

**Bronx Educational Alliance**  
**Advisory Board Report June, 2001-Sept. 2002**

Marietta Saravia-Shore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bronx Educational Alliance

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Progress Toward BEA Goals**

**1) BEA GEAR UP STUDENT OUTCOMES**

**Student graduation rate:** 90% of the students graduated/progressed from middle school to high school. Of 2125 students, 1914\* were promoted to begin high school in September, 2002.

**Scholarships.** 49 students received scholarships for private schools.

**College Now.** Over 35 students entered the College For Me initiative at Stevenson, Kennedy and Truman High School. In this pilot program ninth graders have smaller (25 student) classrooms, more counseling and an enriched curriculum to prepare for college.

**Summer Enrichment.** 237 seventh graders attended a four week, full day, four days a week BEA GEAR UP Summer Enrichment Program at Fordham University in July, 2001 with project-based academic enrichment in reading and math, career counseling, sports, videography and art. 108 eighth graders attended a five week BEA GEAR UP transition to high school Summer Enrichment Program at Fordham University in July and August, 2002 with SAT Prep in ELA and Math, college and career counseling, sports, videography and art.

**College Visits.** Over 70% went on two college visits or more outside of New York City within the past two years.

**Fridays at the College.** 202 eighth graders from CIS 303 attended classes at Bronx Community science labs, languages such as French, German and Japanese, Technology and mentoring.

**Classroom Instruction.** Students engaged in 5,267 hours of classroom instructional support, such as Fridays at the College, the Fordham summer enrichment and after-school academic enrichment activities.

**Tutoring.** Students participated in a total of 14,519 hours of after-school tutoring at their schools.

**After-school Enrichment**

- **Harambee Rites of Passage** - In the last 2 years over **50** middle school students at MS 180 participated in strengthening self esteem, self respect and awareness and team building.
- **Christadora** Program at New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx – over **30** students participated in the 2001-2002 academic year (Saturday Program at IS 125).

- **Chess Clubs.** Organized at three GEAR UP middle schools (IS 125, MS 143, MS 180).
- **Cyber Mentoring Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension.** 15 middle school students from IS 183 received online mentoring from alumni students of Cornell University.
- **Sports Foundation & Young Athletics** --- Provided basketball coaching and organized games and inter-school competitions at 3 GEAR UP middle schools (MS 158, MS 180 & IS 183). Over 75 students participated in sports, ELA and Math tutoring and team building activities.

**Services Provided.** The 2,125 students received an average of 37.2 hours of services each in academic year 2001.

**Student/Family Activities.** Over 850 students and families attended the BEA GEAR UP Homecoming Picnic held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at Lehman College.

**BEA ENLACE.** 139 Latino GEAR UP students were reached through after school academic tutoring or ASPIRA leadership development or BCA poetry/writing by BEA ENLACE:

**ENLACE Tutoring.** 72 Latino GEAR UP students engaged in 744 hours of tutoring; 29 students participated in tutoring for 2-4 hours. Another 19 students participated for 6-10 hours; another 13 students participated 12-16 hours; six students participated for 20-28 hours and another five from 32 to 44 hours.

**ENLACE Math Tutoring Institute:** 17 Teacher Candidates and other adults participated in up to 20 Institute hours per participant in August and September, 2002 to prepare them for tutoring BEA GEAR UP/ENLACE students.

## 2) FAMILY INVOLVEMENT OUTCOMES

**a. BEA Family Fair.** October 13, 2001: 450 family members participated; recommendations were recorded, categorized and reported in written report widely disseminated to Steering Committee, the CBOs who participated and an Urban League conference.

**b. Technology.** BEA GEAR UP has provided a total of 808 parents twelve hours of training each in the use of a computer and the Internet. After training, 808 computers were provided to their homes for student and family use. 179 families have received computer upgrades since August, 2002 with increased memory or CD burners.

**c. NSF Parent Academy.** 38 parents completed the Saturday Parent Academy in Math, Science and Technology in the Fall 2001 and 26 parents completed the Spring 2002 Academy for a total of 64 parents. Four parents received college credits for the course. Since its inception in 1999, 235 parents have completed the Saturday Parent Academy.

