

CHANGING

CHANGING ATTITUDES • CHANGING LIVES

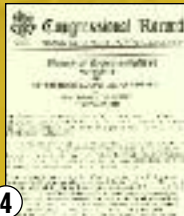


a new beginning

High School... The Gateway to College



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Dear GEAR UP Families:

The Bronx Institute GEAR UP Program has compiled a series of useful educational resources to support parents as they work with their children to make informed and intelligent decisions regarding college admissions and financial aid. We would like to use this opportunity to invite you to visit our Bronx Institute website www.thebronxinstitute.org where you will find these and other useful and important resources. Parents can also gain a better view and understanding of some of the rigorous enrichment programs provided to students and the family events organized by The Bronx Institute GEAR UP Program.

Listed below is some of the information you will find on our website:

- The Bronx Institute (vision and mission)
- The Parent Initiative (family events, programs, resources and more)
- Youth Development Programs (services for students)
- Bronx Institute e-News articles
- Bronx Institute staff (contact information)
- Other resources: Changing (GEAR UP magazine), ENLACE: Guide to the Small High Schools in *The Bronx* (first and second editions in English and Spanish), and others.

We encourage you to visit our website from time to time to receive recent and updated information that will be of help to you as you navigate the college journey for your child.

Please contact Francis Echevarría, Project Associate for Parent and C.B.O. Engagement, at (718) 960-5597 if you have any questions or concerns, or if you want to learn more about our program offerings for students and families.

Sincerely,
Professor Herminio Martinez, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Estimadas Familias del Programa GEAR UP:

El Programa GEAR UP de The Bronx Institute, ha recopilado una serie de recursos educativos para ayudar a los padres en la labor que junto a sus hijos/as realizan para tomar decisiones inteligentes e informadas en referencia a admisión y ayuda financiera para la universidad. Nos gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para invitarlos a visitar nuestra página electrónica, www.thebronxinstitute.org donde van a encontrar estos y otros útiles e importantes recursos educativos. Los padres podrán también obtener una mejor visión y entendimiento sobre algunos de los rigurosos programas de enriquecimiento proporcionados a los estudiantes y sobre los eventos para las familias organizados por el Programa GEAR UP de The Bronx Institute.

La siguiente lista contiene alguna de la información que van a encontrar en nuestra página electrónica:

- The Bronx Institute (visión y misión)
- Iniciativa para Padres (eventos para la familia, programas, recursos educativos y más)
- Programas de Desarrollo Educativo para los Jóvenes (servicios para los estudiantes)
- Bronx Institute e-News (varios artículos sobre la institución y sus programas)
- Información sobre cómo comunicarse con el personal de The Bronx Institute
- Otros recursos educativos: Changing (revista del programa GEAR UP), ENLACE: ENLACE: Guía para las Pequeñas Escuelas Secundarias en *El Bronx* (primera y segunda edición, en inglés y español), y otros.

Los exhortamos a visitar nuestra página electrónica, cada vez que les sea posible, para recibir la más reciente y actualizada información que les pueda beneficiar, a usted y a sus hijos/as, en el camino de investigación sobre la universidad.

Si tienen alguna pregunta o preocupación, o si quieren aprender más sobre los programas que ofrecemos a los estudiantes y sus familias, favor comunicarse con Francis Echevarría (Parent and C.B.O. Engagement) al (718) 960-5597

Atentamente,
Profesor Herminio Martinez, Ph.D.
Director Ejecutivo



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Being a single parent, unemployed during this economy, and trying to stay involved in my daughter's education hasn't been easy. Despite my situation, I try my best to participate in as many GEAR UP activities as possible. I attend the GEAR UP Parent Workshops, conferences such as the "Ready 2 Lead Conference," and other events such as the Summer Opportunities Fair with my daughter. Even when I'm not able to attend, I know a few parents who also have children in GEAR UP, and they collect the information for me.

In the three years my daughter has been in GEAR UP, I learned a lot about the road to college. I have learned about the different types of colleges, how to apply, and how I can help my daughter throughout this process. I have learned about financial aid--such as scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. GEAR UP also provides many opportunities for students to help prepare for college. They offer internships, jobs, travel opportunities, and summer academic programs.

In addition, I believe the GEAR UP program helps bring parents and students closer together. I am able to attend events with my daughter and support her dream of going to college. I recommend parents exchange telephone numbers at events, so that they can help each other out when possible.

GEAR UP has made it easier to stay involved with the assistance of their Project Associates. They continue to help throughout the year. I am able to email or call them to ask for help and learn more about GEAR UP opportunities. Get to know your child's Project Associate; they are there to help you as well. I give thanks and appreciation to all the GEAR UP Project Associates for their hard work.

Sincerely,
 Ivette Wiscovitch (Ms. W)
 Mother of Melanie K. Lopez
 High School of Law and Public Service, Extension Student

The Bronx Institute Vision

The Bronx Institute's (BI) vision is to promote equity and excellence in the education and learning of students K-16, by involving administrators, teachers, parents and the students themselves in high quality programs that support and enhance the educational opportunities of the students. As a community resource, the BI is committed to act in cooperation with other academic institutions, community groups and organizations to develop joint projects that enrich the educational experience of all Bronx students.

