

Texas State GEAR UP Conference

September 22-23, 2009 ★ JW Marriott Hotel ★ Houston, TX



Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project – Texas Education Agency

College for All – Project GRAD Houston/Houston ISD
GEAR UP for Success – Pasadena ISD
Spring Woods HS GEAR UP – Spring Branch ISD



Dear GEAR UP Colleagues:

Welcome to Houston!

This conference represents the collaboration of four GEAR UP programs: the Texas Education Agency's State GEAR UP/STAR Project, Project GRAD Houston/Houston ISD's "College for All", Pasadena ISD's "GEAR UP for Success", and Spring Branch ISD's "Spring Woods High School GEAR UP". The theme of the conference—"College for Y'all"—conveys the desire of our Texas GEAR UP partnerships to work together to help all Texas students succeed.

Over the next two days, almost 70 presentations will allow educators, parents, teachers, administrators, program directors, and business and community partners to learn together about this exciting movement called GEAR UP in Texas. This conference was designed to address the components of all GEAR UP programs: information for students and families about post-secondary options, academic achievement and professional development, family and community participation and support, student leadership development, and program procedures and evaluation efforts. The general sessions are structured to allow time for us to convene as a group and learn from national experts about new ways of approaching our challenge. Breakouts will offer a smaller setting and a fantastic opportunity for focused conversation regarding successes and concerns.

We appreciate the support of the contributors, vendors and service providers who made this conference possible and who share our vision for Texas' future generation of leaders. Our special thanks is extended to the GEAR UP projects in the Houston area who have given their time and energy to make sure all of us have a wonderful experience at this conference.

College for Y'all is a chance to spotlight GEAR UP initiatives throughout the state. Please take this opportunity to meet, network, and learn from those who make GEAR UP succeed every day—you!

Thanks for all "y'all" do for the students of Texas!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KR REYNOLDS".

Kristen Reynolds
State Project Director, Texas GEAR UP

Keynote Speaker Biographies

Héctor Garza, Ed.D, M.P.H.

President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Héctor Garza, a native of Edinburg, Texas, serves as the founding president of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). NCCEP is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the principle that every child deserves an equal chance at obtaining a quality higher education. NCCEP's goal is to bring together colleges and universities with local schools, parent groups, government agencies, foundations, corporations, and community-based organizations to work collaboratively to improve student achievement and expand educational opportunities for all of America's children.

Prior to founding NCCEP, Dr. Garza served as the Vice President for Access and Equity Programs at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, D.C. for six years. Dr. Garza served as a senior consultant to the Ford Foundation on K-16 initiatives, and during the past ten years has served a similar role on behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Learn more about Dr. Garza and the work of NCCEP at www.edpartnerships.org.

Ann B. Stiles

Executive Director, Project GRAD Houston

Ann B. Stiles serves as the Executive Director of Project GRAD Houston (GRAD), where she leads GRAD's Pre-K through 12 college access education reform model. Working collaboratively with the Houston Independent School District, this initiative serves approximately 45,000 children and their families. Prior to becoming Executive Director, Ms. Stiles served in various leadership roles for GRAD Houston and GRAD USA, the national arm of the organization.

Ms. Stiles entered education as a second career in 1993, where she was a fifth-grade HISD teacher. Prior to this, she held leadership positions in accounting and finance, in the energy and international transportation industries. Ms. Stiles holds a B.A. and a M.Ed. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Saint Thomas.

Dr. Max Castillo (invited)

Retired President of the University of Houston-Downtown

Max Castillo served as the President of the University of Houston-Downtown, one of four independent universities in the University of Houston System. During his tenure, the University enrollment grew to more than 12,000 students and expanded its campus from one to five buildings on the northern edge of Houston's vibrant downtown business district. UHD is known for providing access and opportunity to a very diverse and talented student body and offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in fields facing growing demands for an educated and trained workforce.

Castillo holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and a doctoral degree from the University of Houston. He became UHD's president in 1992, after serving for ten years as president of San Antonio College. During his tenure at UHD, President Castillo has actively positioned the institution as an integral part of the economic, social and civic well-being of the metropolitan area by connecting university courses, outreach and programs to real needs in the area.

Castillo has held leadership positions on the Commission on Minorities in Higher Education of the American Council on Education, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has served on the board of the American Council on Education (ACE), and the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP).

Linda Buchman

Community Relations Officer, Spring Branch ISD

Linda Buchman is the Community Relations Officer for Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD). Her responsibilities include leadership, visioning and oversight for the districts communications, partnerships and volunteer programs, parent engagement and education and community education initiatives. As coordinator for the district's first GEAR UP grant program in 2002, Linda launched the district's SpringBoard mentoring program with 20 mentors in two high-need SBISD middle schools. From that humble beginning, under Linda's leadership the SpringBoard mentoring program now engages over 600 mentors working with students across 24 campuses. The program has earned the 2005 Civic Star Award for the State of Texas, and in January, 2009 was named the Texas Association of Partners in Education Crystal Award winner for top mentor program in the state. The SpringBoard mentor program is featured in the Texas GEAR UP toolkit of promising mentoring practices that was also released in January. Additionally, Spring Branch ISD's Collegiate Challenge Mentoring program aimed at helping minority and low income students through the college application and scholarship process has been named a Texas High School Project Exemplar Program as well as a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board STAR Award winner.

In addition to her passion for mentoring, Ms. Buchman also serves on the boards for the Southwest Regional Office and the National Board of the Anti-Defamation League, the Spring Branch Education Foundation, the Spring Branch Family Development Center and several other local non-profits and chambers.



GEAR UP in Texas

(texasgearup.com/gear-up-in-tx)

Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project
Texas Education Agency - Austin, TX
Kristen Reynolds, State Project Director
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Phone: 512-463-8254

2008 – 2014

Bryan ISD GEAR UP Partnership Project
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Linda Castillo, Director Phone: 979-845-0891
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UTEP GEAR UP Project
The University of Texas El Paso
Juliette Caire, Director Phone: 915-747-5367
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2007-2013

GEAR UP "Creating a Vision III"
Texas A&M International University
Dr. Alberto Salinas, Director Phone: 956-326-3062
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Think BIG: Believe, Integrate and Graduate
Amarillo College
Jodi Lindseth, Director Phone: 806-335-4325
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2006 – 2012

El Paso Community College GEAR UP Project
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Marisa Pierce, Director Phone: 915-831-3239
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El Paso ISD Borderland GEAR UP Project
El Paso ISD
Martin Torres, Director Phone: 915-775-2139
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GEAR UP for Success
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GEAR UP Waco
Baylor University
Jewel Lockridge, Director Phone: 254-710-4975
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2005-2011

College For All / Project GRAD Houston
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lballering@projectgradhouston.org

East Texas GEAR UP Project
Stephen F. Austin State University
Barbara "Bobbie" Davis, Director Phone: 956-468-1813
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GEAR UP "Creating a Vision II"
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Project ReACH
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Region One ESC GEAR UP: Bridges to the Future
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Spring Woods High School GEAR UP
Spring Branch ISD
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The University of Texas – Pan American GEAR UP Project
Avanzando Juntos: GEARing UP for College-TOGETHER!
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Tyler GEAR UP Project
The University of Texas at Tyler
Peggy Gill, Director Phone: 903-565-5675
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UTEP GEAR UP Project
The University of Texas at El Paso
Juliette Caire, Director Phone: 915-747-5367
jcaire@utep.edu