**d. BEA Parent Outreach/Resource Center.** The BEA Parent Coordinator collaborated with the Board of Education and the United Parents Association to support installation of a Website at each school and a map of the community resources in the surrounding area. The Parent Outreach/Resource Center delivered resource materials to over 24 parent agencies in the Bronx

through its Parent Focus Group that met nine times this year. It disseminated information at the Health Fairs of Montefiore, Bronx Lebanon, and Lincoln Hospitals, Riverbank and Roberto Clemente State Parks.

### 3) BROKERING RESOURCES

Funder	Proposals funded June, 2001- Sept. 2002		Fiscal Agent
	Amount	Purpose	
W.K. Kellogg Foundation ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education)	\$1,600,000 4-yr. grant	BEA ENLACE Demo project for Latino Education	BEA/Lehman College
	\$1,200,000 2-yr. grant	CUNY ENLACE	Hunter College
Fund for the Improvement of Education	\$75,000 1-yr grant	Math Tutoring Institute	BEA/Lehman

#### Grants Continued 2001-2002

BEA GEAR UP	\$7,000,000 5 yr. grant	College preparation	BEA/ Lehman, BCC Hostos, Fordham
NSF	\$844,000 5-yr.grant	Parent Saturday Academy	BEA/Lehman

#### Support/Assistance with Proposals

BEA staff assisted with identifying/planning and/or letters of support for proposals to be located in Partner organizations: ASPIRA of NY, Inc., Center for School/ College Collaboratives, Lehman College as well as Bronx CUNY on the Concourse and a CUNY-wide ENLACE initiative involving Hunter College, Brooklyn College, City College and Queens College.

### 4) FACILITATING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

**a. Policy statement.** The BEA Steering Committee developed a brief policy statement advocating full funding of the New York City education budget at its April 2002 meeting. The Executive Director presented it to the Chair of the City Council Education Committee, Eva Moskowitz, when she held a Town Meeting in the Bronx concerning the proposed cuts in education in the City budget.

**b. ENLACE.** The BEA Executive Director and second BEA ENLACE Director contributed to the ENLACE policy statements that are being collected nationwide to identify consensus on policy directions for the education of Latino youth and families.

**c. National Latino Education Research Agenda Project.** The BEA Executive Director invited Pedro Pedraza, director of the National Latino Education Research Agenda Project, to present to the BEA Steering Committee so they could learn of and respond to the NLERAP Agenda on their interactive website.

## 5) COMMUNICATION

**a. Website.** Communication among BEA Partners and beyond the Alliance took place through the use of the BEA Website and the BEA GEAR UP Website which was updated with a monthly calendar of events; invitations to events and links to other relevant websites. The listserv of 808 BEA GEAR UP parents who have computers was also utilized to notify them of upcoming events and other websites containing information about financial aid and college preparation. Monthly meetings of the BEA Steering Committee also served as fora for discussion of common issues.

**b. National Reform Agenda.** The BEA Executive Director was interviewed by Emily Lensen, Research Consultant for the Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy at the University of Washington in December, 2001 concerning the role of the BEA in District 11 for a study of collaborations between higher education and school districts.

**c. Ford Foundation.** RAND interviewed the BEA Executive Director in September, 2002 for a follow-up of the Ford Foundation's Urban Partnership Program. Her written responses to the questions are available.

**d. Successful Search for BEA Associate Director.** After a seven-month search for an Associate Director, Dr. Michael Blakeney was hired in February, 2002, from a field of thirty candidates. His position is supported jointly by Lehman and Bronx Community Colleges. (Additionally, Hostos Community College provides funding for a part-time BEA secretarial assistant).

## 6) COORDINATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**a. Task Force.** Dean James Bruni, Lehman College and Marcie Wolfe, Director of the Institute for Literacy Studies co-chaired a BEA Task Force on Professional Development that involved the Directors and Coordinators of Professional Development Programs in Bronx Districts, the UFT and Lehman College representatives from the New York City Teaching Fellows Program. The initial group discussed common issues and problems and set the agenda for monthly discussions that were held at Lehman College. Their primary focus was the preparation of NYC Teaching Fellows.

**b. Sabbatical Teacher Mentors.** During Academic Year 2001-02, eleven (11) Sabbatical Teacher Mentors from the Lehman College Sabbatical Mentor Program participated in BEA GEAR UP Middle Schools. They mentored new teachers or whoever the school site designated. In 2002-03 five (5) Sabbatical Mentor Teachers were assigned to GEAR Up High Schools

Please ask for any documents referred to in the Report that you would care to see and we will email or send hard copies.