Bronx Institute GEAR UP Overview

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a nationwide effort funded by the United States Department of Education on behalf of students from low income communities to support them from seventh grade through high school as they prepare to enter college. The Bronx Institute South Bronx GEAR UP program serves more than 4,200 students in a community among those with the highest educational needs in the nation. Predominantly Hispanic and African American ninth grade students from 21 Bronx high schools will be provided with support and assistance to achieve academic success and overcome barriers to college.

BRONX INSTITUTE AT LEHMAN COLLEGE GEAR UP PROGRAM

- Herminio Martinez, Ph.D. *Executive Director*
- Bruce Irushalmi *Associate Director*
- Dita Wolf *Editor*
- Kevin Anthony *Program Manager*
- LaRae Snoddy *Program Coordinator*
- Martha Atencio *Project Associate for Management Systems*
- Francis Echevarria *Project Associate, Parent Involvement*
- Iwan Notowidigdo *Project Associate, Sustainability*
- Eileen Kurtis Kleinman *Assistant Editor*
- Willis Merchan *Editorial Associate*

Celebrating Achievement

On Friday, September 18, 2009, National GEAR UP Day was celebrated at South Bronx GEAR UP high schools as well as GEAR UP schools across the nation. The goal of GEAR UP is to help students be successful high school students and to enable them to attain an on-time graduation from high school and admission to college. GEAR UP Day activities included student participation in assembly programs and time management and study skills workshops. Students also received GEAR UP planners to help them set goals and use their time efficiently.

On September 18, 2009 Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Snoddy came to my English class and talked to us about a program called GEAR UP. They said that today was National GEAR UP Day and that we all were part of the GEAR UP Program.

Ms. Vazquez said GEAR UP was a program that was going to offer us many opportunities to be successful students and be able to attend a good college and receive scholarships, but we had to take advantage of those opportunities. She then told us all the opportunities that GEAR UP has to offer us and showed us all the incentives we can receive, such as academic enrichment classes after school, on weekends and during the summer; flash drives; books; magazines; educational trips; cultural shows; college trips and last but not least laptops. I was excited about this new program that was offering us all these great opportunities and incentives.

We all received a GEAR UP planner so that we can start organizing our assignments and managing our time in school. I was really excited to start the program. As soon as Ms. Vazquez was done with the presentation, I asked her when could I meet with her because I want to be able to take advantage of what GEAR UP has to offer me. I enjoyed GEAR UP Day, and I am very grateful the GEAR UP program is part of my school. Thank you.

Diana David
Millennium Art Academy

On GEAR UP Day a lot of students went to the gym to hear a speech about a new program for 9th graders in our school. A man named Kevin Anthony spoke very well about the program. He gave us ideas and facts about GEAR UP.

They also had four juniors come on stage to share ideas about college by having them act out scenes related to college. The presenters also spoke about doing community service, and that if you work at what you believe in you can be successful and go on to college.

During the time we were in the assembly, a girl was chosen to tell us what GEAR UP stands for (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), and when she answered correctly, she was awarded \$20.00 as her first scholarship dollars to save for her college education.

After hearing this presentation, we were all really interested in GEAR UP and wanted to find out how to participate.

Rashaun Williams
Bronx School for Law, Government & Justice



National GEAR UP Day



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Visit us at www.bronxpress.com

BronxPress-Review

Boro President, officials, applaud work of Bronx Institute GEAR UP Program



CROWD OF STUDENTS cheer program that helps Bronx kids get into college at the IN-Tech Academy in Kingsbridge last Friday. IN-Tech student Priscilla Inoa, explains how the program works to the assembled throng. A proclamation was presented to The Bronx Institute, sponsors of the program by Borough President Diaz's office.

TYRA WHITE

*Information and Network
Technology School*

On Friday, September 18, 2009, GEAR UP Day was celebrated by more than 8,000 students in over 50 middle and high schools across The Bronx. GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally funded program that delivers academic and college preparation to students in middle school and high school. The goal of GEAR UP is to help students attain an on-time graduation from high school and admission to college. Since 2005, students participating in The Bronx Institute Program have received preparation for SAT tests, academic enrichment classes, opportunities to work with educators and scientists at the Wildlife Conservation Society (the Bronx Zoo), The New York Botanical Garden, and Wave Hill as well as workshops in study and college readiness skills and trips to college campuses.

A proclamation was delivered from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

designating Friday, September 18, 2009 as GEAR UP Day in The Bronx and was accepted by Rose Fairweather-Chamie, principal of the Information and Network Technology Academy in recognition of the school's work in collaboration with The Bronx Institute. Recognition of the work done by The Bronx Institute GEAR UP Program was also read into The Congressional Record by Congressman Elton Engel on behalf of himself and his colleagues Congressman Jose Serrano and Congressman Joseph Crowley.

Ms. Fairweather-Chamie told the audience of parents and students who in honor it has been to have GEAR UP represented in grades 8 and 11 at her school. She emphasized the importance of doing well in school and that it is essential to learn the skills that students will need to get into good colleges. When she asked the students seated in the auditorium, "Who anticipates going on to college?" all hands were raised. Students Angelica Sosa, Anderson Bridgmanhan, Winmer Cabral, Priscilla Inoa and Kevin Serrano spoke about

their participation in GEAR UP activities. Each of the students urged their classmates to continue taking advantage of the opportunities that GEAR UP provides.

At Bronx Leadership Academy, students celebrated GEAR UP Day with GEAR UP representatives providing college planning workshops for students. All students in grades 9 and 11 were provided with GEAR UP planners to keep track of their assignments and organize their time to make sure that their journey to college was a smooth one.

