



# South Gate Collegian



Volume 4, Issue 4

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SOUTH GATE, CA



## LAUSD South Gate GEAR-UP College Partnership

### MESSAGE FROM GEAR-UP DIRECTOR



This has been an extremely busy activity period and continues to be an extremely busy activity period for our GEAR-UP staff and students. The College Expo Fair: *Steps for Success* sponsored by City of South Gate, our GEAR-UP Partnership, that was held at South Gate Middle School was a success with more than 350 participants and 26 exhibitors attending. We wish to thank Ms. Esperanza Galvan and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund as well as our GEAR-UP Staff for their leadership as well as many other community organizations and colleges that attended this event. The event included workshops designed to create college awareness for families and inform youth about the college application process, how to pay for college and how to apply for scholarships.

In addition, many of our GEAR-UP families attended College Making It Happen Family Conference on April 5, 2008 at CSU Northridge campus. And on April 18, a group of 50 parents, students and staff attended Youth Educational Options: *Pathways to Your Future* Event sponsored by the Center of Community Engagement on CSU Long Beach campus to learn about A-G requirements and preparing for post secondary education.

GEAR-UP's primary goals are to improve academic achievement, the high school graduation rate, and the higher education participation rate of students. In an effort to achieve these goals, there will be a special residential program at UCLA from August 15<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup> this summer. A select group of students from GEAR-UP cohort have been invited to experience campus life at UCLA. The summer program is part of the academic partnership between GEAR-UP and EAOP/UCLA. These GEAR-UP students will have an opportunity to experience campus life, visit classes, improve their SAT math score and strengthen their critical reasoning, writing skills and more importantly increase their academic performance. Further, Gear-UP is supporting Summer School Classes at South Gate Middle School and South East High School. At South East High School we are expanding the Summer Transition Classes to serve additional GEAR-UP students with below basic skills level competency in Math and Basic Skills.

At South Gate Middle School, we are supporting Why Try Program that has adopted by LAUSD as an intervention program. There will be two classes for our transitioning 8th grade GEAR-Up students who did not receive diplomas due to lack of credits. These targeted GEAR-up students enroll in another Math and/or Language Arts remedial class to complement the Life Skills effort.

It is with a great sense of pride that we recognize and celebrate the achievements of our GEAR-UP students. We have enclosed a list of Honor and High Honor Roll students and students who had perfect attendance for all 3 years!

In addition, we have also enclosed a list of other significant academic and related accomplishments that demonstrated the wonderful gifts that makes all of us including parents so proud. Please see enclosures. KUDOS!

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that Ms. Lorena Navar, our outstanding GEAR-UP Site Assistant Site Director is leaving us. Her presence and dedicated work will be missed. She is leaving to get married, relocating to a new home and has accepted a new teaching position in Central California. We wish her all the happiness!

We wish to thank Dr. Mancillas, Department Chairperson and Ms. Melissa Melara, our first graduate counseling Intern who under the guidance of Mr. Daniel Leyva, GEAR-UP Counselor, successfully completed our first established partnership with CSU Dominguez Hills Graduate School of School Counseling. This is significant innovative GEAR-Up effort to increase sustainability for our schools that will continue next year.

As the GEAR-Up academic year comes to a close and our students transition to our two high schools, I wish to take this opportunity to give recognition and express our sincere appreciation for the support we have received from our teachers and staff to serve our students.

Angel J. Perea

#### GEAR-UP STAFF

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#### PARTNERS:

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## Southeast Middle School

As we approach the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year I want to congratulate students on their accomplishments. I look forward to participating in the celebration of the student's achievements.

Parents and students should take advantage of any opportunities to be prepared for success at the high school level.

This means all students should be involved over the summer whether in classes at the school sites, the conference provided by SALEF, or the overnight program at UCLA. Watch your mail for details and sign up right away.

Ms. Dacay



## South Gate Middle School

These past few months have been busy with college awareness opportunities for our parents and students. Our first annual City of South Gate College and Career Expo at South Gate Middle School, College: Making it Happen at Cal State Northridge, and the Community Issues Forum at Cal State Long Beach all addressed college preparation and A-G Requirements.

As we moved into the month of May, we provided the opportunity for parents to sign up for one of three parent/child trips. It was our intention to provide these activities as a mean to allow parent and child to communicate with each other, hopefully strengthening the parent/child bond.

Now, as we keep June and the middle school articulation in mind, we are focusing on making sure students are ready to enter high school. By the time they complete this year, students should have completed an Individual Academic Plan (IAP) that will give them a good idea as to the classes they need to take in high school as well as an active CSU Mentor account that will allow them to track the classes they take and will serve as a great tool for college exploration. Ms. Tarin, our CSUN Coordinator is currently visiting all science classes to set up the CSU Mentor accounts with all students and will continue to do so until the end of the year.

Now that Middle School is coming to an end for our students, I want to encourage all 8<sup>th</sup> graders to enter high school with clear goals in order to be ready to attend college 4 years from now.

**BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ALL!**

Ms. Navar

## Counselor's Corner



Parent involvement is a key factor in the success of our students. It is this involvement that GEAR UP seeks to encourage by providing events to bring parents and students together. On May 3, 2008, 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and their father/father figure paired up to attend the Petersen Automotive Museum with GEAR UP. This experience provided boys and their family member the opportunity to communicate, learn, and bond as a family. It was a great day of learning from the museum and from each other. Parents and students should continue to look for parent/child events sponsored by GEAR UP.

Our students are currently being introduced to higher education tools such as CSU Mentor and the IAP (individual academic planner). These are tools that should be used by the students and their parents, to explore high school graduation requirements, college requirements, and viable options for higher education. Contact the GEAR UP office for information on any GEAR UP events and/or activities.

Daniel Leyva – GEAR UP Counselor  
Melissa Melara – GEAR UP Counselor (Intern)

## Important Survey Findings



It is important to point out new facts from our GEAR-UP surveys with the assistance of Mr. Jean Claude, our Data Research Consultant. He reported that "GEAR-UP" students received more than 1800 contact-services from partners and staff that include: individual, group, career counseling, tutoring, mentoring; assistance in college admissions, financial aid and college visitations.