**BEA ADVISORY BOARD REPORT**  
**June, 2001- September, 2002**

**PROGRESS TOWARDS BEA GOALS**

**1) BEA GEAR UP STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

**Graduation Rate from Middle School = 90%**

<i>School</i>	<i>Total # of students</i>	<i>Retained</i>	<i>Graduated</i>
IS #125	331	13	318
MS #143	497	57*	440 *
IS #158	330	56	274
MS #180	335	1	334
IS #183	304	57	247
CIS #229	126	27	99
CIS #303	202	0	202
Total # BEA GEAR UP students		<b>2125</b>	
<b>Total # middle school graduates</b>		<b>1914 *</b>	

Ninety percent of the 2125 BEA GEAR UP students graduated/progressed from middle school to high school in September, 2002.

\* approximate number. In IS #143, only 8 students were retained for the year; however, the other 49 are in the Eight Plus program and are scheduled to graduate in January 2003; therefore they are not in the Graduated column.

**2001 Summer Enrichment Program at Fordham University.** 237 middle school 7<sup>th</sup> graders attended a four week, four days a week summer program, with academic enrichment workshops in reading and math, career counseling, sports, videography and art.

**2002 Summer Enrichment Program at Fordham University.** 108 middle school 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended a five week transition to high school program with SAT Prep in ELA and Math, college and career counseling, sports, videography and art.

**College Visits.** Over 70% of BEA GEAR UP participants went on two college visits or more outside of New York City within the past two years.

**Fridays at the College.** 202 8<sup>th</sup> graders from CIS 303 attended classes at Bronx Community College on Fridays for the entire academic year. Courses included, Biology, Chemistry and other science labs, languages such as French, German and Japanese, Technology and mentoring.

**Scholarships for private schools – 49 recipients.**

**College Now Program** – Over **35** students entered the College For Me initiative at Stevenson, Kennedy and Truman High School.

**Tutoring.** Students participated in a total of 14,519 hours of after-school tutoring at their schools.

**Classroom Instruction.** Students engaged in 5,267 hours of classroom instructional support, such as Fridays at the College, the Fordham summer enrichment and after-school academic enrichment activities.

#### **BEA GEAR UP after-school Enrichment:**

**Cyber Mentoring Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension** – **15** middle school students from IS 183 received online mentoring from alumni students of Cornell University.

**Sports Foundation & Young Athletics** --- Provided basketball coaching and organized games and inter-school competitions at **3** GEAR UP middle schools (MS 158, MS 180 & IS 183). Over **75** students participated in sports, ELA and Math tutoring and team building activities.

**Harambee Rites of Passage** - In the last 2 years over **50** middle school students at MS 180 participated in strengthening self esteem, self respect and awareness and team building.

**Christadora** Program at New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx – over **30** students participated in the 2001-2002 academic year (Saturday Program at IS 125).

**Chess Clubs** – organized at three GEAR UP middle schools (IS 125, MS 143, MS 180).

**ENLACE Tutoring.** 72 Latino GEAR UP students engaged in 744 hours of tutoring; 29 students participated in tutoring for 2-4 hours. Another 19 students participated for 6-10 hours; another 13 students participated 12-16 hours; six students participated for 20-28 hours and another five from 32 to 44 hours.

**ENLACE.** 139 Latino GEAR UP students were reached through after school academic tutoring or ASPIRA leadership development or BCA poetry/writing by BEA ENLACE:

**2001 BEA Family Fair.** Over **450** students and family members attended this event held in October, 2001.

**2002 BEA GEAR UP Homecoming Picnic.** Over **850** students and their families attended the event held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at Lehman College.

**International Day at IS 125** – for two years in a row, over **130** families at IS 125 enjoyed sharing their culture and ethnic foods with others in sponsorship with the parents association, BEA GEAR UP and BEA ENLACE and CBOs in the school.

## 2) COMMUNICATION

**a) Website.** The BEA website was updated with current members of the Advisory Board and Steering Committee. Links were created to increase access to information. Events were reported and invitations issued.

**b) BEA Steering Committee** Ten monthly meetings were convened since the Executive Director wrote the *Annual Report to the BEA Advisory Board* in June 2001. Monthly Minutes as well as *monthly Executive Director Reports* were disseminated to the Steering Committee.