State GEAR UP Conference Committee 2008-2009

Texas State GEAR UP/STAR Project

Kristen Reynolds, State Project Director
Amy Koenning, Implementation Director, STAR Project at TAMUCC
Vanessa DeLacretaz, Program Specialist
Doris Teague, State Initiatives Director

Project GRAD /Houston ISD – College for All

Ann B. Stiles, Executive Director
Dr. Laurie Ballering, Senior Director
Kyle Cowart, Conference Planner
Mike Murphree, Chief Financial Officer
Carol Harper, GEAR UP Coordinator
Rodie Aguire, Graphic Designs
Daniel Scudder, Education Specialist

Pasadena ISD – GEAR UP for Success

Karen McCarley, Director
Pileirol Retta, Coordinator
Sarah Carnes, Coordinator
Neitzzy Retta, Coordinator
Stefanie McKinney, Coordinator
Laurie Etnyre, Coordinator
Nelda Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant

Spring Branch ISD – Spring Woods High School GEAR UP

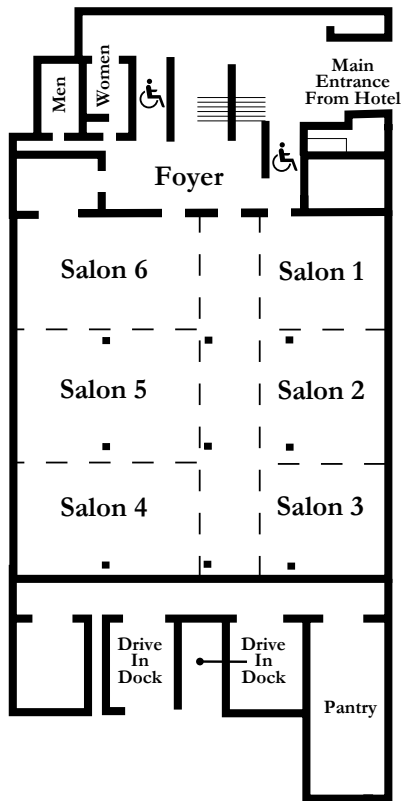
Regina Kirkpatrick, Director

AMS Pictures

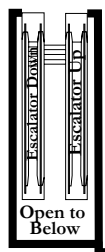
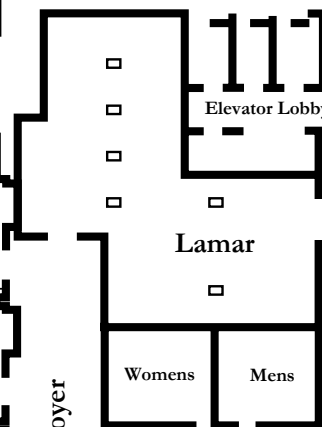
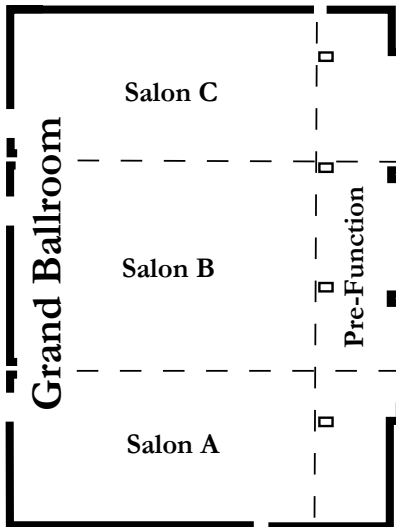
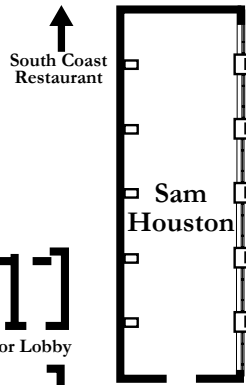
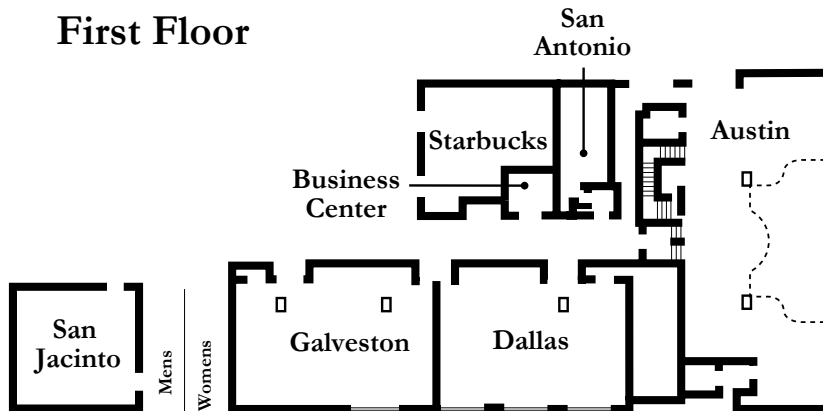
Kelly Cavener, Art Director
Natalie Glover, Managing Director, Austin
David Horwitz, Executive Producer
Brian McFarlin, Producer
Sara Gauchat, Project Manager
Andy Streitfeld, CEO

JW Marriott Houston Map

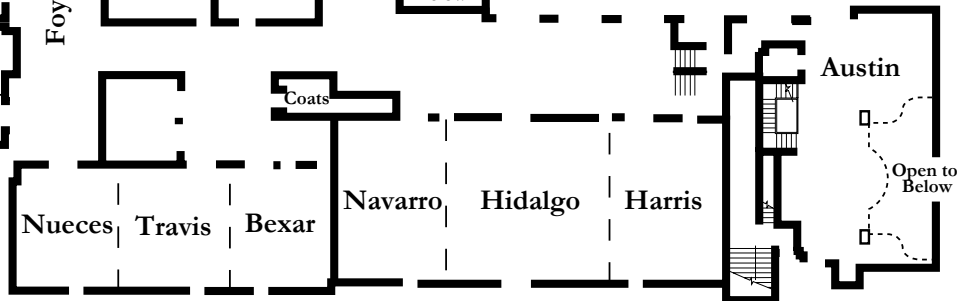
Liberty Hall



First Floor



Second Floor



Texas GEAR UP State Conference Agenda

Monday, September 21, 2009

4:00 - 6:00 Early registration and packet pick up – JW Marriott Hotel
Liberty Hall Foyer

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Conference Packets – JW Marriott Hotel
Liberty Hall Foyer

Continental Breakfast – Grand Ballroom

8:30 - 9:45 Plenary Session – Grand Ballroom
Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Reynolds, Texas State GEAR UP Director

Karen McCarley, Moderator, Pasadena ISD GEAR UP Director

Keynote Address

Hector Garza, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 – 11:00 Breakout Session 1

11:15 – 12:15 Breakout Session 2

12:15 - 1:45 Plenary Session/Working Lunch – Grand Ballroom

J. Frank Dobie High School Chamber II Orchestra, Pasadena ISD, Pasadena, TX,
under the direction of Tanner Ledford and Alice McCoy

Keynote Address

Ann B. Stiles, Executive Director, Project GRAD Houston

2:00 – 3:00 Breakout Session 3

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 Breakout Session 4

4:15 – 5:00 Sponsors Reception – Liberty Hall

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Conference Packets – JW Marriott Hotel
Liberty Hall Foyer

Continental Breakfast – Grand Ballroom

8:30 - 9:45 Plenary Session – Grand Ballroom

Keynote Address

Dr. Max Castillo, President (retired), University of Houston – Downtown

9:45-10:00 Break

10:00 - 11:00 Breakout Session 5

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 Breakout Session 6

12:15 - 1:30 Plenary Session/Working Lunch – Grand Ballroom
Pasadena Memorial High School Varsity Orchestra, Pasadena ISD, Pasadena, TX,
under the direction of Stanley Oakes

Keynote Address

Linda Buchman, Community Relations Director, Spring Branch ISD

Conference Evaluations



Conference Breakout Sessions • Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Breakout Session I • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

101 Nueces Room

University Mentors in GEAR UP Classrooms: The Faculty Fellows Program in Action!