Students in grades 8, 9 and 11 at Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice gathered in the school gymnasium to talk about the skills that are needed to complete high school and move on to college. Students engaged in lively conversation and role playing activities that emphasized the importance of having a well-balanced college portfolio that includes high grades in academic subjects, good scores on SAT and ACT college entrance exams, as well as involvement in community service and extra-curricular activities.

Ready 2 Lead (R2L)

Although research shows that a staggering one million high school students drop out each year, programs and organizations such as GEAR UP and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute are working to change these statistics and inspiring students to achieve their educational goals.

On December 5, 2009, GEAR UP had the privilege of partnering with one the nation's leading Hispanic-serving organizations, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) to host the Ready 2 Lead Program at Fordham University. The purpose of the Ready 2 Lead program is to "help more Latino high school students enter post-secondary education by providing them with college-admission and financial-aid information, motivating them to complete high school, empowering them to serve and lead in their communities, and instilling a belief that a college education is achievable." Students had the opportunity to learn more about the college admissions process, financial aid, and leadership development through interactive workshops and seminars.

These workshops and seminars were facilitated by a dedicated team of alumni, who have participated in CHCI's college-based internship program. Alumni not only hosted workshops and networking sessions, they also served as mentors to many of the students. Throughout the conference, facilitators and volunteers shared their personal stories, college and career experiences, and advice for students. Students had the opportunity to speak to a lawyer, accountant, director of grants, program manager, and teacher, as well as a producer at MTV, just to name a few!

In addition, students saw a screening of MTV Tr3s' Yearbook Chronicles. This documentary follows a group of high school seniors at Los Angeles' Bell High School as they complete their final yearbook class assignment--to find out why students from their class had dropped out of high school. They learned that their former classmates dropped out because of a variety of reasons--teen pregnancy, drugs, gangs, lack of self-esteem, lack of support, and to earn money for their families. After the film, our GEAR UP students acknowledged that their peers drop out for the same reasons and discussed ways to support their friends into staying in school and graduating with their diploma. Congratulations to all the students that participated in the Ready 2 Lead program! You are on your way to becoming the leaders of today and tomorrow!

Wilna Irizarry

GEAR UP Project Associate

On December 5, 2009, I attended the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's "Ready 2 Lead" Conference at Fordham University. It was enjoyable. We were given so much information on leadership, grants, loans, scholarships, employment opportunities, and college costs.

In the financial aid workshop, I learned that there are two ways to be approved for loans, grants, and scholarships. You can receive merit-based or need-based financial aid. Merit-based aid depends on test scores, class rank, special skills or talents, and a few other factors. On the other hand, need-based aid depends on income, asset equity, family size, age of older parent, number of children in college.

Colleges define "need" as cost of attendance minus expected family contribution = financial need.

The cost of attendance for a college is determined by the tuition fees, room and board, books, etc. The primary sources of aid are institutional, private, state and federal. There is a Free Application for Federal Students Aid (FAFSA), and the website is www.fafsa.gov. Be sure you put .gov to get to the correct site.

In the leadership workshop, we split into groups of five and were asked questions like: What is a leader? Who are the leaders in your life? The main message is that leadership comes from within.

In the college bound workshop, we were given reasons why Latinos don't attend college. We were told that we decide our future. We should attend college and do so by getting help in preparing for college, taking as many practice college entrance exams as we can, and participating in extracurricular activities, like GEAR UP, in high school.

My advice to the class of 2013 is to make 9th grade count. Don't mess up! Your first year in high school helps start things right. If you do well this year, you might be able to get into AP classes or even take a couple of next year's classes during the summer. Good luck.

Melanie K. Lopez

High School Of Law And Public Service, Extension Student



A Collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

I am a freshman in high school, and I would like to become a Hispanic leader one day. I recently attended a CHCI “Ready 2 Lead” Conference at Fordham University, and I really enjoyed it. One of the classes I enjoyed was the leadership development class. We talked about skill building, Hispanic leaders, and communications skills. The first activity we did was part of our communication skill builder. Our team had to try to build the tallest most stable tower using various materials without talking to each other. We had to work together using our different communication skills.

In addition, I enjoyed learning about the different Hispanic leaders in our community. For example, Justice Sonia Sotomayor is one. She is one of the Hispanic leaders from The Bronx community who made it all the way to our United States Supreme Court, making her the first Hispanic to wear the robes of a Justice. Overall, the experience I had at the CHCI “Ready 2 Lead” Conference was great because I met a lot of new people, learned many new things about leadership development, and got to participate in activities that build my skills. One day I want to be a Hispanic leader who came from the projects of The Bronx and is a respected Hispanic leader in history. I recommend other GEAR UP students participate in these conferences. I guarantee you will enjoy it, have lots of fun, and learn new things.

Kayla Chacon

Bronx High School for Visual Arts



I learned many things at the CHCI “Ready 2 Lead” program. I learned about how we should approach college and what it means to be a leader. I found the workshops to be very interesting. They explained everything they were trying to teach us. It was fun and educational. At the workshops they kept reiterating the same phrase, “You are here because of something in you and you may not even know it.” I learned that no matter who you are you can still be a leader.