### **c) BEA Retreat conducted May 3, 2002**

During this final year of the Ford Foundation, the Steering Committee re-imagined what the BEA should be for the future. We devoted time at four BEA Steering Committee meetings and held a retreat on May 3, 2002. The outcomes of the retreat were synthesized by the BEA Associate Director and Executive Director: *Charting the Course- Mapping the Future of the Bronx Educational Alliance*.

The four major functions of the BEA that were agreed upon were: 1) Brokering resources across the Bronx and NYC to address the needs of Partners; 2) Communication among the BEA Partners and beyond through the BEA website, regularly scheduled meetings and e-mail; 3) Developing and nurturing partnerships and building relationships among individuals and organizations; 4) the “overarching functions” of facilitating developing, advocating for and influencing policy.

**d) Press Releases** The Executive Director wrote several press releases for BEA ENLACE, the NSF Project PARTNERS, and BEA GEAR UP and articles for the Bronx Educational Alliance website.

**e) The BEA GEAR UP Parent Listserve of 700** BEA GEAR UP parents who have computers was also utilized to notify parents of upcoming events of interest and other websites of interest in accessing information about financial aid and college preparation. Monthly meetings of the BEA Steering Committee also served as fora for discussion of common issues.

### **f) Successful search for BEA Associate Director**

Dr. Michael Blakeney was hired in February, 2002 as the new Associate Director, from a field of thirty candidates. His position is jointly funded by Lehman and Bronx Community Colleges. (Additionally, Hostos Community College also provides a part-time BEA secretarial assistant).

## 3) BROKERING RESOURCES

In March, 2002, the BEA Executive Director and BEA Associate Director took the lead in developing the CUNY ENLACE grant (\$200,000 over two years) as well as a proposal to the Fund for the Improvement of Education (\$75,000) that were funded in August, 2002. These grants will support the students and parents in BEA ENLACE and BEA GEAR UP. One new component is that teacher candidates were invited to participate in a Math Tutoring Institute prior to tutoring students. The fiscal agent for CUNY ENLACE will be Hunter College’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies, also known as the Centro.

Two years ago, in 1999-2000, the BEA Executive Director was responsible for developing and administering three budgets totaling \$375,000. After four new BEA grants have been funded since July 1, 1999, she is responsible in academic year 2001-2002, as the Principal Investigator, for providing oversight for the BEA GEAR UP budget (seven million dollars over five years), the NSF Project PARTNERS in Math, Science and Technology budget (\$844,000. over five years) and BEA ENLACE (\$1.6 million dollars over four years). She wrote or wrote with collaborators four proposals funded by Ford Foundation, NSF, USDOE and Kellogg Foundation. The Executive and Associate Director serve as co-PIs for Lehman's component of CUNY ENLACE. Below is the organization chart for BEA GEAR UP which is the most complex.

Currently the BEA Executive Director provides oversight and supervision for the following programs and staff: a full-time BEA ENLACE Project Director, a full-time BEA Parent Coordinator, a part-time BEA GEAR UP Director, the BEA ENLACE initiative and the Project PARTNERS project and the evaluations being conducted by the National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University. The BEA Associate Director serves as the Project Director for BEA ENLACE.

The Executive Director scheduled monthly meetings of the BEA Steering Committee and the yearly BEA Advisory Board of the BEA and drafted the agendas, handouts, and sent notices to the sixty or so members. She arranged for BEA meetings at the offices of the Bronx district superintendents or at the Lehman, Hostos or Bronx Community College campuses and wrote monthly Reports for the Steering Committee and the Annual Report to the Advisory Board.

### **BEA ENLACE**

In July, 2001, Dr. Marvin McKinney of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation acknowledged receipt of the Final Report for the **BEA ENLACE Planning Grant** that the BEA Executive Director completed in March, 2001.

In February, 2001 a grant for **BEA ENLACE** (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) was funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation for 1.6 million dollars. The Executive Director provides oversight as Principal Investigator for BEA ENLACE. Currently, the BEA Associate Director, Dr. Michael Blakeney serves as Project Director and José Hernández is the full-time Associate Director. Partners include Lehman College; the Bronx High School Superintendency; Bronx Community College; New York State Education Department; ASPIRA of NYC and Bronx Council on the Arts.

