

Professional Development Day



Over 50 teachers and administrators at Long Island City High School participated in a two-hour workshop with Darrell "Coach D" Andrews on June 6, 2013.

The topic of discussion, Motivating "At-Promise" Youth, was designed to provide attendees with strategies for increasing students' engagement and motivation. Coach D emphasized the importance of relationships, identity and dreams, and of connecting dreams to education.

Some attendees received copies of Coach D's book, *Believing the HYPE—7 Keys to Motivating Children of Color*. The educators unanimously agreed that they all had entered the field in order to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Upcoming Events:

Summer Residential Program, which includes:

- College Tours
- Mock College Classes (Biology, Digital Photography and Marketing/Business)
- College 101 Workshop
- FAFSA 101 Workshop
- Parent Bootcamp

National GEAR UP Conference in San Francisco, CA

Stay Connected:

www.facebook.com/sjgearup

www.youtube.com/stjgearup



GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013 Edition

Out-of-State College Tour: PENN, Temple, Howard, Georgetown, University of Maryland

Forty GEAR UP students and two parents traveled from New York to Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. this spring, touring the campuses of the University of Pennsylvania (an Ivy League university), Temple University, Howard University, Georgetown University and the University of Maryland.

The trip, which took place April 18-April 20, represents an important aspect of the GEAR UP program: providing aspiring undergraduates with exposure to college and university campuses prior to the application process.

Each university provided the students with insights into specific majors, professional programs, campus life and student organizations. The students were attentive to the distinct landscape and architecture of each university and questioned their tour guides about the university's resources. They learned about admissions requirements, academic programs, work-study, study abroad and available scholarships for incoming and current students.

While in Washington, D.C., 10 GEAR UP scholars visited the office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. They met with Staff Assistant John Santos and shared their stories about the impact GEAR UP services have had on their academic performance and college and career aspirations. The group also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the White House and the Library of Congress.

When asked about her college tour experience, Genessee Rodriguez shared, "I really enjoyed Georgetown. I found it very interesting that the President of the university has an open door policy and is very engaged with the students. I would love to attend Georgetown because I enjoyed the campus environment."

Emily Salgado stated, "I truly appreciated the supportive atmosphere at PENN and will definitely consider applying there."

Through events like this year's out-of-state college tour, GEAR UP works to make the goal of attending a postsecondary institution attainable.



Education Service Corporation
 and New York State Higher
 Department of Education
 by a grant from the U.S.
 GEAR UP is federally funded



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for
 Undergraduate Programs – GEAR UP
 8000 Utopia Parkway
 Queens, NY 11439
 stjohns.edu

ST. JOHN'S
 UNIVERSITY



M1-8445/LR

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 St. John's University
 New York

College Night for Juniors

The GEAR UP staff strives to impress on students the idea that it's never too early for college and career readiness. To that end, on May 7, 2013, GEAR UP, in collaboration with the College Office at Long Island City High School, hosted a College Night for juniors.

The workshop was attended by students and parents who were curious about their college options and wanted to sidestep the confusion that is sometimes characteristic of the college research and application process. Attendees learned about the many tools provided by the U.S. Department of Education such as the College Scorecard, the Net Price Calculator Center, the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet, and College Navigator, which make it easier to compare important information like college costs, average student load debt and graduation rates across different institutions.



Special Assembly: College Is for Everyone



GEAR UP hosted a three-hour dual language assembly, College Is for Everyone, for over 250 English language learners at Long Island City High School on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. The assembly was designed to address concerns that immigrant students may have about the college admissions and financial aid process. Yvette Morgan, Ph.D., Executive Director of GEAR UP, and Jean Fedora of Connections 101 served as the guest speakers for the event.

Women In Science Camp

In celebration of Women's History Month, GEAR UP hosted a weeklong educational and interactive science camp in collaboration with the Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL). The camp was tailored to the college and career aspirations of GEAR UP's female scholars who are interested in the STEM fields.

The week began with a visit to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where the scholars learned about the groundbreaking work of Nobel laureates James Watson, Ph.D., and Barbara McClintock, Ph.D. On day two, they toured the National Synchrotron Light Source and Center for Functional Nanomaterial Buildings at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The tour of the facilities was followed by a physics demonstration by Helio Takai, Ph.D.

In addition to visiting these prestigious laboratories, the young women toured Mercy Hospital and Queens Zoo to learn about the various departments and employment opportunities.

On the final day of this highly interactive week, the young women toured Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Core Repository, which stores thousands of cores and sediments taken from beneath the ocean floor. The Repository also contains organic sediment cores from lakes, bogs and marshes from around the globe. After the tour, a panel of women in science discussed their experience, research and challenges in the field.



Later that day, the women attended Steps in STEM: Promoting Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Careers, hosted by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney at the CUNY Graduate Center. Representatives from the National Science Foundation, Microsoft, Inc., the American Museum of Natural History and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai encouraged attendees to pursue careers in STEM. Additionally, GEAR UP scholars participated in a career fair with representatives from over 20 STEM-based organizations.

When asked what they remember most about the weeks' activities, Jennifer Choca said, "I was impressed by how excited and passionate the women were about their career choices and professions. I definitely felt empowered."

College Expo at Jacob K. Javits Center

GEAR UP students were among 12,000 attendees at the College Expo at the Jacob K. Javits Center on April 28, 2013. College fairs give students the opportunity to speak to admissions representatives from numerous colleges. While at the fair, scholars spoke to college representatives about academic programs, campus life, admissions requirements and financial aid. With over 350 colleges and universities represented at the Expo, the scholars made sure to visit their top-choice universities first. They reported that the feedback they received from the universities was reassuring.



College Tours: F.I.T., Yale, International Culinary Center

GEAR UP students participated in college tours at the Fashion Institute of Technology (F.I.T.), the International Culinary Center and Yale University over three days during spring break. These visits appealed to students with artistic potential, especially those with aspirations to pursue culinary or fashion careers.

At F.I.T. students were treated to an insiders' view of what is known by many as "the most fashionable museum in New York City." At the International Culinary Center,

which was honored by the International Association of Culinary Professionals as the "Best Vocational Cooking School of the Year," the students witnessed a chef-led live cooking demonstration. The week wrapped up with a tour of Yale University in New Haven, CT, which gave students a view of a private Ivy League research university with an abundance of research centers in the fields of human and social sciences; medical and health sciences; and science and engineering.