This session will provide an overview of the successful Faculty Fellows Program at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMUCC). Participants will learn about program organization, recruitment of university professors, and the development of partnerships with teachers, students, parents and community partners in GEAR UP schools. A description of specific activities and events will detail ways in which the Fellows have boosted college awareness and preparation at the middle and high school levels. Presenters will provide insights and techniques for implementing this successful collaboration with GEAR UP stakeholders.

Presenters: Amy Koenning, Gilda Ramirez, and TAMUCC Faculty Fellows (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Track: Program Management

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

102 Travis Room

Blog All About It

Are you having a hard time contacting your parents and your students? Every time you mail something home, does it get returned? Come and learn how you can blog your way into the homes of your students. Participants will learn how to create, sustain, and what to post on a blog. They will also receive information on various blog activities they can have their students complete. Presenters will also discuss using Google Docs and Google Groups to assist with parent/student contact.

Presenters: Stefanie McKinney and Sarah Carnes (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

103 Bexar Room

GEARING UP a Father/Student Leadership Team

See and hear how Fathers Active in Communities and Education (FACE) and the Texas GEAR UP/STAR project have taken a father/student involvement model to a higher level through the development of a father/student leadership team. The team's first project was to participate in the planning and implementation of an annual father/student celebration open to dads and students from the STAR project's twelve middle and high schools. The session will include video clips, a PowerPoint presentation, and oral presentations by the fathers and students from the FACE Leadership Team.

Presenters: Alphonso Rincón and FACE Leadership Team (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, Parents

104 Navarro Room

Summer Science in the Alamo City

Whether you are just getting started or nearing the end, come let our SAISD team share what we have learned in the first three years of offering summer science enrichment opportunities. You don't have to learn by trial and error. We will share with you our experiences in:

1. Recruiting students (Learn how to get the word out and the students in!)
2. Designing curriculum (If you write it well, they will come--year, after year, after year!)
3. Developing technology (The digital generation needs to be fed!)

Presenters: Rita Landez and Richard Carruba (*San Antonio ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators



Breakout Session I • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, continued

105 Hidalgo Room

Parents, Partners, and GEAR UP Success

Parent involvement and community involvement are both easy! The East Texas GEAR UP Project has a secret tool—leave the design and planning to our parents and partners. Parent and community members will offer diverse examples of activities and events that were developed to assist GEAR UP schools in promoting the GEAR UP message. Parent and community presenters will offer suggestions to schools that will increase parent involvement and participation.

Presenters: Barbara Davis and Joan Ragland (*East Texas GEAR UP Project*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

106 Harris Room

The Make 7 Initiatives

Participants will learn about a successful program focused on high school graduation and post-secondary continuation that reduced the number of repeaters from 108 to zero. Freshman year is notably recognized as the most challenging year of a high school student's career. Research indicates that giving extra support during the freshman year increases the graduation rate. A sharing of best practices will illustrate how GEAR UP helped support the development of a powerful high school completion program and changed the culture of a campus.

Presenters: Regina Davis, Austin Lynn, Nghi Do, and Norma Alvarenga (*Spring Branch ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

107 Austin Room

Space Center Houston's Space School (repeated in Session 504)

Students from Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success and Spring Branch ISD GEAR UP are currently attending Space Center Houston's Space School Program which is a week-long engineering challenge where students learn leadership and problem solving skills as NASA engineers. Students work with a NASA budget to design and build rockets, robotic rovers, landing devices, and orbital lofting devices to accomplish a mission to Mars. Student teams deliver scientific presentations, tour NASA facilities, and learn from scientists and engineers about NASA's work and the future of the space program. Come experience what Space Center Houston has to offer your students as you preview our International Space School program.

Presenters: Jamie Semple and Dave Brown (*Space Center Houston*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators

108 Galveston Room

Lambda Alpha Sigma Junior Sorority: Ladies Achieving Success

Lambda Alpha Sigma is an organization for young women which assists members in the achievement of academic excellence, professional development, and graduation with the pursuit of higher education. The organization is designed to unite young women wanting to achieve success in high school and go to college, promote the improvements of educational and professional status of the students, and nurture a sense of personal integrity and responsibility in all members.

Presenters: Vi Nguyen (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders

Breakout Session I • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, continued

109 Dallas Room

Financial Aid for Undocumented Students (Session will be presented in Spanish) Ayuda Financiera para Estudiantes Indocumentados

Esta sesión está diseñada para ayudar a padres y personal escolar a obtener mayor conocimiento acerca del estatus de estudiantes indocumentados y su acceso a becas, donaciones y otras fuentes de ayuda financiera. Participantes aprenderán acerca de las leyes estatales de Texas y otros asuntos: beneficios de los costos de enseñanza para estudiantes que asistan a la preparatoria en el estado por tres años o más. Como interés especial, se hará una revisión sobre el DREAM Act, artículo de la legislación que hará posible que jóvenes sean elegibles para ciudadanía condicional a cambio de dos años de enseñanza superior o servicio militar. Al final del proceso, el/la joven tendrá la oportunidad de convertirse en ciudadano Americano.

Presentadores: Melissa Martinez (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Parents (PADRES), Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

110 Liberty Hall Salon 1

Rigorous Math + GEAR UP = College Success (repeated in Session 410)

Classroom teachers from the UTPA GEAR UP Project will discuss the value of their partnership with Texas Instruments. This partnership has helped identify campus needs and has tailored the effective implementation of mathematical resources such as the TI Navigator and graphing calculators at project schools. The professional development model used by this project will also be shared, as well as the support given to teachers after the training has ended. Participants will learn how to embed mathematical resources into existing curriculum to raise math standards. GEAR UP cohort students are becoming better prepared for rigorous courses, thus increasing college readiness.

Presenters: Ana Dougherty (*The University of Texas - Pan American*) and Eric Batten (*Texas Instruments*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

111 Liberty Hall Salon 2

Designing Creative Parent Interactions for College Achievement

Project GRAD Houston, through its Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) department, coordinates two signature events yearly to engage parents in meaningful conversations about college awareness and readiness. Both initiatives incorporate collaborations between school personnel, universities, community leaders and business partners to create powerful parent interactions. Workshop participants will be able to take the master plans to their schools and communities.

Presenters: Regina Gee and Kimberly Williams (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Program Directors/Coordinators

112 Liberty Hall Salon 3

The Other Data Story

The analysis of data often takes place from the “top down”, outside of the instructional arena, and primarily serves as a short term process implemented to increase the campus accountability rating. This session focuses on including students in the data analysis process by guiding them through activities with the long-term goal of deepening their awareness of individualized reading comprehension strengths and weaknesses. Approaches will be shared that promote how this student-centered perspective to data analysis may be used to design instruction that more effectively equips students with individualized lifelong strategies that prepare them for greater and more diverse reading challenges.