On March 15, 2002 the Executive Director wrote the Annual Report for the BEA ENLACE Implementation grant as the contract for the first director was not renewed and the second director was new to the project in February, 2002. During the periods when the Project Directors have been unavailable, most recently when the second director resigned to take a CUNY position that was not grant funded, the BEA Executive Director has administered the BEA ENLACE project. Since June, 2002, however, that responsibility has been shared with the BEA Associate Director who has taken the responsibility as Project Director sharing the leadership with the BEA ENLACE Associate Director. This addresses a challenge that BEA ENLACE faced on lacking sufficient on-site coordination in the schools. José Hernández was promoted from his position of BEA GEAR UP Cohort Coordinator, a site-based position. His strengths in building relationships with students, staff and parents will be a great asset as will his knowledge of both GEAR UP and ENLACE in coordinating their programs.

## **CUNY ENLACE**

The BEA Associate Director and Executive Director were the lead writers for a CUNY ENLACE proposal submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in April, 2002 and funded in September, 2002. We invited representatives from four other CUNY campuses to participate (Brooklyn, City College, Hunter and Queens), met with the Director of Youth Programs and the ENLACE program of the Kellogg Foundation who visited Lehman. Subsequently we met to find common themes and resources across the five campuses in the education of Latino youth and crafted a proposal with input from all five campuses. The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College was selected as the fiscal agent and we submitted a draft to Kellogg. The proposal was funded for \$1,200,000. of which the BEA will receive another \$100,000. per year for two years to enhance our BEA ENLACE project with a Math Tutoring Institute, funds for a Parent Coordinator for the BEA ENLACE initiative and further funding for literacy through the arts and parent involvement workshops..

## **BEA GEAR UP**

The student outcomes of BEA GEAR UP are stated above. As Principal Investigator for the **BEA GEAR UP** initiative funded in September, 1999, the Executive Director provided oversight for the project and the evaluation of the project contributing to the evaluation (the Annual Performance Report (APR) May 1, 2002) and to the editing of the text. She wrote the BEA GEAR UP application to the Institutional Review Board and modified the design/letters until they were approved by the IRB. The APR was sent to all the Bronx superintendents. The continuation proposal was approved in August, 2002.

## **NSF PARENT ACADEMY**

This was the third year of the National Science Foundation grant to extend the work of the BEA Parent Center. This grant resulted from a proposal the Executive Director wrote to NSF in January, 1999 for **Project P.A.R.T.N.E.R.S. (Parents= Allies Reinforcing Technology; Neighborhood Educators Reinforcing Science) in MST (Math, Science and Technology)** for \$844,000. with Elaine Hopkins, the Parent Coordinator of the BEA Outreach/Resource Center who is an undergraduate student at Lehman. We designed a program that built upon successful programs that the Bronx Urban Systemic Initiative, District Nine, the Bronx High School Superintendency and Lehman have conducted with parents. The grant funds up to 36 elementary, middle and high school parents to participate in a four-month long series of alternating Saturday workshops to learn how to support their children's academic development in MST. Each year two cohorts of parents participate for a total of 360 parents over five years. The Principal Investigator provides oversight, support for the five teaching staff and the four parent assistants and developed the annual report with the Parent Coordinator that was sent online to NSF.

## **FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION**

The BEA Associate Director and Executive Director wrote a proposal to the Fund for the Improvement of Education to fund a Summer Math Tutoring Institute through our proposal called "Building Math Learning Communities." The proposal was funded in July, 2002 .

It responds to the need for better prepared math tutors for the majority of students who are not meeting the state standards (rubric 2) in math. The 25 tutors will be selected from Teacher Candidates at Lehman, Hostos and BCC and if space is available from other CUNY colleges. So far 17 Teacher Candidates and others (math majors) have participated in the two Math Tutoring Institutes and three have been assigned to the BEA GEAR UP schools.

#### **4) FAMILY INVOLVEMENT OUTCOMES**

##### **BEA GEAR UP**

GEAR UP Home Computer Loan Program. **808** computers were distributed with service and internet access after parents completed 12 hours of training in the use of computers and the Internet. Originally parents committed to paying \$15 per month for maintenance, insurance and Internet access. Because the cost of computers has gone down, parents no longer will pay; the grant covers these costs.

##### **ROUNDTABLE**

In October, 2001 the Executive Director wrote the Final Report for a grant from Roundtable Media that supported two community conversations. The BEA was selected as a lead partner to conduct these community forums around the PBS series *SCHOOL: The Story of American Public Education*. The BEA Family Fair was conducted with their support.