Erick Gonzalez

Mott Hall Bronx High School

I learned various things at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute workshop at Fordham University. I learned that many Hispanics drop out and don’t get a good education. Sometimes, they dropout because they need to work or because of peer pressure. In one of the workshops, we had to work as part of a team without talking to make the tallest building out of toothpicks and marshmallows. The purpose was to get us thinking about leadership. After attending the conference at Fordham, I would like to learn more about the opportunities available for Hispanic students. The most important thing I learned from this program was learning more about my people and culture. I would recommend this program to more Hispanics so that they can learn more about their history, leaders, and communities.

Kathy Fuentes

Bronx Center for Science & Math

The congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute is one of the leading Hispanic non-profit and non-partisan organizations in the country. CHCI was established in 1978 to help increase opportunities for Hispanics to participate in and contribute to the American policy-making process.

In 2009, CHCI brought together the students of NYC public high schools to join in the program “Ready 2 Lead” at Fordham University.

During the program, I learned many significant aspects of leadership, the first being the foundation for getting ready for college. Specifically, CHCI’s alumni informed students of the courses and activities that will support a strong college application—for example, doing what you are passionate about: whether it be doing community service to benefit your neighborhood or joining a club you’re interested in at school. The second aspect was financial literacy. CHCI speakers enlightened students in many financial areas, such as managing credit cards and checking accounts as well as saving for college and getting financial aid. The last aspect was leadership development. Other students and I engaged in a creative leadership activity. It involved us having to build a stable house made out of different types of materials. Sure, it may sound easy, all except for one catch—you couldn’t speak to each other! This definitely helped to give students a sense of teamwork, and leadership.

Overall, I can honestly say that my experience with CHCI was unforgettable. This program really increased my awareness of not only what it takes to have a strong college application, but also how to handle financial debt. In addition, I feel I’m more confident about applying and succeeding in college. The cause of my confidence, I believe, came from when the CHCI speakers shared their success stories. Hearing stories about adults who worked through numerous hardships, and became successful, really got me motivated! I began to think to myself—if I have faith in myself, and persevere, then I can achieve the “unachievable.” CHCI has inspired and increased opportunities for Hispanics, and will continue to have a positive impact on students just like me.

Danielle Perez

Collegiate Institute for Math and Science

South Bronx GEAR



South Bronx GEAR UP students spent Summer 2009 involved in summer programs at Lehman College and Fordham University designed to expand their academic experiences, interests, and skills.

This summer I went to the GEAR UP summer program. This program was a step in the right direction towards becoming a well educated young lady. Throughout the summer program I improved in various aspects of my education such as reading, writing, and math. I enjoyed going to the math program especially because it helped me understand and be able to solve math problems in different ways.

A very interesting part of my summer was when I was selected to participate in a program at The New York Botanical Garden. This program allowed me to open my eyes to and explore my interests in the living environment and nature. I learned to respect and better understand the levels of life that people don't really see or understand. During this program, we learned about various types of plants while also learning how to care for The Garden itself. At the end of this program everyone was given a plant and this plant symbolized the responsibility of taking care of another living thing. For the first time I was able to realize how much care, love, and time goes into caring for life.

I would recommend this program to any middle/high school student out there. I have grown as an individual in leaps and bounds thanks to my experiences at GEAR UP. This program mentally and physically prepares you for obstacles and challenges you may have in life. It is also an eye-opening experience that I am grateful to have had

Sheila Cruz

Pelham Preparatory Academy

UP - Summer 2009

I had the opportunity this summer to study at Fordham University through the GEAR UP program. Through my summer experience I have gained a better sense of literature, and I have become a more open minded person in terms of appreciating the value of a book. It was through the "Great Books" program that I was able read and truly understand literary themes for the first time. Ms. Buccella was a great teacher, who really pushed me to gain the new positive outlook I now have towards books.

The GEAR UP summer program also helped me discover my new-found love of philosophy. Philosophy was my after-school summer elective with Ms. Larae Snoddy, and I truly enjoyed my experience in that class. In philosophy I learned how to debate, argue, and discuss philosophical themes and learned how to question and support certain beliefs and ideas and express these ideas in a smart manner.

This has been my second year doing the GEAR UP summer program and I absolutely enjoy doing it. It is going to be hard for me to make a choice about enrolling in the summer program this upcoming year because I am at the age of getting a job. But the experiences I have had at GEAR UP are life changing and have prepared me to become a better student, person, and individual.

Tiana Maclean

Pelham Preparatory Academy

The GEAR UP summer program at Fordham University was an exciting learning experience. My teachers were Ms Ruminski, Ms. Bucella, and Ms. LaRae. In the morning our curriculum was English and math. These classes were really helpful because we did a lot of work to prepare for our transition to high school. After the morning classes, we ate lunch on campus, which was one of the best things about the program. We got to eat in the cafeteria and really experience life as a college student. In the afternoons students got to choose their class, based on interest and talent. My group was really unique because we chose to do a philosophy class. In the philosophy class, we learned "logic" skills. In this class we learned a lot about critical thinking and had to solve logic games. Ms. LaRae also taught us how to look at life from different perspectives. We spent a lot of our time learning how thinking clearly can help you to become a better person in life. I really liked the summer program. I don't think there was anything more constructive that I could have done with my time.

Randy Ferguson

Truman High School



My time at the summer program was very exciting. At the program I learned many things. An interesting part about the program was that I got to meet new people and learn things about them. The teachers at the GEAR UP Fordham program were very nice and were always willing to help out the students.