Presenters: Cynthia Hall (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors

Breakout Session II • 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

201 Nueces Room

From Our Space to Yours: The College Access Partnership between Mathis High School and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

The goal of this session is to highlight college access activities fostered between the TAMUCC Faculty Fellows Program and a teacher at Mathis High School. The session showcases a variety of college access programs planned in accord with theatre and fine arts activities, performing arts facility tours, high school student interviews with faculty and college students, college access workshops, and financial aid presentations.

Presenters: Gilda Ramirez, Deborah Burnell, Amy Koenning, and Shawn Wahl (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

202 Travis Room

Engaging Hispanic Parents in Their Children's Pursuit of Educational Achievement - The Positive Impact of Community Collaborations

This presentation will combine research, staff expertise, and feedback from practitioners to present a sustainable and replicable collaborative model that addresses the biggest education challenge facing our Hispanic students today—the family support system. This session will provide information and discussion on a program between Texas A&M University's nationally recognized Abriendo Puertas Initiative and Texas A&M International University. The discussion will focus on: 1) the collaboration's positive impact on its educational community; 2) the model's bilingual and culturally-relevant curriculum; 3) the program's strategy of utilizing volunteers as parent educators; and 4) how the model can be implemented in other communities.

Presenters: Alberto Salinas (*Texas A&M International University "Creating a Vision III"*) and Ida Acuna-Garza (*Abriendo Puertas*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

203 Bexar Room

Sharing The GEAR UP Message

How do we ensure that we are aligned to our goals and vision when we are sharing the GEAR UP message? The Region One Education Service Center GEAR UP Partnership has strategically selected to share grade-level pertinent information with its stakeholders. These messages are shared in a structured and cohesive manner with students, parents, counselors, and schools so that all involved have access to a common set of information. An emphasis has been placed on the following areas: college awareness and readiness, testing, admissions and financial aid.

Presenters: Norma McCormick, Ellie Torres, and Rita Cedillo (*Region One GEAR UP: Bridges to the Future*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

204 Navarro Room

For every 10, We need 4 more (Session will be presented in Spanish) Por cada 10, necesitamos 4 más

La meta en esta sesión es proveer mayor conciencia y crear estrategias para incrementar el porcentaje de inscripción entre Hispanos en Tejas en programas de segunda enseñanza. De acuerdo a la Campaña "Cerrando la Brecha de THECB, el porcentaje de inscripciones entre Hispanos en instituciones de enseñanza superior necesita aumentar a 37.3% para el 2015.

Presentadores: Paul Landa (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Parents (PADRES), Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session II • 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM, continued

205 Hidalgo Room

Sparking Mentorship Success

New student transition is increasingly recognized as an important factor in student success. Research indicates that students participating in comprehensive transition programs are less likely to begin using drugs or alcohol, or drop out of school. Administrators will learn about a successful transition program focused on graduation and postsecondary continuation. A lively round of mind-mapping and sharing of best practices will provide fresh ideas for the development of powerful transition and mentorship programs.

Presenters: Peggy Gill (*The University of Texas at Tyler GEAR UP*) and Matt Meuleners (*FOCUS Training*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

206 Harris Room

Effective College and Career Exploration in Today's Economy

Join The Princeton Review for a demonstration of our new and exciting web-based college and career exploration resource. Guidance Center is an all-encompassing, cost-effective, web tool designed to connect students, counselors, parents, and administrators in the post-secondary counseling process. Guidance Center provides countless resources, including up-to-date, comprehensive information about careers, majors, colleges, tests, and scholarships, as well as a robust data-tracking system and user-friendly interface.

Presenters: Roel Pisen and Al Villalpando (*Princeton Review*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, University Staff or Representatives

207 Austin Room

Leading with Influence - Building the Next Generation of Leaders

Would you like to lead the next generation of students with influence? Join national speaker and author A.G. "Pete" Hinojosa as he shares his passion for working with students. You will gain valuable insights into the Four Step Model that Pete uses to connect with students of all ages and all backgrounds. Whether you team up and use the Leadership Curriculum, Innovative Mentor Program or take your GEAR UP students on their very own Leadership Retreat, Pete has the experience and team to assist you. Come and be part of this interactive and powerful presentation.

Presenters: Pete Hinojosa (*Spring Branch ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

208 Galveston Room

Closing the College Readiness Achievement Gap

Three years ago, Central ISD, located in rural East Texas, began a process for providing access for students to become better prepared for post secondary education through rigorous courses. Through a curriculum audit, the district leadership team began a process of implementing systemic change in the following areas: building healthy relationships and high performing teams, increasing instructional rigor, daily classroom monitoring, and benchmarking student progress. As a result, our district is beginning to see an improvement in college readiness. Attendees will investigate curricular audit processes and strategies that have helped Central ISD begin to move from good to great.

Presenters: Don Allen and Allen Garner (*East Texas GEAR UP Project*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partners, Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session II • 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM, continued

209 Dallas Room

Challenging Youth to Make Positive Choices

Gabe Salazar is a nationally known professional youth speaker. His message challenges teenagers and encourages them to make positive choices in their lives. Through the use of powerful skits, dynamic insights and real-life illustrations, Gabe's message inspires and motivates his audience into action. Gabe is a certified crisis counselor for the American Red Cross and a certified Sex Educator by The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio.

Presenters: Michael Smith (*Texas A&M International University GEAR UP "Creating a Vision II"*) and Gabe Salazar (*Consultant*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

210 Liberty Hall Salon 1

Connecting Students to Careers with a Purpose

Over 450 San Antonio ISD GEAR UP 9th grade students participated in a job shadow program at AT&T last Fall made possible through SAISD GEAR UP's partnership with Junior Achievement of South Texas. In this session, attendees will learn how this program was organized to provide opportunities for a large number of students; what type of training the AT&T "Connectors" had prior to working with the students; what students and teachers did to prepare for the job shadow day; and what students experienced on the actual day of the job shadow.

Presenters: Janice Hannon and Tywanda Walker (*San Antonio ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

211 Liberty Hall Salon 2

FISHnet Camp for Incoming 9th Graders

Fill your tackle box for 9th grade success. Receive ideas that address critical issues we face as students transition from 8th to 9th grade! The San Antonio ISD GEAR UP team created a FISHnet campus which included a suspended curriculum implemented during the first week of school. Among the sixteen modules were: Chart your Course to 2012 (4 year plans), Reel 'em ALL In! (Attendance and Tardies), FISHing Guide (Student Handbook), All Aboard (Pep Rally), and MORE.

Presenters: Dr. Roxanne Rosales (*San Antonio ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

212 Liberty Hall Salon 3

Building Partnerships with Parents...The Secret to Student Success!

The UTPA GEAR UP Project serves nearly 9,000 students in 22 high schools across the Rio Grande Valley and has made significant gains in parental engagement across the region. During this session, they will provide guidance on establishing a parental involvement model that will empower families to become engaged in their children's education. Effective strategies on developing meaningful relationships between parents and school staff will be shared. Furthermore, the roles of students, parents, and school staff will be defined in terms of shared responsibility in the college going process. GEAR UP staff and parents from Edinburg High School will share their success in increasing parent engagement at their campus!