##### **BEA Family Fair/Community Conversation**

The initiatives of the BEA collaborated in organizing and conducting two Community Conversations. The first with two staff of the BEA, “The Role of Parents in College Now” held at Lehman College on May 17, 2001. The Executive Director invited her EDE 302 students to be facilitators for the parents during the Community Conversation when we divided into groups to ask parents for their concerns and recommendations on a number of topics: disciplinary policy, uniforms, high stakes testing, early preparation for college, mandatory parental involvement, etc. Five teacher candidates participated.

The Executive Director led the organization and development of a second community conversation, The BEA Family Fair, in October 13, 2001. 450 family members attended. Twelve of her teacher candidates acted as facilitators for the small parent groups who discussed their concerns and recommendations. With her undergraduate students’ assistance, she compiled the concerns and recommendations of the parents in a written document listing them under topics that she categorized.

**The Bronx Educational Alliance Parents Resource Outreach Center Parent Focus Group (BEAR/OC)** met nine times this year to listen to parent concerns. Two to 16 parents met once per month to discuss and act on issues. The Parent Focus Group has delivered resource materials to over 24 parent agencies in the Bronx and Manhattan. These included materials on how to navigate through the educational system, the role of parents as leaders, how to read and understand the comprehensive education plan and referrals to agencies that provide services to parents for successful school experiences. Parents affiliated with our center receive resource mailings of events and activities offered in the Bronx in the areas of Education, Advocacy, Sports and Entertainment, Arts and Culture, Parent Professional Development, Law and Policy and Literacy and Academics.

The BEA Parent Outreach Resource Center Coordinator successfully collaborated this past year with Cecilia Gutiérrez, the **N Y C Board of Education** and Ernest Clayton, **United Parents Association** to support the installation of a school website at each school and a map of the community resource surrounding the area. These services include enhancing teaching and learning new content offerings in New York City’s public schools, Universal Access to educational content, enhanced real time information and constituent service for parents, reliable, two-way

communication tools for those in the City's educational and cultural communities and e-commerce opportunities for adult users.

A highlight of the past year has been supporting five of the agencies that received continued after-school funding through our collaboration with Erica Katze, **Citizen Action Committee for After-school Funding**.

The BEA Parent Center also hosted the retreat for the **North West Bronx Coalition of Clegy and Community** at Lehman and assisted with planning a meeting with Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott attended by over 500 parents and residents at Tolentine Church.

Another highlight has been collaborating with Joseph DeJesus, Program Director and Ms. Tavares Cohort Coordinator **BEA GEAR-UP**, Miguel Montes, Program Director, **BEA ENLACE**, NSF Project **PARTNERS** in MST and Diana Torres, Director, **Pius XII Family and Youth Services** to host a dance performance saluting the memory of those lost on September 11, 2002, filling the Lovinger Theater to capacity on June 6, 2002.

Finally, this past year, the BEA Parent Coordinator and BEA Associate Director participated in five effective collaborative meetings with Eugene Adams, Director of Collaborative Programs for **Bronx Community College**.

One of the most productive outreach activities has been the concentrated efforts to represent the BEA Parent Outreach Center at Health fairs at **Montefiore, Bronx Lebanon and Lincoln Hospitals** and **St. James State Park, Riverbank State Park and Roberto Clemente State Parks**. **The BEAR/OC** shared educational opportunities available to parents through the creation of Family Involvement/Recruitment kits. In the kit parents would find a brochure in two languages, **Bronx Council on the Arts** Culture Cards, **New York Public Library (NYPL)** free books and book marks and pens with contact information, **United States Education Department books, Lehman College Performing Arts and Performances**.

#### **NSF Project PARTNERS in Math, Science and Technology Parent Academy:**

During 2001-2002 the BEA Parent Coordinator, Elaine Hopkins, built a stronger partnership with parent agencies through her collaboration with Cassandra Grant, Assistant to Sheila Evans-Tranum, Associate Commissioner, **the New York State Education Department** and Elaine Dinkins-Anderson, **United Federation of Teachers Dial a Teacher Centers**. The BEA Parent Coordinator revamped our resource materials to align with understanding data, particularly in low performing schools. She attended ten New York State Education meetings and shared information with parents to help make them better academic advocates during the Parent/Teacher conferences. She sent materials to 235 of the 360 parent graduates (See NSF Annual Progress Report for the number of graduates from 1999 to 2001) included brochures, new-letters, policy decisions and invitations to symposiums like **College Now** and **NYSE Symposium** and the **Annual UFT Dial-A-Teacher Conference**.

