

In Gear

A forum for administrators, staff, and partners of NYGEAR UP College for Me

Spring 2001

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Gearing Up for the Future.

NYGEAR UP College for Me was founded on hope. Hope for children who may otherwise not have the opportunity for higher education. Hope for families who need extra support and assistance from their local schools and agencies. And hope for our communities, which rely on well-educated individuals to flourish.

Just six months after the College for Me program was initiated at 10 sites across New York State, hope remains in abundance. And it is being translated into results for the more than 6,000 eighth-grade students who now have a better chance to go to college because of NYGEAR UP College for Me. In Year One, many of these eighth-graders are visiting college campuses. They are receiving special tutoring. They're developing new academic and leadership skills. Together with their parents, they are learning how



to prepare for college. Because of the conviction and enthusiasm of the many caring individuals involved in this program, thousands of schoolchildren see that college is not an impossible dream but an achievable goal if they continue to work hard.

In Gear is your newsletter. In this inaugural issue, you'll discover what each site is doing to make the College for Me project come alive. In upcoming issues, we'll bring you stories of success, ideas to borrow, and victories to share.

We welcome your suggestions, contributions, and comments. This is your forum — feel free to speak up, speak out, and make a difference.

GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally-funded program. The mission of this national initiative is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

NYGEAR UP receives federal funding, which is matched by state and local funding. The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) is the lead agency in New York for GEAR UP.

In Gear is published twice a year by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in support of the NYGEAR UP College for Me project. The editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy; we apologize for any errors or omissions. If you would like to make a suggestion for the next issue, scheduled for publication October 2001, please e-mail Susan Nesbitt Perez at susan@cicu.org.



What we've been doing, where we're headed.

Since initiating NYGEAR UP College for Me programs, partners have been active establishing goals and creating programs. This list of program sites and highlights is not exhaustive, but it will give you contact information you can use and ideas to inspire your own program.

THE SITES

★ Copiague College for Me

Contacts

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Who

310 eighth-grade students

Where

Copiague Middle School
Walter G. O'Connell HS

Partners

Adelphi University
Copiague Public Library
Dowling College
Hofstra University
SUNY Farmingdale
SUNY Stony Brook
YES Community Counseling Center

Focus

Copiague College for Me is developing a mentoring program for each student in the cohort. Parent involvement to provide the support each student will need to be successful is a component of the program.

Highlights and Successes

■ Local news media covered Copiague's NYGEAR UP mentor training on the evening news, increasing support and enthusiasm for the College for Me program.

■ 44 mentors have committed their time to one student each. The mentors, who took part in a training activity by the Long Island Mentoring Partnership, serve as role models, encourage the students to set goals, and plan for the future. Mentoring sessions alternate weekly between face-to-face meetings and phone or e-mail contact.

■ "What Every Parent Should Know about College Preparation and Requirements," was a workshop for parents led by Judy Cestaro, assistant director of admissions at SUNY Farmingdale. The workshop highlighted the need for early college planning by working for good grades and taking a serious attitude to attending college. Parents received "College for Me" folders and pencils plus copies of clcu's outreach publications, *Affording College* and *Your College Search*.

■ College Visit Days were held March 27, 28, 30. Students visited Dowling College to meet with admission counselors and take a campus tour.

Priorities and Plans

■ Continue to recruit and train mentors.
■ Continue to plan and implement monthly parent workshops.
■ Develop and schedule staff development, including diversity and sensitivity training and curriculum development workshops for eighth-grade teachers.

