools:
Beard School, Bellevue Academy, Blodgett MS, Clary Magnet School, Danforth Magnet School, Frazer MS, Grant MS, Huntington MS, Levy MS, Lincoln MS, Roberts MS

NYGEAR UP II Sectors and Partners.

► Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

Contact: Susan Nesbitt Perez
(518) 436-4781 x30
fax (518) 433-8825
susan@cicu.org

Contact: Kiersten Hall
(518) 436-4781 x23
kiersten@cicu.org

► Association of Proprietary Colleges

Contact: Sandra LoPresto
(518) 275-6596
slopres1@nycap.rr.com

► CUNY

Contact: Sarah McConnell
(646) 344-7353
fax (646) 344-7329
sarah.mcconnell@mail.cuny.edu

► SUNY

Contact: Robert James
(518) 443-5370
robert.james@suny.edu

► College Board

Contact: Matt Zarro
(518) 472-1515
fax (518) 472-1516
mzarro@collegeboard.org

► NYS Financial Aid Administrators Association

Contact: Cathleen Patella
(315) 364-3289
fax (315) 364-3227
cpatella@wells.edu

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

► NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

Contact: Alice Roberson
(518) 473-5667 office
(518) 429-4947 blackberry
fax (518) 474-2839
aroberson@hesc.com

Contact: Cynthia Farmer
(518) 486-7482
cfarmer@hesc.com



The New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) is the state agency that has been designated 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.



CUNY MGI GEAR UP student Malachi R. learns about efficient designs for carrying water at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

NYGEAR UP 2008 Events.

(as of February 2008)

- 2008 National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)/GEAR UP Capacity Building Workshop
The Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
February 10 – 13, 2008
- NYGEAR UP Mid-Year Report Due
March 31, 2008
- NYGEAR UP Annual Performance Report Due
April 1, 2008
- NYGEAR UP Annual Conference
Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Inn and Conference Center, Rochester, NY
April 13 – 15, 2008
- icu and the College Board Professional Development Workshop
Albany College of Pharmacy, Albany, NY
May 15, 2008
- New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC) Annual Conference
Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY
June 3 – 6, 2008
- icu College Quest to Northern New York Colleges and Universities
Clarkson University, Paul Smith's College, St. Lawrence University, and Lake Placid Olympic Museum
June 30 – July 2, 2008
- NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference
Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC
July 20 – 23, 2008
- icu and the College Board Professional Development Workshop
The Cooper Union, New York, NY
May 1, 2008

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