In the **Fall Academy 38 parents** completed the sessions and in **the Spring 26** parents completed for a total of **64 parents** in the 2001/02 school year. The **12 parents** that attended the **Summer Parent Academy** with three evening sessions and two-day sessions gave a boost to the retention rate for

this year and gave access to parents involved in School Leadership Teams during the school year. 4 parents received college credits.

Due to the BEA Focus Group's decision to support the participation of parents on School Leadership teams, the number of NSF parent participants decreased for the year 2000/2001. This has now changed and the Parent Academy is now showing an increase in enrollment. The goals for the tutoring component have taken a different outcome than we expected. Parents enrolled in Learning Leaders programs are placed in classroom settings more quickly than parents associated with BEA alone. There needs to be more involvement with **Learning Leaders**. There may need to be some involvement of the **National Center for Schools and Communities** to find out whether or not data is being gathered in the area of how many parents are enrolled in the program in the Bronx County.

BEA provided parents with incentives to promote retention and marketing through the distribution of T-shirts, bags and pens with contact information. The BEA Parent Coordinator attended 8 Instructional Leadership Team meetings to listen to the instructors' concerns and those of the parent/interns and college assistant.

**The Borough President's Office** invited us to attend their **Educational Forums** each year and present concerns to panelists. These concerns included the GED programs addressing the increased rate of students dropouts. Another was the need for equity in education for parent trainers who do not receive opportunities to do turn-key training with an allowance to offset the cost of child-care, materials and labor as well as moderate increases from year to year. Another is the need to support and extend programs parents found were successful like Project PARTNERS in MST Parent Academy to a wider audience.

The project applied to **Sharing Success** for certification and is still in the review process. The project has received support from the **United Parents Association, Cablevision and New York Urban League**. Parents were given complimentary tickets to the **New York Liberty Games** this summer (100), **The College Football Classics** (45) and **Lehman College Performing Arts Center** (50). The **National Wildlife Federation** provided Ranger Rick magazines (300), **Pathmark Stores** provided \$300.00 in food gift certificates to parents and NSF provided Champion Awards to Parent Agencies that supported and hired parent graduates.

**BEA Parents were assisted in their careers.** They have been hired by **New York Urban League, United Parents Association, The American Museum of Natural History, CIS 117, The Health Department, The Police Department, CES 53, Pathmark Stores, New York State Education, an Attorney and BCC.** An intern received a **full scholarship to NYU**, our summer RYA Program/FEGS high school student received the **UFT scholarship**.

#### **PARENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**

- The BEA Associate Director and Executive Director, with input from the BEA Parent Coordinator, wrote a proposal to the USDOE to extend the services of the BEA Parent Resource Outreach Center. We submitted it June 27, 2002. Dr. Anne Rothstein, Director of the Center for School/College Collaboratives agreed to be the Principal Investigator if the grant is funded. There will also be a satellite at Family College, BCC.

BEA assisted with the following proposal development by planning/writing or writing letters of support:

- ASPIRA of NY, Inc. The BEA Associate Director identified an opportunity for ASPIRA to write a proposal, sent them the RFP. They agreed it was right for them and they wrote and submitted the proposal.
- The BEA wrote supporting letters for proposals submitted by collaborations involving Lehman College such as the HUD project to fund activities of CUNY on the Concourse
- BEA invited Dr. Ellie Lundeen to the BEA Steering Committee to explain her proposal to improve the quality of life of the Norwood section of the Bronx. The BEA contributed to planning and wrote a letter that supported her successful proposal to HUD.
- Similarly, BEA invited Millie Vazquez to present a Bronx Institute proposal for funding by Title VII of a TESOL teacher preparation grant. The BEA Steering Committee voted to have BEA send a letter of support for that proposal.

## **5) COORDINATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

BEA invited the NYC Teaching Fellows Recruitment Team to the BEA Steering Committee to assist their efforts in disseminating information.

### **BEA TASK FORCE on COORDINATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Dean James Bruni and Marcie Wolfe led a Task Force to discuss and find solutions to common problems faced by districts

BEA hosted the **NCATE Visiting Team** to the Bronx Educational Alliance; organized a presentation giving an overview of the outreach to the community and work with community based organizations and school districts that the BEA does. The directors and coordinators of each project presented their outreach work.