★ CUNY College for Me

Contact

John Garvey (212) 794-5747
JBGBH@cunyvm.cuny.edu

Who

2,400 eighth-grade students

Where

New York City Public Schools

Bronx:

Middle School 135/Community School District 11

Christopher Columbus HS
Evander Childs HS
Harry Truman HS

Brooklyn:

Intermediate School 291 (Community School District 32)
Middle School 136 (Chancellor's District)
Brooklyn College Academy
Bushwick HS
East Brooklyn Churches HS
Fort Hamilton HS
John Jay HS
Murray Bergtraum HS
Telecommunications HS

Manhattan:

Junior HS 45 (Community School District 4 - Empowerment Zone)
Intermediate School 143 (Community School District 6 - Empowerment Zone)
George Washington HS
Louis Brandeis HS
Norman Thomas HS

Queens:

Middle School 180 (Community School District 27)
Beach Channel HS
Gateway to Health Sciences HS (Community School District 28 & Queens HS)

Staten Island:

Intermediate School 49 (Community School District 31)
Curtis HS
New Dorp HS

Partners

After School Corporation
Brooklyn Public Library
Gateway Institute for Pre-College Education at City College
New York Public Library
Queensborough Public Library
United Way of Greater New York
A consortium of 11 CUNY colleges
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Brooklyn College
Hunter College
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
New York City Technical College
Queensborough Community College
College of Staten Island
York College

Focus

CUNY's proposed NYGEAR UP College for Me program provides academic enrichment and social support services.

Priorities and Plans ✓

■ Coordinating and organizing programming for all participating schools.

■ Proposed services target six areas:

- 1) professional development; 2) tutoring/mentoring; 3) distribution of print and electronic information materials; 4) Internet resource training, specifically NYMentor; 5) contact with high schools and colleges; 6) extensive parent outreach/involvement efforts.

★ Long Island University College for Me “Project SOAR”

Contacts

Diana Voelker (718) 488-1533
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Pamela Holmes (718) 488-3313
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Who

740 eighth-grade students

Where

Community School District 13
Junior HS 113 (380 students)
Junior HS 258 (20 students)
Benjamin Banneker Academy
George Westinghouse HS

Partners

Brooklyn Law School
Colony South Brooklyn
Securities Industry Automation Corporation

Focus

Project SOAR includes outreach, awareness, and new beginnings.

Highlights and Successes

■ Students received flyers, applications, and information about Project SOAR at individual meetings as well as at group outreach meetings to bring home to their parents.

■ A “Young Ladies’ Empowerment Conference” was conducted at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Queens. Approximately 140 eighth-grade girls from JHS 113 attended workshops on topics such as: What It’s Like to Be a Woman Executive; High School and Beyond; Government; Becoming an Entrepreneur; Nutrition and Your Body; and Player Hater, which deals with disliking someone for no reason. The interactive workshops generated enthusiasm and discussion among the students. This unique learning opportunity will be repeated next year for boys, and alternate years for girls and boys.

■ A major multi-state road trip is planned for April to visit several well-known, historically black colleges and universities, including Howard University in Washington D.C.; Hampton University in Virginia; Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina; and Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. With a “sky’s the limit” attitude, Long Island University hopes exposing middle school students to these colleges will help them see their own potential to set and achieve high goals.

Priorities and Plans ✓

■ Recently hired tutors from Long Island University’s and the Brooklyn Law School’s America Reads Program will assist students at JHS 113 and JHS 258 with homework and help them prepare for end-of-the-year exams.

■ Additional outreach efforts are anticipated and will continue throughout the rest of the year.

★ The New Rochelle “College for Me” Partnership

Contact

Spencer H. Wiles (914) 576-4233
swiles@CSDNR.lhric.org
Evelyn Johnson (914) 576-4355
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Who

360 eighth-grade students

Where

Isaac E. Young Middle School
New Rochelle HS

Partners

The College of New Rochelle
Fordham University
New Rochelle School District
New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority
New Rochelle Youth Bureau
Pace University
Services, Education and Resources (SER) of Westchester, Inc.

Focus

The New Rochelle College for Me emphasizes student involvement in the program and offers extra academic help through the 21st Century Scholarship Program. Student workshops and college tours are also important facets of the program.

Highlights and Successes

■ Middle school counselors planned a College Day for all eighth-grade students. Admission counselors from Berkeley College, The College of New Rochelle, CUNY Lehman College, Iona College, Pace University, and Westchester Community College talked with students about attending college. Students who attended The College of New Rochelle presentation also visited its campus.