Everything I learned at the program came in handy when high school started. The classes for math and English were very helpful in allowing me to transition into high school. I learned things that helped me finish my finals and allowed me to do well for myself in my fall freshman semester. Also, my Fordham summer program helped me pass my math and English classes.

The thing I liked most about the program was the science journalism class that I took; it involved learning things about the world around us. We worked on projects, in which we could use cameras to videotape each other working on our projects. Another thing I liked about Fordham was the all-you-can-eat cafe that Fordham had.

My experience at the GEAR UP summer program at Fordham University was very helpful and gave me a lot of insights.

Ashley Torres

DeWitt Clinton High School

GEAR UP on the Road

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE SOUTH BRONX GEAR UP COHORT PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. SOME STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE EDUCATIONALLY RICH PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES SUCH AS BROWN UNIVERSITY. OTHER STUDENTS TRAVELED TO SAN FRANCISCO TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL GEAR UP EDUCATION CONFERENCE. BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 200 EDUCATORS, STUDENTS GAVE A PRESENTATION USING POWER POINT AND OTHER VISUAL AIDS TO EXPLAIN THEIR CHALLENGING AND REWARDING ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AS PART OF A GEAR UP PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.



Last summer I had the opportunity to go to Brown University for two weeks and participate in a program called "Be a Scientist". This program changed me in different ways and helped confirm that that I want to be a surgeon.

At Brown we were treated just like college students. We had to get up on our own every morning, go to breakfast, then to class. My class was a science lab that lasted all morning. Then we had lunch, and it was back to science lab again until 4 pm. Then we had free time until dinner, and after dinner we had a lot of fun activities to do like roller-skating, laser tag, ice cream parties, bowling, and a talent show on the last day.

One of the things I really liked about the program was my class. In the class we were able to do a lot of hands-on experiments and use complicated machines and equipment. For example, we were able to use a micropipette. A micropipette is used to accurately measure and dispense extremely small volumes of liquid. It was like an eyedropper with four to eight droppers attached. Since I want to be a surgeon, using all these tools really made the class fun and exciting.

The other thing I liked about the program was that, since I was away, I became more responsible and independent. The program made me grow up and become responsible. I had to make new friends. My roommate was from Tokyo, and I started to learn about a different culture. I made other friends from other places and still keep in touch with most of them.

This was one of the best experiences of my life. I'm glad I went and would like to go again.

Safae Bennani

Townsend Harris High School, Extension Student

My summer experience at Brown University just might be the best summer I've ever had. When my GEAR UP Project Associate told me about the program, I was unsure. I didn't know what it would be like or what the other students would be like. I only knew what my home is like, and it is very different from living on the campus at Brown. I can honestly say I had never been in such a safe environment before. By the end of the first evening, after we played many enjoyable games to get to know each other during orientation, I realized I was very happy to be in such a secure and joyful environment. The kids were regular kids like me, and all the students

were friendly. First day of classes started the next day. My class, "Where the Rivers Meet the Sea," took place on a boat! I never went to school to learn about science and ecology on a boat before. As many days went by and I saw how challenging and interesting the class was, I began to realize that the Brown University program was going to be a very rewarding experience.

I learned so much, and not just about science. My class, "Where the Rivers Meet the Sea," helped me realize that my life was like a river, and my future was filled with many opportunities. It told me to open my eyes and realize that my future was directly touching my life now. My summer experience at Brown was like the place where the rivers and the sea meet. It was the beginning of many opportunities coming into my life to help me achieve success. I will never forget the Resident Advisors, the many friends I made, and how much I learned at Brown. I cannot thank GEAR UP enough for encouraging me to take advantage of a summer I will always remember.

Chinasa Nwokocha

The Harvey School, Extension Student

This past summer I had the privilege of participating in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) program. I spent three enjoyable weeks living on a college campus in Bristol, Rhode Island. The work was very challenging, but I always made sure to strive to stay on top of things because the program itself was so much fun. Looking back at this past summer, it's funny to think about the road that led to the opportunity.

When my middle school GEAR UP Project Associate first told me about CTY, I assumed it was another GEAR UP college visit. I could tell from how excited but serious he was, that this wasn't the ordinary "trip," and the fact that only five or six of my classmates were recruited for the program told me that it was something major. My interest was quickly sparked when I was told about the program in detail. I couldn't believe that I could possibly have the opportunity to spend three weeks on an actual college campus living the life of a real college student. This excitement turned to panic when my Project Associate told me that I would need to take and score high enough on the actual SAT test, the same test that kids three and four years older than I were taking and going crazy over. He told me that we'd have 12 classes of SAT prep to help better ➤

2009 San Francisco



The internship with The New York Botanical Garden has helped me in ways I didn't think possible. I learned new skills scientists use every day through the use of my senses. Participating in the program was eye opening to different opportunities. This program has also taught me to make a commitment in life. To be able to attend the internship, I had to commit Saturdays during the fall, and Mondays – Thursdays during the summer. This commitment paid off because I was one of four students who was offered an exciting opportunity. I was invited to present at a NCCEP Conference (National Council for Community and Educational Partnerships), for GEAR UP grants across the nation in San Francisco, California. We were there to represent The Bronx Institute at Lehman College and show all of the amazing work we were doing. My friends and I presented the work we did as GardenWorks interns to over 200 educational administrators and professionals.