Presenters: Cindy Valdez, Yvonne Johnson, and Linda Trejo (*The University of Texas - Pan American GEAR UP*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

Breakout Session III • 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

301 Nueces Room

Project GenWellness

Want to learn about a highly successful model for helping your GEAR UP students thrive as healthy young adults engaged in their current and future wellness and health while exposing them to a plethora of careers in the health and wellness professions? Then don't miss this session on *GenWellness*, a model job-shadowing and wellness program partnership between Spring Branch ISD's Spring Woods High School GEAR UP program and the Houston Wellness Association. Founded in 2006, the Houston Wellness Association (HWA) is a not-for-profit organization with over 600 members representing over 110 companies of all sizes and industries. HWA's mission is to advance the health and well-being of our community and the economic vitality of our wellness sector. This is positive given the fact that Houston has the largest medical center in the world with the fourth largest population in the country.

Presenters: Jonathan Lack (*Houston Wellness Association*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

302 Travis Room

The Physics Circus: A Successful Model for Making Advanced Science Concepts Accessible for All

A growing need to create a scientific and technological workforce has become the top priority for our nation and our state; yet a number of challenges face the education community in striving to address this need. For example, educators must have the pedagogical expertise necessary to command students' attention and engage them in learning. This alone is a challenge, not to mention the alarming number of science educators in Texas who do not hold science degrees. The Physics Circus addresses this dual challenge by pairing physicists and educators in creating powerful learning experiences grounded in physics and utilizing best practices in education.

Presenters: Cyndi Hernandez (*GEAR UP Waco*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

303 Bexar Room

Ink is Alive

A reading club is a terrific cross-curriculum tool that when successfully implemented can benefit many students in all areas of study as well as their personal lives. The presentation will highlight ways of successfully implementing a student-focused reading club. The presentation will discuss obstacles we faced as we created a reading club that focused on student enlightenment about the benefits of constant reading. We will discuss ways to keep kids motivated to read the books and attend the meetings. We will share information about themes that can lead to terrific novels, fantastic group meetings, and purposeful field trips.

Presenters: Bradley Luster and Matt Wellman (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders

304 Navarro Room

Road Map to College Seminar (Session will be presented in Spanish) Mapa de carretera hacia el seminario universitario

The Princeton Review, en asociación con el Fondo de Becas para Hispanos, desarrolló el Seminario Universitario de Mapa de Carreteras, una dinámica presentación que se puede acomodar a las especificaciones para servir a estudiantes y padres de Gear Up en Inglés o Español. Presentadores guiarán a los participantes a través del seminario que incluye temas variados desde Desmistificar la experiencia de Segunda Enseñanza para Familias de Primera Generación hasta el Proceso de Admisión y Ayuda Financiera, y demostración de recursos que estudiantes y padres pueden utilizar para navegar el proceso de admisión y una carrera.

Presentadores: Roel Pisenó and Al Villalpando (*Princeton Review*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Padres (PADRES), Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, University Staff or Representatives

Breakout Session III • 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, continued

305 Hidalgo Room

Project GRAD Houston College and Career Knowledge Institute at Rice University

Our students must attend two College Institutes while in high school to receive their scholarship—a program that represents their first college experience. Our College & Career Knowledge College Institute at Rice University consists of three parts. First, students begin at Rice University for one week. They participate in different experiments and field trips designed to raise college and career awareness. Secondly, students attend five university campuses during the fall semester; each targeting a specific career. Lastly they go back to their middle schools and speak to 8th graders about their experiences in high school to date.

Presenters: Melissa Martinez (*Houston ISD Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors

306 Harris Room

Pick and Choose! With the Click of a Mouse You Can Now Have a Counselor's Toolkit

We've been promising it...*and here it is!* This session will provide information about the quick and easy online resources for educators, students and parents available from the Texas GEAR UP Project website. Created by the Texas Education Agency and Texas GEAR UP, these multimedia resources are designed to help district personnel build a repertoire of strategies and ideas that can be used to support efforts toward high school completion, dropout prevention, and postsecondary awareness. Materials include videos, handouts, PowerPoint presentations and a wide selection of promising practices that feature a cast of successful GEAR UP practitioners. The session will include the new online "Build Your Own Toolkit" system which provides easy access to all Texas GEAR UP materials developed since 2000. Additionally, the session will spotlight the 2009 GEAR UP toolkit, "Mentors, Mindsets, and Relationships" and other innovative tools that enhance strong student success initiatives.

Presenters: Kristen Reynolds and Doris Teague (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

307 Austin Room

Speaking Teenager: How to Connect with Students in 30 Seconds or Less!

Have you ever felt like your teen was speaking a different language? Do you wish you could crack the code of what they are saying, thinking and doing? If your answer is YES!!!, then this workshop is for you!

Presenters: Aric Bostick (*Aric Bostick Success Training, Inc.*)

Track: Student Leadership

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors

308 Galveston Room

Summer Programs that ROCK!!!

What will get your students off the couch and keep them from watching SpongeBob and eating Cheetos all summer? A great summer program that is full of enrichment, projects, field trips, and...oh yes...academics! It takes a great theme and some energetic teachers that are willing to reach into their most creative bag of tricks (oops, we mean lessons) and make some real world connections for the students. Warning: Do not attend this session if you do not wish to be inspired to do the same!

Presenters: Karen McCarley, Stefanie McKinney, Sarah Carnes, Laurie Etnyre, Pilar Retta and Neitz Retta (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session III • 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, continued

309 Dallas Room

7 Best Practices for College Readiness and Success

Educational researcher, Dr. Kenneth Wesson, teaches that in several regions of Southern Africa a single word exists for both “teaching” and “learning.” Educators often say, “I taught that concept to my students, they just didn’t learn it!” However, within this candid African context, if learning did not take place, then the teacher has not supplied the essential teaching component to this learning equation, rendering it unfinished. There is no word for “incomplete teaching,” but, there are profound tools for improving instruction. This enlightening session will provide seven research-based best practices for every GEAR UP educator and counselor’s toolkit to generate confidence in all students in their ability to achieve, and provide them with tools they can use for greater success in undergraduate school as well as in college. Valuable handouts and supplemental information will be provided.

Presenters: Christian Rauch (*Quantum Learning Education*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

310 Liberty Hall Salon 1

High School 101 - 21st Century Skills for College Success

This hands-on session will share a proven strategy, implemented by many GEAR UP programs, designed to prepare all students for college success with vital 21st century skills. Attendees will be taken through a series of relevant activities that have successfully engaged 600,000 students nationwide in the process of critical skill development. This high energy session will address ten vital 21st century skills including: time management, people skills, tolerance/diversity, learning styles, business literacy, test-taking/study skills, choices/consequences, technology literacy, communication skills, and financial literacy. This strategy has proven extremely effective in the classroom as well as part of engaging parent/student programs.

Presenters: Chad Foster (*Rising Books*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teacher/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

311 Liberty Hall Salon 2

Curriculum Software Success with PLATO Learning

Credit Recovery/Intervention PLATO program implementation begins with a plan for success! This session will focus on PLATO Lab management regarding personnel, goal setting, data evaluation, time management and motivation as the foundation for developing a sound instructional online learning program

Presenters: James Golden (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*) and Terry Rasmussen and Ketsia Hamilton (*PLATO Learning*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

312 Liberty Hall Salon 3

Building Partnerships with Parents...The Secret to Student Success!

The UTPA GEAR UP Project serves nearly 9,000 students in 22 high schools across the Rio Grande Valley and has made significant gains in parental engagement across the region. During this session, they will provide guidance on establishing a parental involvement model that will empower families to become engaged in their children’s education. Effective strategies on developing meaningful relationships between parents and school staff will be shared. Furthermore, the roles of students, parents, and school staff will be defined in terms of shared responsibility in the college going process. GEAR UP staff and parents from Edinburg High School will share their success in increasing parent engagement at their campus!