■ The College of New Rochelle nursing program is scheduled to make presentations to eighth-grade health classes.

■ Students identified through testing and teacher recommendation are participating in the existing 21st Century Scholarship Program. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays these students receive academic tutoring and preparation after school for the state assessments in May. After the sessions, they enjoy organized recreational activities. College for Me supports this program by contacting and encouraging parents to support their children’s attendance and involvement. The principal also sent letters to parents.

■ Students attended GEARUP orientation workshops. SER will assist in additional workshops focusing on: 1) leadership, peer mediation, and conflict resolution; 2) NYMentor/Internet/college planning (HESC and Fordham University student presenters), and; 3) a presentation from each eighth-grade student on the information they learned in the workshops.

■ A college tour to SUNY Old Westbury and SUNY Stony Brook is planned for April 19. Participating students wrote an essay describing why they wanted to go on the tour, what they hoped to see, and the information they thought they would gather on the trip. When the assignment was announced, several students were so motivated to go they turned in their essay before the end of day!

Priorities and Plans ✓

■ Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) will present a NYMentor Web-based College Planning Workshop to students during the school day and a Train-the-Trainer session for teachers and staff after school.

■ Enhanced mentoring and tutoring opportunities.

■ The organization of a summer education component at The College of New Rochelle.

★ Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) College for Me

Contact

Dianne Spang (716) 475-2984
dlspop@rit.edu

Who

352 eighth-grade students

Where

James Madison School of Excellence
East HS

Edison Technical and Occupational
Education Center

Partners

Center for Government Research, Inc.
The Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection
Rochester City School District (RCSD)

Focus

The RIT College for Me program seeks to increase student competence in math and build parental involvement.

Highlights and Successes

- Numerous meetings with partners (RCSD, an instructional consultant, and a curriculum specialist) addressed academic needs.
- In a 10-week professional development course, teachers and staff at the James Madison School of Excellence worked with a math consultant to develop a practical, hands-on approach to teaching students math with the newest strategies and techniques. After each class, teachers incorporated new techniques into their daily lessons. At each weekly meeting, teachers share and compare their findings; by discussing and analyzing the results of these new methods they can make immediate modifications to achieve the very best results.
- An enrichment Math I Course is being planned for the summer.
- Parent meetings were held twice to inform and involve parents in the GEAR UP mission.
- High school orientation sessions presented eighth graders with their high school choices.
- A Saturday school model provides tutoring sessions for students, focusing on skill building and testing readiness.

Priorities and Plans

- Additional staff development workshops presented by The College Board.
- Additional parent meetings with the objective of including more parents.
- Identify RIT students to serve as mentors.
- A year-end celebration for the eighth graders.
- Development of summer programming.

★ St. John's University (SJU) College for Me

Contact

Deborah Saldana (718) 990-1476
saldanad@stjohns.edu

Who

300 eighth-grade students

Where

Albert Shanker Intermediate School in Long
Island City (I.S. 126)
Long Island City HS

Partners

Community School District 30
Goodwill Industries
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
Houses, Inc.
St. John's University Brooklyn Bridge Program
St. John's University Talent Search
St. John's University GEAR UP

Focus

SJU's program builds on the support and enthusiasm generated by the 1999 Federal GEAR UP grant by providing quality programs and services for students, increasing opportunities for successful collaboration between St. John's University and the students of the Albert Shanker Intermediate School, and by conducting a Multicultural Youth Summit.