Working with scientists in the garden is not something just anybody can say they have done. I learned a lot of new interesting things not discussed in our science classes in school. I think the most special thing about this new knowledge was the fact that it had applications to our everyday lives. Learning about conservation, how science can and has helped, proved to me that we can each do a little to help our environment and our community. Being in San Francisco was great for me and a new experience for most of us. I really liked San Francisco and the fact that I was able to travel because I was participating in an internship. This experience has already helped me in many ways, but I know it will still prove more and more valuable as time goes by. While in San Francisco at the conference, I overcame my fears of speaking publically in front of a lot of people. I also overcame a fear of flying in a plane because that was the only way we could get there. Overall, thanks to GardenWorks, new doors opened up, and old doors, such as my fears, closed.

Jay Soni
Lehman High School

I remember at the end of the eighth grade having no plans to look forward to for the summer. Then one day I was approached by my GEAR UP Project Associate. He informed me about an internship at The New York Botanical Garden. We learn about the environment and ecology. I remember doing experiments like going into the Bronx River (literally) to test how the water has improved. The fact is you DO NOT get to do hands on activities in school like I got to do in this program. I left this program with a greater knowledge of plants and the importance of nature.

One of the opportunities I was offered by participating in this program (which not many internships offer) was that I got to visit San Francisco. I'm not kidding! But of course like any other offer there was a catch. The catch was that we had to do a public presentation about the internship we participated in. But when a real vacation offer is thrown in your face, you'd be foolish to turn it down. When time approached for the presentation and practice became more serious, I realized I had a fear of public speaking. Thankfully, my peers helped me through it, and the experience was a good one.

Now in the 9th grade, I look back a lot on what happened. I realize now with the knowledge given to me from this program just how precious our little planet is and just how much of an impact we have on it. I have gained a sense of what it is like to work in the field of ecology and the responsibility of caring for our planet requires. My experience in San Francisco helped me become more comfortable with public speaking. I have gained a certain maturity--I have learned how to act in a different environment and how to approach others in a proper manner. But best of all I have gained friends, and I have left with friendships that will last a lifetime. Thank you, GEAR UP and The New York Botanical Garden, for the opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Toussandra Bailey
High School for Contemporary Arts, Extension Student

prepare us to perform well enough to get into CTY.

So for 12 classes I had to commute from my middle school after a full day of school to Lehman College for a two-hour SAT prep class. It was A LOT of work, very time consuming and demanding. But looking back at it now, I can honestly say it was so worth it. The bottom line is that I scored high enough on the SAT to participate in the CTY program. The other plus side of it is that now, even though I'm only a freshman in high school, I already have a taste of what the real life SAT test is like. By the time I'm in my junior year, hopefully I won't be as stressed out about it as some of my classmates will be.

Looking back at this past summer and all the hard work I put in

leading us to the CTY program, this experience is definitely one of the major highlights of my life so far. It shows me that when I put my mind to something and desire something enough, I can achieve great things. I've learned for high school that dedication, commitment, and hard work will ultimately pay off in the long run. I try to remember that, when times get rough or school gets harder each semester. I definitely look at the CTY program as a blessing and am very thankful that GEAR UP has helped guide me towards opportunities I may not have known about otherwise. I'm looking forward to continuing on with my success at CTY this coming summer.

Tanzim Chowdhury
Bronx Center for Science & Math

YOUR Gateway

KEVIN



KEVIN ANTHONY

Rutgers University, B.A.
Program Manager

High School...A New Beginning and the Gateway to College. In September, you started a new chapter in the story of your life. This chapter is extremely important in discovering your talents and skills and in creating opportunities. Education plays an important role in this chapter. Why? EDUCATION is the key to your future. What you do in the ninth grade lays the groundwork for many of the choices you will have in life. If you want to become a doctor, writer, entrepreneur, teacher, scientist, or president of the United States, the work starts now! Make the time, dedicate yourself and put in the hard work to create options that will lead to all of your dreams.

RAY



RAY COPLIN

Trinity College, B.S.
DeWitt Clinton
High School - Macy Program

My goal is to ensure that GEAR UP students feel confident and prepared to meet the academic, social and emotional challenges awaiting them. I want to help them stay focused and motivated so that they graduate from high school, earn a college degree, and pursue a gratifying career. I want them to know that they are part of the GEAR UP family and have an advocate and friend they can call upon at any point during their journey to college and beyond.

GONZALO



GONZALO A. ESTUPINAN

Trinity College, B.A.
Astor Collegiate Academy
Collegiate Institute for Math
and Science
Pelham Preparatory Academy

"Nine tenths of education is encouragement," a nobel-prize winning writer once said, and, with that in mind, I hope to encourage my students to foster a positive attitude towards education. I encourage them to take advantage of the programs GEAR UP offers because I believe that the more my students learn, the more impassioned they become about the world around them. I hope to instill an excitement about learning that leads them through high school and college to find their own personal passion to pursue.

LARAE



LARAE SNODDY

Lawrence University, B.A.
Edgewood College, M.A.
Truman High School

My hope is to teach my students resilience. I want them to learn that they have the power and capacity to bounce back from setbacks. I encourage them to believe in their abilities, to be courageous, to try again and to try new things as well. By taking that after-school skill-building program or joining that debate team, they broaden their knowledge and strengthen confidence! I want to teach them to see their experiences as opportunities to learn and improve and to equip them with the life skills of persistence and a good mind-set!

