



COLLEGE PREPARATION INTERVENTION PROGRAM

FY 2003 REPORT

February 2004

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP) was re-established by the 1999 Maryland General Assembly to improve the academic preparation of economically and environmentally disadvantaged students for college. The State CPIP appropriation and additional grant funding were used as part of the match required for the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) and the Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) successful proposal to obtain a federal Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) state grant. MSDE is the lead agency for the grant, while MHEC oversees its higher education components. Federal funds awarded for Maryland GEAR UP for the five-year grant period total \$13,600,731. Thus, the federal government, MSDE, and MHEC—through CPIP funding of higher education partnerships—support Maryland GEAR UP, which operates at nine sites across the state and annually serves over 2,800 children, their families, and the schools they attend in ten counties and Baltimore City. The program uses a cohort approach, and the statewide cohort members are now in tenth grade. FY 03 CPIP projects are working to address the challenges raised by the transition to high school and by transitioning students into a college preparatory curriculum.

GEAR UP is focused on providing the cohort of low-income students the information, encouragement, preparation, and resources needed to pursue and succeed in postsecondary education. A second major goal is to contribute to the reform and improvement of schools so all students experience a rigorous curriculum, high-quality instruction, and high expectations. GEAR UP funds programs in which local education agencies, higher education institutions, and other organizations partner to provide services to GEAR UP students that raise their levels of academic awareness, interest, and accomplishment. Programs include a career awareness component to teach students about various careers and about the relationship between education choices and career attainment. To assist with students' access to higher education, a portion of the federal grant is reserved for college scholarships for GEAR UP students. Each year GEAR UP scholarship funds are put in trust for the statewide GEAR UP cohort.

Beginning with the first year of GEAR UP program implementation (FY 2000), CPIP has funded, through a competitive grant process, higher education initiatives to support GEAR UP goals. In FY 2003, 13 grants were made. GEAR UP requires at least one higher education partnership per site, but numerous Maryland institutions are actively involved in assisting GEAR UP schools. They work to enhance students' academic performance; to provide staff development activities for teachers; to augment students' and parents' knowledge of college admissions and financial aid; to increase parents' involvement in their children's education; and to otherwise provide technical assistance for maximizing the number of GEAR UP students who will enter and succeed in higher education. Higher education awareness materials for students have been developed, as has a statewide GEAR UP Web site (www.towson.edu/coe/gearup) that informs students, parents, and school staff about financial aid and other services available to them.

MGT of America, Inc. evaluates Maryland GEAR UP and reported that after one year of program implementation, half of the GEAR UP students changed their goals to include college attendance and reported improved academic performance. The second annual MGT evaluation,

available in August 2002, showed that more than half the GEAR UP students reported improved academic performance from the previous year. The third MGT evaluation shows that while significant academic gains still need to be made, nearly 70% of the students indicate they are committed to the goal of college attendance.

BACKGROUND OF CPIP AND GEAR UP

From 1989 through 1997, the College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP) supported early intervention projects that prepared disadvantaged children for postsecondary education and careers. It was re-established by the 1999 Maryland General Assembly with passage of Senate Bill 862, codified as §§11-701 through 11-705 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Its stated purpose is “to raise the level of academic preparedness of economically and environmentally disadvantaged students to enable them to attend and succeed in college” (§11-702).

In FY 2000, the State CPIP appropriation and funding from the Retention Grant program were used as part of the match for the Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) and Maryland Higher Education Commission’s (MHEC) successful proposal to obtain a federal Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant. GEAR UP is a federal early intervention program with the same fundamental purpose as CPIP, and like CPIP, it calls for partnerships between local education agencies (LEA), institutions of higher education, and other community organizations and businesses to achieve its purpose. Maryland was one of the first nine GEAR UP state grantees.

Federal funds awarded for Maryland GEAR UP total \$13,600,731 for the original five-year grant period. Recent Congressional action has been taken which adds an additional year of funding for GEAR UP. Maryland GEAR UP is thus supported by the United States Department of Education, MSDE, and—through CPIP funding of higher education partnerships for GEAR UP sites—MHEC. MSDE serves as the lead administrative agency of the grant, while MHEC oversees the higher education components of the program.

Authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 1998 (Public Law 105-244), the GEAR UP program supports community-based partnership efforts to encourage more young people—especially poor students from poor communities—to aim higher, study harder, and take the courses required for college admission and success. The program follows students from middle school through high school, providing encouragement, information, and academic enhancement and remediation. Maryland GEAR UP students who go on to higher education may also be eligible for program scholarship funds. GEAR UP is structured to begin with a cohort consisting of all the students in a grade; it aims to be systemic rather than a pull-out program that would serve only a small group of students. Because low-income students often attend less than exemplary schools or have access to fewer academic resources, GEAR UP also aims to reform and improve schools. GEAR UP programs therefore not only provide mentoring, college information, and academic services for students, they also provide teacher professional development, address K-16 curriculum alignment, and emphasize the need to raise teacher, staff, and community expectations of all students. To this end, GEAR UP encourages LEA and other applicants for federal grants funding professional development (e.g., the Safe Schools, Title I, and Title II grant programs) to work with GEAR UP schools.

Maryland GEAR UP is designed to be a comprehensive effort to increase the number of Maryland students, especially African American students, who enroll in and succeed in a

postsecondary institution. To meet these goals, Maryland is funding nine sites in geographically diverse areas of the state. Site selection was accomplished by first identifying middle schools that had a student population with more than half eligible for free or reduced lunch and that were feeder schools for high schools graduating large numbers of college-eligible students who do not attend college. Five LEA and five nonprofit organizations were then selected as sites (in 2003, one of the nonprofit organizations was consolidated with the Baltimore City site). These latter five sites had participated in the former Maryland National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) program, a federal predecessor to GEAR UP that was also supported by CPIP. From the beginning, a given site had at least one GEAR UP school but often had more. Two of the former NEISP sites—Western Maryland and Southern Maryland—serve not only several schools but also several rural counties (see pages 13 & 15). The nine sites are

- Baltimore City Public Schools,
- Baltimore County Public Schools,
- Garrett County Public Schools,
- Prince George’s County Public Schools,
- Somerset County Public Schools,
- Academic Champions of Excellence (Baltimore City),
- First Generation College Bound, Inc. (Prince George’s County),
- Southern Maryland GEAR UP (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties), and
- Western Maryland GEAR UP (Allegany, Frederick, and Washington Counties).

The initial State cohort population in FY 2000 was comprised of approximately 2,500 sixth graders, and all the students in the grade were served at the participating school sites. FY 2001 through FY 2002 CPIP grants supported GEAR UP academic activities as students progressed through middle school and entry into ninth grade. The cohort includes over 2,800 students. Participating high schools have been selected based on where the majority of the site’s cohort has matriculated. FY 2003 CPIP grants are supporting activities for the 2003-2004 academic-year and summer 2004 in preparation for the cohort’s entry into the eleventh grade. Students in the statewide cohort receive services while attending Maryland GEAR UP schools, pending further funding, through graduation.

The federal design of GEAR UP calls for school-based programs that ensure that:

1. Students receive assistance in increasing their level of academic achievement, their level of career knowledge, and their planning for college;
2. Parents and guardians are made aware of the importance of their involvement in their child’s academic performance and of the financial resources available to send their child to college;
3. Teachers and counselors receive professional development services to increase their knowledge about working with middle to high school students on career and college choices.

Maryland GEAR UP is part of the larger school reform effort designed to produce systemic change in the way students are educated and prepared for employment and further education. MHEC works with MSDE and sites to share best practices and encourages applicants to other relevant grant programs to consider working with GEAR UP schools in an effort to ensure that all children in the state receive the best education services possible.

MSDE selected and contracted MGT of America, Inc. to conduct annual external evaluations of Maryland GEAR UP. MGT returned its first report in August 2001; it primarily collected baseline data against which to assess future program achievements. It confirmed that GEAR UP students and their families have a great need for information so the students will be prepared and qualified for postsecondary education. After one year of GEAR UP, MGT found that half of the students responding to the survey reported that GEAR UP had changed their minds so that they now plan to go to college. Over half of this group also reported improved academic performance from the previous year. The second report was released in August 2002. The data show that 54% of the students report improved academic performance from the previous year; during the previous year (seventh grade), only 47% reported improved academic performance. The report also notes that students need more information about the array of postsecondary options available, including vocational schools, and that additional academic assistance will be required to prepare GEAR UP students for college preparatory courses.