Highlights and Successes

- After-school and school-day programs began November 6.
- Mentors help students with homework, study skills, and enrichment activities every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Tutors/mentors meet with students during math and language arts classes to assist students in completing assignments and activities.
- An official Kick-Off Induction Ceremony was held.
- GEAR UP information was distributed and explained. Raffles of St. John's University items helped to build excitement.
- Students help to write a monthly newsletter about GEAR UP activities and college information.
- Copies of *The Midsummer Night's Dream* were ordered and read in the English/language arts classes. Each class created a playbill and worked on other related assignments and 15 students attended the performance of the play at St. John's University.
- A Multicultural Youth Summit was organized with three sessions. The first focused on self-esteem and included workshops on anger management and conflict resolution. The second focused on "Celebrating Differences,"

led by Carolivia Herron, the author of the controversial book, *Nappy Hair*. The topic of the third session is "Violence in the Schools."

Priorities and Plans

- A College Experience Day is scheduled for late spring.
- A Summer Institute will be held at St. John's University.

★ SUNY Cobleskill College for Me

Contact

Paul Turner, (518) 234-2114
liberty@midtel.net
Linda Carpenter, (518) 234-2114
carpenlm@hotmail.com

Who

232 eighth-grade students

Where

Charlotte Valley Central School, *Davenport*
(44 students)
Jefferson Central School, *Jefferson* (25 students)
Laurens Central School, *Laurens* (39 students)
Morris Central School, *Morris, NY* (40 students)
Owen D. Young Central School,
Van Hornesville (18 students)
Saint Johnsville Central School, *Saint Johnsville*
(39 students)
South Kortright Central School, *South Kortright*
(27 students)

Partners

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

Focus

SUNY Cobleskill College for Me is building and expanding upon the existing Liberty Partnerships Program, designed to provide students with tutoring opportunities, interactive field trips, meaningful activities, and student/parent meetings.

Highlights and Successes

- One tutor per school works an average of 20 hours each week during the school day to assist students with assignments, homework, and building academic skills.
- Many events focus on developing leadership and problem-solving skills, self-esteem, and team-building. The combination of repeated and nonacademically threatening activities have ensured success.

■ During a visit to Clark's Gym in Cooperstown students climbed a rock wall with ropes and pulleys and moved through a web of ropes suspended on the ceiling of an Olympic-sized pool.

■ Engaged in "Challenge of the Mind & Body" activities where students participate in a series of games and problem-solving activities with a real-life focus. For example, Frogs and Alligators is a skill-building, thinking game that demonstrates the concepts of the food chain and the adaptations animals must make in order to survive.

■ Motivational speaker Duke Fisher from the Learning Laboratories Workshops is leading workshops for students and parents. In the workshops, Duke engages students in creative discussions about setting goals and realizing dreams. Parents then join students for dinner and are given an introduction to computers and the Internet. The remainder of the program focuses on communication within the family.

Priorities and Plans ✓

■ College tours and information sessions at SUNY Cobleskill.

■ Field trips to the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station and to Otsego Lake where students will capture organisms, examine them under microscopes, and engage in related discussions led by a field biologist.

■ Acquire computers with Internet access and hold training sessions for parents and students. Implement a "computer lending" program to allow families to sign out computers for use at home.

★ Syracuse University College for Me

Contacts

Horace Smith (315) 443-5296

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Seth Tucker (315) 443-5293

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Who

959 eighth-grade students

Where

Frazer Middle School

Grant Middle School

Huntington Middle School

Lincoln Middle School

Shea Middle School

Henninger HS

Fowler HS

Partners

Dunbar Association, Inc.

Fowler High School Parent Teacher

Organization

Huntington Family Center

Huntington High School Parent Teacher

Organization

New Venture Gear

Northside Catholic Youth Organization

O'Brien and Gear Engineers

Onondaga Community College

State University of New York Medical Center

(SUNY Upstate)

Syracuse City School District

Focus

Syracuse University College for Me is organizing and recruiting area business partners to assist in meeting its goals and objectives. Technology and its application to learning, research, and career exploration is a specific focus. The program also strives to build upon Henninger High School's established, successful Health Careers Awareness Program; to foster positive change in parent understanding and involvement; and to promote career awareness and internships.

Highlights and Successes

■ At a Kick-Off meeting at Henninger High School, partners discussed ways to work together to increase student awareness and exploration of college and careers and ways to build additional opportunities for internships and mentoring. Former students from Henninger High School, now in college, spoke with the group about the positive influence their high school teachers and staff had on their lives.