WILNA



WILNA IRIZARRY

University of Florida, B.S.
Columbia University, M.S.W.
Bronx Leadership Academy
Bronx High School for Visual
Arts
Lehman High School
Renaissance High School

I am very excited to be working with my group of ninth grade students as they bring with them a diverse set of cultures, experiences, and talents. Through my work at these schools, I hope to be a positive role model to my students as they explore who they are, their current interests, and future college and career aspirations. My hope is for all my students to realize the talents and abilities they possess and the impact they can have on their families, peers, and communities. My advice to them is to take advantage of all the opportunities GEAR UP has to offer because they all lead to something greater--personal growth.

to College...

Meet the GEAR UP Project Associates

I hope to help my students understand that acquiring knowledge and wisdom through education is the key to a successful life. I actively encourage students to participate in GEAR UP after-school, extra-curricular, and summer programs. I want them to strengthen their skills and learn the technology they'll need to compete. We talk about choosing academic courses that reflect their interests and planning the next four years to ensure that college is the next step after high school. My goal is to help students challenge themselves academically, expand their intellectual horizons, and realize that their dreams for their future are within reach.

JEFF HORNE

Temple University, B.A.
Bronx Center for Science
and Math
Mott Hall Bronx
Validus Preparatory Academy



JEFF

I hope to provide my students with the skills and resources they need to be successful in high school and in college. I talk to them about possible career choices and look forward to discussing the various colleges that offer degrees in professions that interest them. We also discuss the types of scholarships and financial aid packages available to them. In short, I want to keep them informed and involved and to support them along their path towards a meaningful, successful life.

ANN MARIE VAZQUEZ

Brooklyn College, B.A.
Wilmington University, M.ED.
Gateway School for
Environmental Research &
Technology
Millennium Art Academy
Pablo Neruda Academy



ANN MARIE

I hope to help my students equip themselves with the knowledge and tools they need to make educated decisions about attending college. I hope that by encouraging them to develop their talents and strengthen their skills, they develop the confidence and drive to succeed in graduating from high school and college. I want to create a culture among my students that assumes they are college bound. By engaging them intellectually, I hope they will take the initiative to fulfill the expectation of achieving success academically and professionally.

MICHELLE MARSH

University of Maryland, B.S.
New York University, M.P.A.
Bronx School for Law,
Government & Justice
DeWitt Clinton High School -
Animal Professions Program
New World High School



MICHELLE

I would like to provide my students with educational opportunities that might otherwise not be possible and establish meaningful connections with them. I hope these connections will support them not only academically but will empower them in different aspects of their lives, helping them become more responsible and, ultimately, more prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

JOEL NUNEZ

University of California,
Berkeley, B.A.
Harvard Graduate School of
Education, Ed.M.
Bronx International High School
Bronx Leadership Academy II
Morris Academy for
Collaborative Studies
School for Excellence



JOEL

Parent Initiative 2009-2010

South Bronx GEAR UP and Lehman College's Office of Admissions Guide Students and Families on the Path from High School to College



Planning ahead is essential to success in high school, college and life. To help GEAR UP students and families understand the importance of early planning, The Bronx Institute at Lehman College's South Bronx GEAR UP Program organized "9th Graders' Path to College: High School Requirements," as part of its series of conferences and family events.

The well-attended conference was conducted by two highly respected professionals: a high school guidance counselor and a representative from Lehman College - CUNY/Office of Admissions. Their informative PowerPoint presentation covered several key topics including: school expectations for both students and families; high school graduation requirements; academic performance levels; advanced placement courses; the importance of after school and enrichment programs; reading high school transcripts and report cards; understanding the process of accumulating credits to ensure an on-time high school graduation and college acceptance; and qualities that universities and colleges look for in students. Parents and students enjoyed the presentations and thought that the information received would be very useful in planning the next four years of high school.

The presentation was given in English and Spanish. Families received a comprehensive packet of educational resource materials to help guide them every step of the way from high school to college.

The presentation was given in English and Spanish. Families received a comprehensive packet of educational resource materials to help guide them every step of the way from high school to college.

Parent's Comment



"As a parent of three sons, I can confidently say that The Bronx Institute GEAR UP Program is not just like any other program. It is comprised of a team of professionals whose dream is to help our children "gear up" to attain new heights of success. GEAR UP's workshops, conferences, Summer Academies for parents and students, as well as distributed resource materials, have collectively helped me and my son make informed decisions about his education. I highly recommend the GEAR UP Program to every parent and student who wants to "gear up" for academic success.

Frankie Ahinful

Parent of Jessie Ahinful

Martin Luther King (Manhattan), Extension Student

Tips for Parents

- Talk to your child about college plans.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades.
- Encourage your child to take Advanced Placement or other challenging classes.
- Help your child make a list of his/her awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.
- Start a college savings account for your child.
- Attend college fairs with your child.
- Take your child to visit a college campus.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.collegezone.com - Your complete resource for exploring careers, planning for, applying to, and paying for college.

www.college.gov Click on "parents/family" to learn how to help your child go to college.

www.collegezone.com - Your complete resource for exploring careers, planning for, applying to and paying for college.

Explore **www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/parent** for information on academic preparation, homeschooling, financial literacy, saving, and more.

www.ed.gov/parents Click on "Parents School Box" to access "Challenging High School for All."