COLLEGE PREPARATION INTERVENTION PROGRAM

One criterion of the GEAR UP initiative is that each site must have a partnership with at least one institution of higher education. To fulfill that federal grant requirement, MHEC uses the College Preparation Intervention Program to form and expand partnerships with project schools. The funds support higher education partnerships that offer numerous services for students and for their families and schools. The higher education partners offer students a wide range of academic enrichment activities. For example, a few CPIP partners offer Saturday academies, which provide content-based classes to support tenth-grade curricula, such as geometry, literature, and biology. Several college and university partners have introduced innovative and challenging academic activities, such as a brain bee competition to help students learn more about how the brain works. Another site has developed a project-based tutoring/mentoring service in conjunction with classroom teachers, who help identify short projects that engage the students and are aligned with the tenth-grade curricula. Higher education partners also offer college awareness and outreach activities for students and their families.

In FY 2003, thirteen CPIP proposals were funded to serve the nine GEAR UP sites (see p. 9). The proposals are designed to

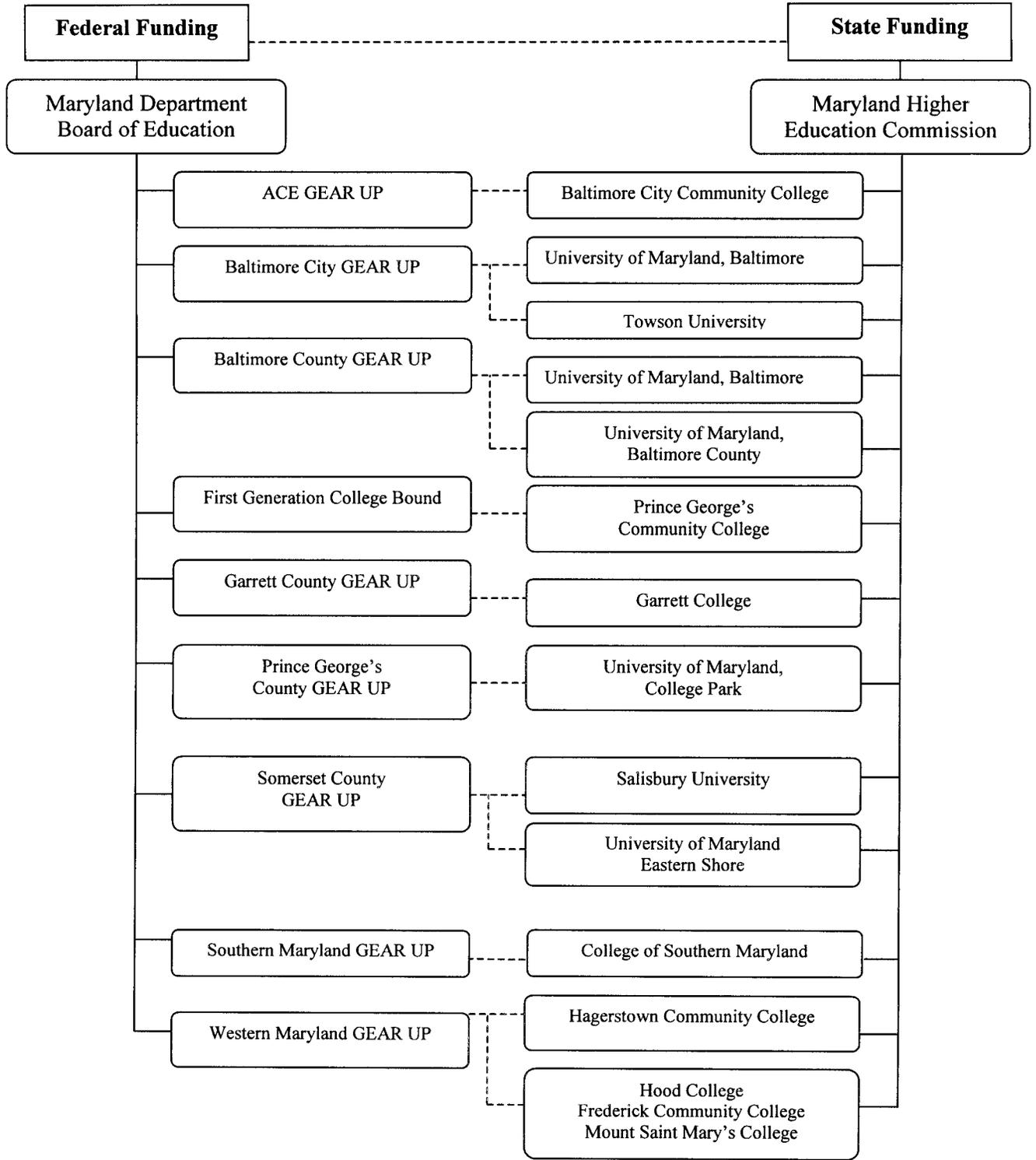
- increase the academic achievement of GEAR UP students by providing direct instructional services to students and, in some instances, to their teachers;
- increase GEAR UP students' knowledge of the relationship between and among career goals, high school courses, graduation and postsecondary education choices; and
- increase each student's acceptance of greater academic challenges, wherever the student is on a performance continuum.