Priorities and Plans ✓

■ Electronic Portfolios. Each year the students will expand their use of software programs and Internet resources to create an ongoing electronic portfolio of their work. Students will also develop several multi-curriculum-based projects and papers utilizing technology.

■ Introduction of more writing through English language arts classes.

■ Development of tutorials to assist in academic intervention through core curricula.

★ Westchester Community College (WCC) College for Me

Contacts

Seymour Lesh (914) 785-6713

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Who

450 eighth- grade students

Where

Peekskill Middle School

Port Chester Middle School

Peekskill HS

Port Chester HS

Partners

Carver Center

EPIC-(Every Person Influences Children)

Family Services of Westchester and its

AmeriCorps Program

The Guidance Center, Inc.

John D. Hallinan

Peekskill City School District

Peekskill Police Department

Peekskill Youth Bureau

Port Chester Police Department

Port Chester Youth Bureau

Services, Education and Resources (SER) of

Westchester, Inc.

St. Peter's Church

SUNY Purchase

Texaco Corporation

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers

UPLIFT-Omega Psi Phi Foundation

Westchester County Youth Bureau

Yeshiva University

Focus

"Think College Early" is a theme used to raise awareness among students and parents, and the slogan for the coordinated efforts for the delivery of services among schools, colleges, community organizations, local governments, and businesses. The WCC College for Me program tailors resources and intervention services to meet the very different needs of students at the two middle schools.

Highlights and Successes

■ Academic preparation for the state exams.

■ The Westchester Community College Academic Support Center developed a diagnostic math test to pinpoint math deficits for student-specific tutorial efforts.

■ Intensive math support was given to students during the school day for 10 weeks.

■ Local Westchester Community College students were recruited as mentors and tutors.

WCC Priorities and Plans ✓

- Encourage parent involvement with a "Bring your parent to school day!" Parents will attend class with their child and engage in workshops in English and Spanish.
- Opportunities to attend performances at SUNY Purchase.
- A summer academy to assist transition to high school.
- Create a pilot version of the Academic Support Center at the Peekskill Middle School, staffed with math tutors and replicate it at the high school.
- Increase college awareness through college campus visits and programs.

★ Yonkers Public Schools College for Me

Contacts

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oro82@aol.com

Who

449 eighth-grade students

Where

Emerson Middle School
Yonkers HS

Partners

EPIC - (Every Person Influences Children)
IBM Black Network of NY
Iona College
Junior Achievement
Manhattanville College
Mercy College
The Spanish Community Progress Foundation
SUNY Purchase

Focus 📖

The Yonkers Public Schools College for Me Program seeks to engage students in academic projects; raise student performance; raise parent awareness and participation; and provide tutoring and enrichment programs.

Highlights and Successes 🎯

- At a Kick-Off in November students and parents gathered for an introduction to the GEAR UP program. Students each received a "College for Me" pencil. Students still happily wave these pencils at Orquidea when they pass her in the hall.
- Students from Iona College visited Emerson Middle School for a Technology Day in January. They showed the eighth graders how to use and navigate through the NYMentor and CareerZone web sites. Continued

collaborations are planned.

- Parents of NYGEAR Up students met for presentations in English and Spanish. A major concern parents shared was understanding how to use computers and the Internet. As a result, an Iona College student offered a nine-week computer class just for parents on Saturday mornings. The classes were so well received that another session is planned for the end of the year.
- Wednesday after-school programs and a Saturday student group were initiated.
- The staff at Yonkers has found that focusing on special academic projects generates a high level of interest, excitement, and motivation to learn. Students work individually, or in small groups of two or three, with a mentor or with teacher guidance to create projects for the National History Day contest and science-related fairs. The emphasis is on the process, and the learning rather than on "winning."
- 10 students were chosen to be a part of the STEP program (Science and Technology Entry Program) at Manhattanville College. Held on Saturdays, the program includes both science and math instruction and projects. A summer component is included.
- Junior Achievement has played a large role in promoting awareness for the College for Me program. Their course, "The Economics to Stay in School," focuses on why it makes sense to stick it out and stay in school. This developmental program was presented once a week for eight weeks in eighth-grade social studies classes.
- Staff development workshops were held: "Breaking the Cycle of Violence: A Conflict Management Approach" by Liz Friedman of SUNY Purchase and "Nurturing Leadership Potential in all Students" by Dr. Robert Zuber, consultant for the Peace Education Project at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Priorities and Plans ✓