Presenters: Cindy Valdez, Yvonne Johnson and Linda Trejo (*The University of Texas – Pan American GEAR UP*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

Breakout Session IV • 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

401 Nueces Room

College Readiness: Preparing students for success in high school and beyond

To reduce the number of high school dropouts, improve math performance, and increase the number of college-bound students, San Antonio ISD GEAR UP implemented a master-schedule College Readiness course district-wide. Designed to motivate students to succeed by connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences, this course incorporates SureScore's math, reading, and career and college exploration programs. In this session, presenters will outline course goals, implementation strategy, and program effectiveness.

Presenters: Ana Acevedo and Dr. Roxanne Rosales (*San Antonio ISD*) and Corinne Boulanger (*SureScore, Inc.*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

402 Travis Room

Constructing a College Student: Block by Block

Project GRAD Houston, through its Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) department, offers a wide array of parent trainings on college awareness, college access, and college achievement topics in Houston ISD schools and at community venues. Collectively, these Parent Universities are designed to answer questions about how parents can help their children prepare for, apply to, and succeed in college. Workshop participants will first hear an overview of the work done by the PACE staff and then take part in one of the Parent University trainings led by members of the GRADs Parent Board of Trustees.

Presenters: Paula Roe (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Program Directors/Coordinators

403 Bexar Room

Heightening Parent's Educational Aspiration through Volunteering

How do you facilitate conversations with parents regarding educational barriers? Region One GEAR UP Parent Volunteers have expressed heightened educational aspirations as a result of their involvement as parent volunteers and parent advisors within the Region One GEAR UP Partnership.

Presenters: Norma McCormick and Rita Cedillo (*Region One GEAR UP: Bridges To The Future*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

404 Navarro Room

Expanding Educational Horizons through Community Partnerships that Support Student and Teacher Learning

Presenters will share the GEAR UP Waco Mathematics Initiative partnership model that connects teacher education, K-12 schools, and community resources to enhance the preparation of both new and current teachers while focusing on academic success of at-risk students. The partnership provides a unique opportunity for students and teachers to experience hands-on inquiry to develop mathematical understanding. The purpose of the presentation will be to share the program and benefits to students, pre- and in-service teachers, communities, and universities.

Presenters: Trena Wilkerson, Rachelle Meyer, Rex Barber, and Meredith Casas (*GEAR UP Waco*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

Breakout Session IV • 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

405 Hidalgo Room

Meeting GOAL 2: Academic Success for Limited English Proficient Hispanic Students (Session will be presented in Spanish)

Logrando META #2: Éxito Académico para Estudiantes Hispanos con escasa habilidad en el idioma

Texas A&M provee esta sesión-Profesor Auxiliar de Español y Educación Bilingüe de Corpus Christi con énfasis en métodos de enseñanza de Inglés como segundo idioma. La combinación de instrucción no solo trata con estudiantes y maestros que trabajan con estudiantes LEP, sino también con conservar el valor de utilizar recursos en el hogar y dentro de sus respectivas culturas como refuerzo para el éxito en educación secundaria y superior.

Presentadores: Deborah Levensailor (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Parents (PADRES), Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

406 Harris Room

College Tour Success Program

Leaders from higher education institutions will share their efforts to support the college readiness process through participation in college campus tours. The intent of this session is to highlight processes and protocols to make the most of your college tour experience. Come and learn about strategies that can be used within the campus tour to assist faculty, staff, and students to successfully develop a college ready culture.

Presenters: Marisa Pierce and Luz Caden (*El Paso Community College GEAR UP*) and Wayne Weinzoff (*All Aboard Tours and Travel*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

407 Austin Room

HERO On Duty! “How to Live Your Dreams and Help Others Live Theirs”

Most students dream of going to college, leading a successful life, and making a difference in the world. Sadly, that is some times all it becomes -- just a dream. We aren't born with an owner's manual, but the tools of success are at our fingertips!

Presenters: Aric Bostick (*Aric Bostick Success Training, Inc.*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Student Leaders/Coordinators

408 Galveston Room

Brother To Brother

Brother To Brother identifies and mentors at-risk children in local high schools in an effort to lower the dropout rates, raise attendance, and increase academic performance. Every adult in a child's life will have an impact on that child's actions, and we intend to make our impact a positive one. Brother to Brother college students provide academic support, life skills activities, and a post-graduation message that is sure to make a positive impact on the students.

Presenters: Dr. Robert Harper and Roderick McKnight (*Northeast Texas Community College*)

Track: College Readiness / College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders

Breakout Session IV • 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM, continued

409 Dallas Room

Creating a Mind Shift From Dropping Out to Diving In!

Our students today are inextricably “linked in” to fast-paced, constantly changing, and highly engaging media much of their lives - and it’s literally changing their brains! Participants in this session will learn how to get and keep their students’ attention, boost learning and long-term memory, motivate them toward higher achievement in school, and get them mentally geared up for college. Learn research-based tools to help you prepare your students with 21st century skills and the knowledge and self-motivation to dive in and want to succeed in school. Discover proven strategies for building a highly motivated learning community and culture where students want to perform at their optimal best, absenteeism and the number of students dropping out of school is dramatically reduced, students are engaged and they love learning!. This research-based methodology is aligned with the Texas Professional Development Appraisal System and new Texas teaching standards. This highly participatory session will shift your thinking about what is possible in student preparedness for college!

Presenters: Christian Rauch (*Quantum Learning Education*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

410 Liberty Hall Salon 1

Rigorous Math + GEAR UP = College Success (repeat of Session 110)

Classroom teachers from the UTPA GEAR UP Project will discuss the value of their partnership with Texas Instruments. This partnership has helped identify campus needs and has tailored the effective implementation of mathematical resources such as the TI Navigator and graphing calculators at project schools. The professional development model used by this project will also be shared, as well as the support given to teachers after the training has ended. Participants will learn how to embed mathematical resources into existing curriculum to raise math standards. GEAR UP cohort students are becoming better prepared for rigorous courses, thus increasing college readiness.

Presenters: Ana Dougherty (*The University of Texas – Pan American*) and Eric Batten (*Texas Instruments*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

411 Liberty Hall Salon 2

GEARING UP FOR COLLEGE: Advocating for the GEAR UP Student

Come to this session to learn best practices that get Project GRAD College for All GEAR UP students excited about going to college. In this session, you will understand secondary programs and strategies that can be used to prepare GEAR UP students for high school graduation and college entrance. Participants will leave this session equipped with tools to ensure student success.

Presenters: Kristy Brown (*Houston ISD/Project GRAD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

412 Liberty Hall Salon 3

Connecting Students to Careers with a Purpose

Over 450 San Antonio ISD GEAR UP 9th grade students participated in a job shadow program at AT&T last Fall made possible through SAISD GEAR UP’s partnership with Junior Achievement of South Texas. In this session, attendees will learn how this program was organized to provide opportunities for a large number of students; what type of training the AT&T “Connectors” had prior to working with the students; what students and teachers did to prepare for the job shadow day; and what students experienced on the actual day of the job shadow.

Presenters: Janice Hannon and Tywanda Walker (*San Antonio ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

Conference Breakout Sessions • Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Breakout Session V • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

501 Nueces Room

Higher Education for Immigrant Students (Admissions and Financial Aid)

The presentation will focus on Senate Bill 1528, which allows certain undocumented students to attend Texas public colleges and universities as Texas residents and receive Texas financial aid. Participants will receive 'hands-on' practice in completing the Apply Texas application in regard to immigrant students, as well as the Texas Application for Student Financial Aid (TASFA). Also covered will be updates on the DREAM Act, a proposed federal law which will allow a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students.