**Sabbatical Teacher Mentors.** Yr. 2001-02 **Eleven** Sabbatical teachers participated in BEA GEAR UP Middle Schools. Yr. 2002-03 **Five** Sabbatical teachers are assigned to GU High Schools.

### **Participation in National Reform Agenda**

The Executive Director was interviewed by Emily Lensen, Research Consultant for the Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy at the University of Washington in December, 2001 concerning the role of the BEA in District 11 for a study of collaborations between higher education and school districts.

The Executive Director was interviewed by RAND for a follow-up of the Ford Foundation's Urban Partnership Program.

- The Executive Director participated in a one-day professional development workshop concerning parent involvement presented by The College Board in May, 2002.

- The Executive Director and the Project Director participated in the three-day annual conference/professional development workshops of the USDOE GEAR UP program in February,

2002 in Phoenix and July 2002 in Washington D.C. and in the professional development/annual conference of the Kellogg Foundation's ENLACE conference in Chicago in March 2002.

## **ONGOING CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

**The Corridor model** doesn't work well after middle school in the Bronx. With the increasing number of alternative and small high schools, students have greater options and a small percent of BEA GEAR UP students are going to the zoned high schools. Our challenge is to continue the support of the students in various high schools now that they are dispersed. We are addressing this problem in the following ways:

a) Saturday Academies for students at a site in their own neighborhoods are being planned; Hostos and BCC will be the sites for District 7 and District 9 Corridor students respectively. Other sites include their former middle school or a Beacon school. Academic enrichment and tutoring will be offered there.

b) The Cohort Coordinators will be splitting their time between the high school and middle school where there are retained students. Tutoring will be scheduled for retained students.

BEA ENLACE will include another high school for after-school enrichment programs by ASPIRA and BCA in addition to Stevenson and Smith since only 54 BEA GEAR UP students are in Smith while there are hundreds in other BEA GEAR UP high schools that could be reached.

**Personnel change is constant.** From changes in the directors and cohort coordinators of BEA projects to changes in superintendents, chancellors, SURR schools to Chancellor's schools, Borough Presidents and designees to the Steering Committee, the changes are frequent and time consuming. Our grant-funded projects lose directors and cohort coordinators who are offered positions with the promise of continuity rather than being funded by continuations, year to year, now to be based on performance. Searches and selection committees take a long time. Reestablishing relationships with a new superintendent and principal when a school goes from SURR status to the Chancellor's District is also time consuming. We are addressing the changes in Steering Committee designees. BEA staff have prepared information packets for the CEO and Superintendent's designees to orient them, and will meet with them individually as well to get to know them and answer questions about the BEA or programs.

The Director of BEA GEAR UP informed us recently that he will be resigning effective November 1. His leadership will be missed. Before hiring another director, we need to consider the status of GEAR UP and how it can be strengthened. The central staff of BEA GEAR UP has suggested the use of a computer program, Blackboard, to facilitate communication among the students of BEA GEAR UP who have computers and their teachers and also to send back data on the extent of use of the home computers in the BEA GEAR UP Home Computer program. The Cohort Coordinators will take that suggestion to the Corridor Leadership Teams to find out if the parents and teachers will support its use by students and teachers.

**BEA Structure.** Gene Adams, Director of Collaborative Programs, Bronx Community College, led a BEA Task Force on Evaluating the Structure of the BEA. The Task Force made up of Gene, Jules Levine, Jean Kiezs, Iran Pelcyger, Joe Petrella and Marietta reviewed the Policy and Procedures Manual and after several meetings found that the structure was essentially sound. During the meetings preparing for the retreat and at the retreat, a Structure subcommittee suggested distinguishing and separating the management of BEA initiatives from the four functions of the

BEA (brokering resources, communication, nurturing partnerships and facilitating policy development). They also suggesting renaming the Advisory Board as the Executive Board to reflect its membership and function.

The BEA staff and Chair of the BEA Advisory Board have been following one suggestion in placing the direction and location of new initiatives with BEA partner organizations, such as the proposal for an extended Parent Information Center in the Center for School College Collaboratives at Lehman and the central coordination of CUNY ENLACE at Hunter College. However, the Executive Director as PI continues to have oversight over current initiatives and the BEA Associate Director became part of a leadership team for BEA ENLACE when the former director resigned, with the agreement of the Chair of the Advisory Board and the CBO Partners, ASPIRA of NY, Inc. and Bronx Council on the Arts.