

GEAR UP Counselor Newsletter

Volume 2/Number 14

Monday, March 19, 2007

Attention to the Details.....

MONEY MATTERS

A Note from Mary Stancil: Second Quarter Reimbursements Due:

The second quarter has ended and requests for reimbursements should be mailed to Mary Jane Stancil straightaway. Reimbursement materials are gathered by the designated person in each district. The paperwork submitted to Mary Jane should include 1 expenditure ledger that includes both the direct services expenses and the professional development expenses.

A Note from Dreama Regarding Current Spending for this GEAR UP Year:

All schools and districts have developed spending plans (both for direct services and for professional development). Thus, all local GEAR UP Funds are allocated for this fiscal year. In the event that your school or district does not spend GEAR UP funds as allocated at the local level, the funds WILL NOT be reallocated. Toward the end of last year we allowed schools and districts to re-allocate any funds that were not spent. However, this year we will not be developing spend-down plans. Please work with your team to implement activities and services according to your local GEAR UP plans.

Highlight on Best Practices.....Madison Middle's GEAR UP

Counselor, Rochelle Garrett sponsored a "Building Bridges" parent meeting to help educate the parents on career growth and development at Madison Middle and beyond. The evening included information on school wide testing and Individual Learning Plans (ILP's), as well as booths from four different colleges with guest speakers. The evening was topped off with dinner and a chance to visit the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) Mobile Unit. The evening started with Vickie Fritz explaining the basics of testing at each grade level. Next, parents had the opportunity to find out more information about what is pertinent to their children. Jennifer Hess and Kendall Gadd are working to implement ILP's in their classrooms and presented a PowerPoint to show how ILP's are not just an assignment, but an opportunity for the students to continue to show their growth from high school and beyond. Each university did a great job highlighting their programs to the parents and they had booths set up to encourage the parents to already begin to think about higher education. There were representatives from Eastern Kentucky University, Union College, as well as National College. Mark Hoover from KHEAA was able to address real concerns about how to pay for college which was of a special interest to the parents that night. Overall, there was a real effort to educate our parents on career awareness even at the middle school level. Gear Up did a great job of uniting a diverse group to really represent a variety of information that was very pertinent to MMS parents and students. Submitted by Brittany Mauck Madison Middle's Read 180/Title 1 teacher

Jackson County teachers had the opportunity to participate in QUILT professional development this year by using GEAR UP funds. Loretta Gilbert reports that implementing Audio Enhancement in the classrooms along with these professional development opportunities have “greatly upgraded our staff and classrooms.”

Congratulations to **Fred McQueen, Jackson County GEAR UP Counselor**, he has been selected as a member of the Jackson County Empowerment Zone. This group is charged with leading the area's industrial and economic development efforts. Their focus is both new business recruitment and work with existing industry, offering assistance and encouraging expansion.

Remember.....

***School Based Staff Meeting/Visit to Clark-Moores** on March 20th 2007. This will be a full day event—Beginning at 8:30 we will join Clark-Moores in celebration of their 9 weeks with a Renaissance Pep Rally. Immediately following this, we will come to Berea College for a working lunch and afternoon of Year 3 planning information!

***Year 3 Off-Site Planning Meeting** on March 28th and 29th in Lexington, KY. More details to follow, *trust me it will be productive and fun!*

Information for All

Second Printing: The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in partnership with **NASA and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center** is announcing four Professional Development Workshops for Summer 2007!

The workshops are titled BUILDING BRIDGES FROM FORMAL TO INFORMAL EDUCATION and are designed for educators out-of-the-classroom (GEAR UP Counselors, FRYSC personnel, those involved in TRIO, librarians and after school program directors) as well as classroom teachers. Each workshop will have a different theme and will offer you the opportunity to work with NASA scientists, engineers and educators to create incredible activities and experiences for your students.

There is no charge for the Rocketry, Robotics, or Astronomy Workshops and educators from the Appalachian region are give priority. Participants may attend one or more workshops scheduled in June and August. For more information, please go to www.spacecamp.com/educators/arc

Good Reads:

New Report Card Rates States' Efforts to Reduce Childhood Obesity

Researchers at the University of Baltimore have created a report card to assess states' efforts to curb the problem of obesity among children. The report card considers eight different types of legislation, including nutrition standards for schools, physical education, obesity education in the curriculum, and health-

insurance coverage for treatment of obesity. Children's rates of overweight and obesity have skyrocketed in recent years, increasing the risk of serious health problems, including diabetes and heart disease. Read the full article at: <http://www.ubalt.edu/experts/obesity/>

New Study Examines Working Low-Income Moms' Involvement with Schools A Harvard Family Research Project study examines the connections between working low-income mothers and involvement with their child's school. While mothers who worked full-time were less likely to be involved in their child's education than mothers who worked part-time, those who didn't work and weren't looking for work had the lowest rate of involvement. In addition, work served as an opportunity for involvement for many mothers, whether by providing resources, a positive example for their children, or support networks. The study also discusses ways in which schools can take advantage of the findings to maximize parent involvement among this demographic. Read the full article at: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~hfrp/projects/fine/resources/digest/obstacles.html>

You Gotta Read:

New Issue Brief on the Cost of High School Dropouts:

Last month, the Alliance for Excellent Education released [*The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools*](#) CTRL + click on title to read the article. Also take note of another brief 3 paragraphs down titled [*Paying Double: Inadequate High Schools and Community College Remediation*](#).

The Last Thing: College Bound In Action



Middle school students from Foley learn from local college students