- Continuation of process-based, academic programs.
- Staff development workshops on "Making Connections: Discipline, Responsibility and Respect"; "Writing and Thinking Skills;" "Improving Reading Skills for English Language Learners."
- College trips for students and parents.
- Continue frequency of parent meetings focused on specific topics.
- Implement use of Scholarship Windows to Success by Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America.

THE SECTORS AND PARTNERS

Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

Contacts

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Focus 📖

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu), a voluntary consortium of the 100+ private, non-profit colleges and universities, is the coordinating organization and public policy forum of the Independent Sector. cicu is assisting NYGEAR UP College for Me sites by providing families with information and services to help them understand that college is important; that it is a viable option for their children; and that financial aid is available to make it a reality. cicu also will provide targeted educational materials to cohorts to supplement and enhance grantees' efforts.

Highlights and Successes 🎯

- Initiated conversations with all 10 College for Me sites. Surveyed sites to determine their needs and priorities.
- Created "College for Me" pencils and folders for distribution to all NYGEAR UP sites. The folders provide messages of encouragement, helpful web addresses and important information.
- Attended the Syracuse College for Me Kick-Off partners' meeting and supplied participants with cicu publications.

Priorities and Plans ✓

- Develop *In Gear*, a bi-annual newsletter for all NYGEAR UP College for Me partnerships.
- April 2001. Distribute to all sites a supply for every cohort student, partner, and administrator: "College for Me" pencils, "College for Me" folders and diskette holders, "From Me to You" student-to-students mentoring letter, *Affording College* publication, and a *College for Me* brochure.
- Develop English and Spanish financial aid and career awareness Web resources and publication translations.
- Identify and recruit professionals from private colleges and universities, public

libraries, and community based-organizations that can assist College for Me grantees in delivering services.

■ September 2001, November 2001, January 2002. Distribute to the 10 sites: "From Me to You" student-to-students letter (one every two months). Also distribute a supply of "College for Me" pens and folders and related materials.

■ October 2001. Distribute to the 10 sites: *Affording College 2001* (English and Spanish version), *Your College Search 2001* (English and Spanish versions), and *College for Me* ninth-grade brochures.

The Association of Proprietary Colleges

Contacts

Ellen Hollander (518) 437-1867
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Joseph Bosco (518) 437-1867
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Focus

The Association of Proprietary Colleges is focused on establishing relationships between APC institutions and the NYGEAR UP sites; providing speakers; organizing campus visits; providing mentors and training academic mentors; organizing a career activity; and organizing a summer activity (e.g. computer camp).

Highlights and Successes

- Analyzed NYGEAR UP site proposals to match APC institutions in the sites' geographic areas that are best able to meet their goals.
- Met and discussed project goals and needs with Syracuse and Rochester NYGEAR UP project directors.

Priorities and Plans ✓

- Continue to establish relationships and develop collaborative projects between APC institutions and College for Me sites.
-

CUNY

Contact

John Garvey (212) 794-5747
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SUNY

Contact

Anthony M. Belcher (518) 443-5371
belchean@sunsadm.suny.edu

Focus

SUNY's focus is to meet with site coordinators and facilitate goals for their participants.

Priorities and Plans ✓

- Finalizing plans now to assist sites in serving participants.
 - Identifying and hiring staff.
-

The College Board

Contacts

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Focus

The College Board is a national, nonprofit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity. It offers an array of programs and services in college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning.