GEAR UP Project Associates with students and their parents at the moment of registration

Iniciativa para Padres 2009-2010

South Bronx GEAR UP y la Oficina de Admisión en Lehman College Proporcionaron las Guías Necesarias a los Estudiantes y sus Familias durante su paso por la Escuela Secundaria Hacia la Universidad



Planificar con anticipación es esencial para triunfar en la escuela secundaria, la universidad y en la vida. Para ayudar a los estudiantes del Programa GEAR UP y a sus familias a comprender sobre la importancia de planificar con anticipación, el Programa South Bronx GEAR UP de The Bronx Institute en Lehman College, organizó la conferencia “9no. Grado y el Camino a la Universidad: Requerimientos de la Escuela Secundaria”, como parte de la serie de conferencias y eventos para la familia, pautados para este año.



Desde la izquierda: Erika Morales, Consejera en Admisión de Lehman College, y Leslie Lambertson, Consejera de la escuela secundaria DeWitt Clinton

La asistencia a la conferencia fue muy buena, fue conducida por dos excelentes y muy respetados profesionales: un consejero de escuela secundaria y un representante de la oficina de admisión de Lehman College-CUNY. La presentación en Power Point fue muy informativa y cubrió muchos de los tópicos claves, tales como: Qué espera

la escuela tanto de los estudiantes como de sus padres, requerimientos para la graduación en la escuela secundaria, progreso académico, cursos avanzados, la importancia de los programas después de clases y de enriquecimiento, cómo leer los reportes de las calificaciones, acumulación de créditos educativos para la graduación en la escuela y la aceptación en la universidad, y las cualidades que las universidades buscan en sus estudiantes. Padres y estudiantes disfrutaron las presentaciones y claramente expresaron que la información recibida sería muy útil al planificar por los próximos cuatro años.

La conferencia fue presentada en inglés y español. Las familias recibieron materiales educativos que les ayudarán a guiar a sus hijos/as en cada paso durante el camino hacia la universidad.



Kevin Anthony, GEAR UP Manager junto a algunos de los coordinadores del programa en las escuelas

Comentario de los Padres



“Todos en la familia nos sentimos muy agradecidos con el apoyo que hemos recibido del programa GEAR UP y de los coordinadores que trabajan con los niños en las escuelas. Yo personalmente he tenido una gran experiencia

al haber recibido importante información en las conferencias, la cual he compartido con mi hija Alexandra. Los programas, tanto para los padres como para los estudiantes, nos han ayudado a tomar decisiones que van a influir en nuestro futuro inmediato, pero sobre todo y lo más importante, en el futuro educativo de mi hija. Gracias al programa GEAR UP hemos aprendido todo lo necesario para hacer una buena elección de la universidad. Muchas gracias a todos”.

Noris Wade-Payne
Madre de Alexandra Payne
Manhattan Village Academy

Ideas para los Padres

- Hable con su hijo/a de los planes sobre la universidad.
- Esté atento a los hábitos de estudio y grados de su hijo/a.
- Aconseje a su hijo/a, a tomar cursos avanzados y otros cursos rigurosos.
- Ayude a su hijo/a a hacer una lista de sus reconocimientos académicos, trabajos voluntarios o pagados, y actividades extra-curriculares.
- Ahorre para la universidad de su hijo/a. Abra una cuenta de ahorros.
- Asista a Ferias de universidades con su hijo/a.
- Visite campus universitarios con su hijo/a.

UTILES PAGINAS ELECTRONICAS

www.college.gov - Después de entrar, vaya a “parents/family” para aprender cómo ayudar a su hijo/a, ir a la Universidad.

www.collegezone.com - Un recurso completo para explorar sobre carreras, planificar, aplicar y pagar la universidad.

Explore **www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/parent** para obtener información sobre preparación académica, ayuda en la casa sobre temas escolares, educación financiera, cómo ahorrar y mucho más.

www.ed.gov/parents - Después de entrar, vaya a “Parents School Box” para tener acceso a “Challenging High School for All.”



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GEAR UP Program Schools

- HS 252 - Mott Hall Bronx High School
- HS 260 - Bronx Center for Science & Math
- HS 263 - Validus Preparatory Academy
- HS 288 - Collegiate Institute for Math & Science
- HS 293 - Renaissance High School
- HS 295 - Gateway School for Environmental Research & Technology
- HS 297 - Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies
- HS 299 - Astor Collegiate Academy
- HS 305 - Pablo Neruda Academy
- HS 312 - Millennium Art Academy
- HS 403 - Bronx International High School: Morris Campus
- HS 404 - School for Excellence
- HS 405 - Lehman High School
- HS 418 - Bronx High School for Visual Arts
- HS 440 - DeWitt Clinton High School
- HS 455 - Truman High School -Selected Programs
- MS/HS 505 - Bronx School for Law Government and Justice
- HS 513 - New World High School
- HS 525 - Bronx Leadership Academy
- HS 527 - Bronx Leadership Academy 2
- HS 542 - Pelham Preparatory Academy

GEAR UP Partners

- NYC Department of Education
- Lehman College
- Fordham University
- The New York Public Library
- Harvard University
- The College Board
- Peterson's (a Nelnet Company)
- The United Negro College Fund (Special Programs Corporation)
- Experiment in International Living
- ASPIRA of New York, Inc.
- The After-School Corporation
- Mosholu Montefiore Community Center



Alberto Méndez *Art Director & Designer*