

FY 2009 GEAR UP Partnership Abstracts

PR Award Number: P334A090116
Grantee: Chama Valley Independent School District
Director's Name: Dr. Rebecca Truelove
State: New Mexico
Year One Funding: \$201,600
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Chama Valley Independent School District number 19 is a small, predominately Hispanic (82 percent), impoverished (73 percent free and reduced lunch) school district that is isolated from urban centers. The lumber and tourist industries which provide most of the employment in the surrounding area are seasonal, relatively low-paying, and highly dependent on national economic trends. To combat a legacy of low expectations, the district will facilitate development of an expanded language arts, mathematics, science, and technology curriculum. The project will provide professional development opportunities, as well as training in innovative teaching techniques.

Curricular expansion will include pre-algebra at the eighth grade level, graphic design, technology literacy, and advanced science and mathematics courses. Students will participate in activities during the regular school day, after school, and in the summer that support college preparation. Parents and guardians will be involved in students' academic and career planning from kindergarten through seventh grade by developing an age-appropriate College Planning Portfolio.

The district's application requests \$800 per student for the 255 students currently in grades kindergarten through seventh (60th day count, Accountability Data System) for a total \$204,000. The district anticipates serving increasing numbers of students as the program provides services to incoming kindergarten classes. By year six, the Chama Valley GEAR UP Program will serve all students in grades K-12 (430 projected students). The addition of an estimated thirty-five students per year at district and partner expense will reduce the programs per pupil expenditure to \$474.42 per student.

Project partners will provide curriculum development that aligns with state and national standards, professional development, scholarship assistance, financial aid assistance, parenting classes, and individual and family counseling.

PR Award Number: P334A090131
Grantee: The School District of Philadelphia
Director's Name: Michael Sonkowsky
State: Philadelphia
Year One Funding: \$3,814,400
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The purpose of the Philadelphia GEAR UP Partnership initiative will be to increase the number of low-income Philadelphia public school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The partnership is comprised of: the School District of Philadelphia (lead applicant); three institutions of higher education (Villanova University, Temple University, and Community College of Philadelphia); and five other local organizations (Communities-In-Schools, Philadelphia Youth Network, Educational Advancement Alliance, College Board, and White-Williams Scholars), all of whom are committed to improving education.

The partnership will conduct intensive academic acceleration efforts at twenty-eight of the district's most at-risk schools with middle grades and at the nine neighborhood high schools into which they feed in order to ensure that students who attend these schools are provided with the extra support they need to achieve at the highest possible academic levels.

A comprehensive array of services will be provided for the benefit of a targeted cohort of 4,678 students, comprised of every sixth- and seventh- grader in the targeted feeder patterns in 2009/2010. The services provided and their impact on the cohort will be evaluated in each year of the project as the cohort moves from the middle grades to high school graduation and beyond. The major objectives and anticipated outcomes of the initiative are as follows:

1. Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education.

Increased numbers of cohort students passing pre-algebra by seventh grade and algebra I by eighth grade.

2. Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education.

Improved attendance rates, promotion, and high school graduation rates for cohort students.

3. Increase students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

Increased numbers of cohort students and families will demonstrate knowledge about postsecondary education opportunities on surveys.

PR Award Number: P334A090134
Grantee: Rancho Santiago Community College
Director's Name: Lilia Tanakeyowma
State: California
Year One Funding: \$800,000
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During the six year performance period, Santa Ana College will serve as the fiscal agent for this GEAR UP 2009 Partnership. The GEAR UP Santa Ana 2009 project goals and measurable objectives are to improve, each year, GEAR UP students' math and English language arts achievement, college awareness and preparation, and parents' college awareness, in order to measurably increase students' rates of graduation and enrollment in college.

The GEAR UP Partnership will begin its intensive work in the sixth grade at Carr and McFadden Intermediate Schools—both with a combined sixth grade population of 1,000 and will add a second sixth grade cohort of 1,000 in the second year. GEAR UP Santa Ana 2009 will continue to serve these 2,000 students as they move into Saddleback and Valley High Schools and matriculate to college. Multiple strategies will be implemented.

Extensive professional development for all teachers and counselors at GEAR UP schools will occur years one through six, and will include research-based math and English language arts strategies, literacy across the curriculum, integrating computer-based reading strategies into the curriculum, college admissions processes and requirements, designing and using assessments to provide just-in-time learning interventions, and content-specific teaching strategies.

PR Award Number: P334A090251
Grantee: San Diego State University Research Foundation
Director's Name: Timothy Allen
State: California
Year One Funding: \$911,201
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The City Heights Educational Collaborative, a unique, sustainable partnership among San Diego State University (SDSU); San Diego City Schools on behalf of Wilson and Clark Middle Schools and Hoover High School; The Price Charities, a nonprofit philanthropic community-based organization; the San Diego Teachers Association, a professional organization, and San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) propose GEAR UP to College Avenue to increase the number of low-income students graduating from high school and prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The project will begin serving 1,600 students in the sixth and seventh grades.

City Heights is the most economically depressed and culturally diverse neighborhood in San Diego with over eighty percent of the students at each target school eligible for free or reduced lunch. Over twenty different languages are spoken and English learners (ELs) make up over thirty percent of the school's population.

To increase the rate of postsecondary participation of Hoover graduates, the College Avenue Compact (the Compact) guarantees SDSU admission to Hoover's graduating seniors pursuing a rigorous secondary curriculum: completion of California's A-G requirements with a minimum grade point average of 3.0; passing the California High School Exit Exam; completion of the SAT or ACT; and passing college readiness tests in mathematics and English. GEAR UP will support, track, and document each requirement. SDCCD will offer GEAR UP students opportunities to earn college credit for academic work undertaken while still in high school.

GEAR UP will increase students' educational expectations by disseminating information to increase the number of school personnel, GEAR UP students and their families who have knowledge of the Compact's rigorous secondary school program of study, the financial aid, and educational options. School counseling interns will collaborate with site school counselors to provide classroom guidance lessons on academic, career, and personal and social development. Counselors will provide workshops to school personnel.

Teacher enhancement will be provided by the pre-service, credentialing program at SDSU and by the schools themselves through workshops and teacher release for peer observation of curricular innovations. College-going tutors and academic advisors (mentors) will support and encourage students' achievement of academic goals.

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