Presenters: David Johnston (*Lee High School College Access Coordinator, Houston ISD*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

502 Travis Room

Web Plus Tutoring – Help is just a click away!

In order to compete in a global economy, today's students must have solid foundational and technical skills. To help them build these critical skills, Web Plus Tutoring uses technology to engage and provide students with assistance in core subject areas. To date, over 2,000 GEAR UP students have accessed Web Plus Tutoring.

Session presenters will demonstrate how the online program, a collaboration between Region One and SureScore, effectively connects students to quality tutors. An overview of the data will demonstrate program usage and effectiveness. Finally, session participants will learn Web Plus Tutoring best practices, including strategies to aid with recruitment and program implementation.

Presenters: David Hernandez (*Region One GEAR UP: Bridges To The Future*) and Armando Alvarado (*SureScore, Inc.*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

503 Bexar Room

"Tutoring and Mentoring Programs Are NOT One Size Fits All"

The members of the East Texas GEAR UP Project believe that successful mentoring and tutoring programs must be tailored to meet the needs of the students and the school districts in which the programs are located. Each of the ten rural school districts has developed a slightly different model of tutoring and mentoring based on student needs and the resources available in that community. Participants in this session will see examples of five models of tutoring and mentoring presented by the district personnel responsible for the implementation in that district.

Presenters: Donnya Stephens and Betty Alford (*East Texas GEAR UP Project*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

504 Navarro Room

Space Center Houston's Space School

Students from Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success and Spring Branch ISD GEAR UP are currently attending Space Center Houston's Space School Program which is a week-long engineering challenge where students learn leadership and problem solving skills as NASA engineers. Students work with a NASA budget to design and build rockets, robotic rovers, landing devices, and orbital lofting devices to accomplish a mission to Mars. Student teams deliver scientific presentations, tour NASA facilities, and learn from scientists and engineers about NASA's work and the future of the space program. Come experience what Space Center Houston has to offer your students as you preview our International Space School program.

Presenters: Jamie Semple and Dave Brown (*Space Center Houston*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session V • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, continued

505 Hidalgo Room

Creating a Week-Long Middle to High School Transition Program (Dobie Week)

Participants will receive information outlining a successful week-long middle to high school transition week and the best part is...the middle school students never leave campus! Activities that are included in this week are: an elective fair, counselor visits, parent night, Pre-AP teacher visits, and a high school pep rally. Participants will receive everything they need to create a week like this on their own campus.

Presenters: Stefanie McKinney (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

506 Harris Room

Pop Culture Classroom Connection... Connect with Your Students Like Never Before

By demonstrating powerful strategies and improvisational techniques, Shannon bridges the amazing responsibility of educators with the needs of today's students and offers a fresh perspective on how to connect with and inspire students of all backgrounds. Shannon comes loaded with hilarious improv comedy teaching techniques, pop culture, stories, and demonstrations that will light up any classroom, and show ALL teachers how easy it is to apply these and connect with students like never before! Shannon has been a professional comedian for the past 13 years. He is a regular on The World Famous Laugh Factory Comedy Club in Hollywood and is a writer, producer, and co-host of a weekly TV show called Teen Talk.

Presenters: Sondra Ulin and Shannon Pickard (*Shannon Pickard International*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

507 Austin Room

Student Leadership Made Phun

Student leadership begins by strengthening individual leadership skills. Join the "Physician of Phun" in this highly interactive session as he utilizes games and activities to help you better understand how to motivate, enable, and empower students for the present and future leadership roles they will encounter in their schools, churches, teams, families, and workplaces.

Presenters: Gregg Catalano (*Physicians of Phun*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

508 Galveston Room

Findings from the Year 2 Evaluation of Students Training for Academic Readiness

The presentation will present findings from the second year evaluation of the Texas Education Agency's GEAR UP grant, Students Training for Academic Readiness (STAR). The STAR project includes six Texas districts located in the Gulf coast region of the state. The presentation will include results from surveys of STAR parents, students, and teachers, as well as information gathered from site visits and interviews with STAR coordinators, principals, and teachers.

Presenters: Katharine Rainey and Dr. Catherine Maloney (*Texas Center for Educational Research*)

Track: Program Management

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session V • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, continued

509 Dallas Room

Preparing Students for College and Beyond through Success in Rigorous Mathematics and Science

Studies show that completion of advance high school coursework in mathematics and science has a stronger relationship to college success than that in any other subject area. Agile Mind, in collaboration with the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, has developed research-based mathematics and science resources to support educators in developing and sustaining high achievement in math and science for a broad range of middle and high school students. Educators will discuss the teaching, learning, and assessment of mathematics and science by using multiple representations, simulations, animations, and Internet-based technology.

Presenters: Suzanne Slavin (*Agile Mind*) and Yolanda Gomez (*The University of Texas-Pan American GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

510 Liberty Hall Salon 1

Financial Literacy for Teens - Learn Now or Pay Later

The global financial crisis of 2008/2009 will certainly repeat itself if the cycle of financial illiteracy is not broken. This high-energy workshop is designed to forever change the way students think about money. Credit card debt, renter's insurance, needs vs. wants, income taxes, the art of investing, secrets to saving and more, are the "hot topics" of this hands-on presentation. Session attendees will be taken through a series of in-class projects that have proven to help students from all walks of life develop good financial habits that will enable them to successfully make, manage, multiply, and protect their hard-earned money.

Presenters: Chad Foster (*Rising Books*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

511 Liberty Hall Salon 2

Engaging Hispanic Parents in Their Children's Pursuit of Educational Achievement - The Positive Impact of Community Collaborations. (Session will be presented in Spanish) Conectando a Padres Hispanos en la búsqueda de la realización educacional de sus hijos - El Impacto Positivo de Colaboraciones en la Comunidad.

Esta presentación combina investigación, experiencias, y opiniones de parte de practicantes que presentan un modelo colaborativo que se mantiene y puede replicarse para tratar con el mayor obstáculo que enfrentan los estudiantes Hispánicos hoy-el sistema de apoyo familiar. Esta sesión proveerá información y discusión entre el programa de reconocimiento Nacional de la iniciativa Abriendo Puertas de Texas A&M y la Universidad Internacional Texas A&M. El enfoque de la discusión será sobre: 1) Impacto positivo de las colaboraciones en la comunidad educativa, 2) el modelo bilingüe y cultural-currículo relevante; 3) La estrategia del programa de utilizar padres voluntarios como educadores; y 4) cómo el modelo puede ser implementado en otras comunidades

Presentadores: Alberto Salinas (*Texas A&M International University GEAR UP*) and Ida Acuna-Garza (*Abriendo Puertas*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Parents (PADRES), Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

512 Liberty Hall Salon 3

College Tours: The Journey of College Exploration from 6th through 9th Grade

Over 3,000 students attend GEAR UP-sponsored college tours each year in the SAISD GEAR UP program. Learn how we have created meaningful and awareness-building college and university tours for our students and how the opportunities differ from year to year. Session activities will focus on building relationships with local and out-of-town college/university representatives, planning for maximum student engagement, creating college tour applications based on college admissions applications, and differentiating college tours from year to year. You will walk away with tips and tools to use in creating a successful college/university visit for your students.

