

FY 2010 GEAR UP Partnership Abstracts

PR Award Number: P334A100031
Grantee: Northeastern Illinois University
Director's Name: Wendy Stack
State: Illinois
Year One Funding: \$3,584,800
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The Chicago Teachers' Center at Northeastern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, the Chicago Public Schools District 299, the Consortium for School Research, the community based organization Youth Guidance, and the business partners, Children's Memorial Hospital and Experiencia Inc., propose to implement a comprehensive set of services to a cohort of 4,481 disadvantaged middle and high school students that will prepare them for high school, for enrollment and success in college, and for becoming life-long learners. The ***GEAR UP Partnership for Chicago Youth (PCY)*** will address critical needs that research suggests place students at risk of educational failure. The goals will address the lack of opportunities for rigorous academic preparation, insufficient counseling support, and the lack of parental knowledge of early intervention through tutoring, mentoring and enrichment activities. In 2008, PCY will begin work in 6th and 7th grades at Albany Park, Ames, Aspira-Haugan, Brighton Park, Clark Middle, Davis, De Diego, Dixon, Evergreen Academy, Gillespie, Kohn, Marshall, Marquette, McKay, Moos, Morrill, Shields, Von Humboldt, Ella Flagg Young Elementary/Middle Schools that will feed, in 2010 and 2011, to Clark, Clement, Gage Park, Harlan, Kelly and Roosevelt High Schools.

This project engages all stakeholders to address these critical needs through services and activities that implement an inclusive and comprehensive approach for engaging students and parents in college preparation, career options, and the financial aid process; providing opportunities for students to experience college life; and emphasizing that all children are capable of success. Tutors/Mentors will work with students to provide academic support. Postsecondary coaches will help remedy insufficient counseling support. Through PCY activities such as college visits and summer programs, students will be exposed to a multitude of careers to spark their passion for learning and broaden their horizons. Students will also be supported by the tutor/mentors as they complete college applications and pursue financial aid. Parents will participate in a developmental sequence of workshops that support postsecondary preparation. Seminars and workshops for parents/guardians will the developmental stages of their children, providing them with knowledge and skills to guide their children to academic success and entrance into postsecondary education. PCY will employ a systematic teacher

professional development process that includes graduate level courses to increase content area knowledge, conferences, and follow-up including whole school professional development during scheduled in-service days. All program services will be integrated and coordinated by the PCY Partnership agencies, including the Chicago Public Schools Department of High School Curriculum and Instruction, the Offices of Instructional Design and Assessment, Mathematics and Science, and Postsecondary Education and Student Development.

PCY is grounded in a strong partnership that has eight years of experience successfully implementing GEAR UP initiatives. This project places a high priority on ensuring that a diversity of perspectives with regard to groups underrepresented in postsecondary education is engaged in the management, implementation and participation in the services.

Partnership outcomes will be sustained, resulting in system-wide change with increasing numbers of students realizing that learning is a fascinating adventure. Students will identify their talents, explore careers, and set goals to achieve their dreams, and every student will become academically and financially ready for college.

PR Award Number: P334A100066
Grantee: Mount Wachusett Community College
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Mount Wachusett Community College (Gardner, MA) is the lead applicant in the Fitchburg GEAR UP Partnership project, composed of the Fitchburg Public School District, four colleges and universities, six community and faith-based organizations, a government entity, and a large regional health care employer. Four middle schools in the Fitchburg district are targeted for participation, along with the high school and vocational school that the middle school cohort group goes on to attend. The project will serve a cohort of 760 students.

Students enrolled in the Fitchburg district are overwhelmingly low-income and first-generation, with a large percentage of students from primarily Latino backgrounds who are second language learners. Standardized test scores at each school are well below the state and national averages, and this is magnified among the Latino student population. The goals of the project are: *(1) To increase the academic performance of GEAR UP students; (2) To increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students; (3) To increase students and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education and financial aid options; and (4) To implement sustainable teaching and learning improvements through annual professional development and curriculum reform activities for teachers.*

The project will provide all cohort students with intensive, bilingual academic support services including: targeted initiatives in science; college admissions and financial aid information and application assistance; after-school and vacation programs including a special initiative focusing on math, science, and engineering; and family based interventions designed to increase student academic success. The district will embark upon instructional and curricular reforms that will make improvements in teaching diverse learners and reform middle school and high school science curricula. Anticipated project outcomes are: increased postsecondary matriculation of students; a science curriculum aligned to national standards; and developing all teachers to become certified by 2013. The partnership will maintain the capacity to continue providing services to all students beyond the period of federal support.

PR Award Number: P334A100137
Grantee: College of Micronesia
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Year One Funding: \$289,000
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Pohnpei is one of four island states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This country has one community college with six campuses. Pohnpei's GEAR UP program will improve educational preparedness among students graduating from high schools; increase educational attainment levels among Pohnpeian young people; provide information about college options; change the cultural mentality on education; and bring curriculum reform.

The Pohnpei GEAR UP program in partnership with the Pohnpei State Department of Education and Health Services, FSM Telecommunication, Bank of the FSM, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Pohnpei Public Library, Micronesia Red Cross Society, Island Food Community of Pohnpei Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and Parental Organization will serve a single cohort of 7th graders from five target elementary schools.

The project will provide rigorous academic coursework based on College Entrance Requirements. There will be tutoring in basic subjects especially English, mathematics, science, and technology; and mentoring and counseling to inform and encourage students about application to college, college life, career paths, opportunities and quality of life. This will be done through after-school study sessions and during intensive summer programs. The targeted group consists of 360 seventh graders and the project will follow these cohorts through the six year grant period. The students will participate in frequent tutoring sessions to improve their grade point average; improve skills in English, mathematics, science and technology as well as increasing high school and college enrollment rates. There will be more parental and community involvement in education as well as professional development for the teachers to strengthen their classroom instruction.