Highlights and Successes

- Professional development for counselors and teachers: intensive and sustained professional development will be made available to middle grade and high school teachers and counselors with the aim of increasing their content knowledge as well as building their understanding of what it takes to prepare all students for college.
- Parent nights. Parents of students will participate in these activities as partners with—and as advocates for—their children. Parents will gain an understanding of the importance of the "college-prep" curriculum, the need for early college planning (including financial aid planning), and the important role they play in the home in terms of supporting student achievement.
- Guidance publishing. Publications will be distributed to the guidance offices at each of the sites including, *The College Handbook*, *Scholarship Handbook*, *Index of Majors*, and *Financial Aid Handbook*

■ *ExPAN*. A guidance software tool that includes an expanded vocational/technical college database and an enhanced career, college, and scholarship search.

■ Test prep. The College Board will provide test preparation materials to each high school. Publications will also be made available to each high school including, *Test Skills, Step by Step with Taking the SAT, Counselor's Handbook for the SAT Program, 10 Real SATs*.

Priorities and Plans ✓

- The College Board offers an array of integrated programs and services that raise students' expectations and awareness, improves achievement, and monitors progress.
 - The College Board's goal is to create a pervasive culture of academic excellence to prepare all students for college.
-

The State Education Department

Contact

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mvega@mail.nysed.gov

Focus

■ The State Education Department (SED) provides technical assistance to HESC in the implementation of NYGEAR UP.

Highlights and Successes

- Successfully facilitated and coordinated the RFP process:
 - Conducted three technical assistance workshops on the RFP process.
 - Sponsored with HESC technical assistance workshops on grant writing.
 - Trained grant reviewers.
 - Collected, analyzed, and tabulated reviewers' scores.
- Advised HESC on project monitoring.
- Coined the project name "College for Me."

Priorities and Plans ✓

- Continue to provide technical assistance to HESC in implementation and monitoring of NYGEAR UP College for Me program.
- Continue to collaborate with HESC, the Sectors and NYGEAR UP College for Me sites to deliver necessary services.

Inside: Resources, information, and inspiration.

Quick List of Sites and Contacts

Copiague Public Schools

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for Curriculum & Instruction
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CUNY

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Long Island University

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New Rochelle City School District

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Rochester Institute of Technology

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Resources.

One purpose of this newsletter is to share resources with all NYGEAR UP College for Me sites. If you have a resource you think deserves mention in this column, contact Susan Nesbitt Perez at www.cicu.org.

■ *Parents and Counselors Together (PACT) Program.* This "Guide to Presenting Parent Workshops that Promote Educational Success with Students" contains five modules including: Building a Foundation for Educational Success, Setting the Stage for Dreams to Become Reality, Charting a Challenging High School Experience, Following the Road to College, and Paying for College. PACT is available through the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), (800) 822-6285 and is \$12.00 for NACAC members and \$15.00 for nonmembers. You can also download the guide for free at www.nacac.com/marketplace1html#training

■ *New York Teacher*, the official publication of New York State United Teachers, publishes a "Freebies" column that features opportunities for teachers and students. Check out these fun — and free — activities in the March 28, 2001 issue (Vol. XLII, No. 13):

- The New York Department of Conservation (DEC) offers teachers and their classes seedlings to plant on school grounds and in the community. Schools can receive 50 free tree seedlings or a mixed packet of 20 wildlife shrubs through the School Seedling Program. Call (518) 581-1439 or the nearest DEC regional forestry office for information.

- Explore the meaning of art with your students using free guidelines from art teacher and author Carolyn Holm. Guidelines are at the Everyday Art for Kids Web site, www.everydayart.com, on the Teacher's Page. For a free printout send a SASE to: What Is Art, Mockingbird Press, P.O. Box 331, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

■ Other helpful Web sites to explore:
www.ed.gov/thinkcollege/early
www.nymmentor.edu
www.nycolleges.org