Presenters: Ana Acevedo and Rebecca Sanchez (*San Antonio ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

Breakout Session VI • 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

601 Nueces Room

Leading with Influence - Building the Next Generation of Leaders (repeat of Session 207)

Would you like to lead the next generation of students with influence? Join national speaker and author A.G. "Pete" Hinojosa as he shares his passion for working with students. You will gain valuable insights into the Four Step Model that Pete uses to connect with students of all ages and all backgrounds. Whether you team up and use the Leadership Curriculum, Innovative Mentor Program, or take your GEAR UP students on their very own Leadership Retreat, Pete has the experience and team to assist you. Come and be part of this interactive and powerful presentation.

Presenters: Pete Hinojosa (*Spring Branch ISD GEAR UP*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

602 Travis Room

Keeping It Together

Are you having trouble getting students organized? Learn how the Region One GEAR UP project is using parent volunteers to inform other parents on how to create an academic portfolio for their children. This academic portfolio will facilitate with the admission and scholarship application process.

Presenters: Gracie Vallejo (*Region One GEAR UP: Bridges To The Future*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Parents, Student Leaders

603 Bexar Room

Exploring Technical College Opportunities Through Summer Programs

In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn how GEAR UP Waco and TSTC (Texas State Technical College) developed and implemented a summer camp program for students, counselors, and teachers to experience what it is like to be a college student at Texas State Technical College. We will look in depth at the Future Flight Aerospace Camp for students and the REAL TECH Workshop for counselors and teachers. We will also briefly discuss the benefits of integrating GEAR UP into the Recruiting Services office.

Presenters: Sheryl Kattner-Allen and Marcus Balch (*GEAR UP Waco*)

Track: Program Management

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

604 Navarro Room

Documentation and Organization for the APR

Program directors are always looking for ways to document how the GEAR UP grant goals and objectives are being met. It is vital that the APR reflects accurate reporting. Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success will share its documentation structure which includes reporting on individual campus projects, evaluation of projects, and tracking completion of activities that lead to meeting goals and objectives.

Presenters: Karen McCarley and Laurie Etnyre (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: Program Management

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators

Breakout Session VI • 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, continued

605 Hidalgo Room

College Awareness Toolkits

The college awareness toolkits developed by Texas GEAR UP are available free and online. Learn how to use these valuable resources to present college awareness material to students during homeroom and advisory classes. Collaborate with teachers to develop lessons and use school time effectively to inform students about how to prepare for college.

Presenters: Pileirol Retta, Patty Cleaveland, Marco Lopez, and Tanya Lopez (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP for Success*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

606 Harris Room

Engaged Learning Groups (ELG): College Freshman Transition Initiatives

Engaged Learning Groups are much more than a class. This initiative has developed at Baylor as a vital, living relationship that develops between new Baylor freshmen and faculty and leads them to new experiences. In this class, we focus on three major initiatives. First, this session will describe how we help new students transition to the college scene. Second, we will explain how we get them out in the community to teach non-English speaking families English. Third, we will discuss how we work with students in the community to help them succeed in school and get prepared for college.

Presenters: Randy Wood (*GEAR UP Waco*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Parents, University Staff or Representatives

607 Austin Room

Understanding Your “True Colors”

“Well, you’re really showing your true colors!” We’ve all heard this phrase before, but what does it really mean? This workshop will help participants not only understand this statement, but recognize and appreciate the different personality characteristics inherent in all of us. Discovering one’s colors is fun and exciting, and once you recognize the True Colors in yourself and others, that awareness will become the key to success in your personal and social lives.

Presenters: Gregg Catalano (*Physician of Phun*)

Track: College Success

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators, University Staff or Representatives

608 Galveston Room

GEARing UP a Father/Student Leadership Team (Session will be presented in Spanish) Dirigiendo el equipo de liderazgo de Padres/Estudiantes

Vea y escuche acerca de cómo la asociación entre FACE y GEAR UP STAR ha tomado el modelo de padre/estudiante a un mayor nivel a través del desarrollo de liderazgo en equipo entre padres/estudiantes. El primer proyecto en equipo fue participar en la planificación e implementación de la celebración anual entre padres/estudiantes abierto a Padres y estudiantes de 12 secundarias y preparatorias del programa STAR. La sesión incluye un video, una presentación digital, y presentaciones por Padres y estudiantes del grupo de liderazgo FACE.

Presentadores: Alphonso Rincón and FACE Leadership Team (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Tema: College Access

Audiencia: Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, Parents (PADRES)

Breakout Session VI • 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, continued

609 Dallas Room

Leadership Strategies for Creating a College-Going Culture: Students Advocating for Students

It can be intimidating for students to be called into the principal's office. Region One GEAR UP invites you to meet a group of students who not only welcome the opportunity to meet with their principal, but actually initiate it. This session will introduce a shared leadership model which enables students to voice their concerns and inform stakeholders with regard to how GEAR UP and other school services can better serve their peers, parents and community. Members of the Region One GEAR UP Youth Advisory Committee will share strategies for creating a college-going culture through a collaborative relationship between students and administrators.

Presenters: Melissa Lopez and Jose M. Castillo (*Region One GEAR UP: Bridges To The Future*)

Track: College readiness

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Student Leaders, Program Directors/Coordinators

610 Liberty Hall Salon 1

College Readiness: Creating a College Going Culture at UTPA

UTPA GEAR UP has partnered with SureScore to put more students on the path to college success. By implementing several College Readiness initiatives, UTPA is ensuring students are better prepared for postsecondary education. SureScore's THEA Academy prepares students for dual/concurrent enrollment. To prepare students for the increased rigor of upper-level coursework, SureScore's vocabulary (STAR) and math (MARS) programs build foundational skills. In addition, SureScore provides College Readiness seminars for parents and students to guide families through the college admissions process. In the session, representatives from several UTPA GEAR UP schools will demonstrate how these College Readiness initiatives have impacted their students.

Presenters: Ana Dougherty (*The University of Texas-Pan American GEAR UP*) and Ernesto Ayala (*SureScore, Inc.*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

611 Liberty Hall Salon 2

The Kingsville Model: Enhancing the Education Experience by Keeping Kids in School

The research on dropouts at H.M. King shows loss of credits and subsequent extension of years required to be in high school are causing our students to leave school. These students feel they have no chance to graduate. Our plan focuses on six key components with our identified needs: Optional Flexible School Day Program, Credit Recovery/Acceleration, Counseling and Guidance Restructuring, Dropout Retrieval or Prevention (DROP) Program, and Partnership with Coastal Bend College (CBC), Craft Training Center (CTC), and Kingsville Economic Development Council. Now our students are staying in school and graduating with college credits.

Presenters: Shanah Yandell and Roel Gonzalez (*Texas GEAR UP/STAR Project*)

Track: College Access

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Business/Community Partnerships, Program Directors/Coordinators

612 Liberty Hall Salon 3

Artist Boat

Come learn about an exciting program that allows you to use art and marine concepts to reach and engage students in math, English, social studies, and science. Presenters will discuss an after-school enrichment program called Marine Exploration Club that utilized the Artist Boat organization's curriculum. All participants will receive information on how to access this free curriculum. Participants will also complete one of the student activities.

Presenters: Stefanie McKinney (*Pasadena ISD GEAR UP For Success*) and Karla Kay and Rani Henderson (*Artist Boat*)

Track: College Readiness

Audience: Teachers/Principals/Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

Notes



**Please join us for a reception
with our sponsors and vendors
on
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
at 4:15 – 5:00 PM in
Liberty Hall.**

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