In addition to providing direct services to students and their families, nearly all of the 13 CPIP projects funded during FY 2003 provide professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators, helping them to build stronger curricula, to use technology more effectively, and to strengthen the instruction, counseling, and administration available to the GEAR UP students and their families. A Web site, developed with a FY 2000 CPIP grant, provides information to GEAR UP sites and to GEAR UP students and their parents, teachers, and counselors (www.towson.edu/coe/gearup). The site includes numerous links to services and information for each target audience and serves as a resource for GEAR UP sites to share best practices and successfully implemented activities.

In addition to encouraging the development of higher education partnerships for GEAR UP, MHEC (1) coordinates college partnership activities, (2) supervises the production and distribution of career and higher education awareness materials, (3) provides expertise for financial aid workshops, and (4) administers the GEAR UP Scholarship program. As part of encouraging and supporting college partnerships, MHEC staff conduct site visits to grant projects, offering on-site consultation and financial aid and GEAR UP scholarship presentations. Staff also consult with project directors when projects require amending. In FY 2003, MHEC staff provided technical assistance sessions to answer questions that grant applicants may have as they prepare grant proposals. In monitoring the CPIP projects and administering the GEAR UP

scholarship, MHEC created and maintains a database of GEAR UP students who may be eligible for the scholarship. A scholarship brochure to inform students and their parents that this scholarship will be available for eligible Maryland GEAR UP students is being distributed.

FY 2003 GEAR UP/College Preparation Intervention Program (CPIP) Partnerships



FUNDING

Recent Congressional action has been taken to provide funding for the 6th year of GEAR UP. The annual funding for the GEAR UP grant administered by MSDE and MHEC is

Year 1	\$2,768,883	(FY 2000)
Year 2	\$2,716,938	(FY 2001)
Year 3	\$2,764,458	(FY 2002)
Year 4	\$2,579,683	(FY 2003)
Year 5	\$2,770,769	(FY 2004)
Year 6	<u>\$2,770,769</u>	(FY 2005 estimated amount)
Total	\$16,371,500	

These figures include sub-grants to designated GEAR UP sites, scholarship funds, and funds for administrative costs, including an outside evaluator and outreach publications.

The annual State CPIP appropriation serves as a part of the required State match for the federal GEAR UP grant. Pending approval of the annual State appropriation, funding for the College Preparation Intervention Program, is

Year 1	\$ 150,000	(FY 2000)
Year 2	\$ 750,000	(FY 2001)
Year 3	\$ 750,000	(FY 2002)
Year 4	\$ 713,250	(FY 2003)
Year 5	\$ 693,750	(FY 2004)
Year 6	\$ 750,000	(FY 2005)
Year 7	\$ 750,000	(FY 2006)
Total	\$4,557,000	

The CPIP appropriation is crucial in meeting the federal required match by providing approximately one-third of the match. It also ensures that college preparatory services will be available to the GEAR UP students through their senior year in high school in accordance with the GEAR UP program design. The remaining match will be supplied through State scholarships to the GEAR UP students and in-kind contributions from the local GEAR UP sites in the form of facility space, personnel, and computer/equipment donations.

GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIPS

Under the federal guidelines for GEAR UP state grants, state grantees must use a portion of their grant for a scholarship program. These scholarships are targeted for students currently participating in a GEAR UP program and for students who participated in a predecessor federal early intervention program to GEAR UP, the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) program. NEISP targeted a population similar to that of GEAR UP. The federal guidelines recognized that at the outset of GEAR UP implementation that the GEAR UP cohorts would be in middle school and that scholarship funds would first be available for former NEISP participants. Beginning with the second year of the Maryland state grant, \$600,000 has been put in a scholarship trust fund each year for the use of the current statewide GEAR UP cohort. Currently, there is \$2.4 million in the trust fund.

In FY 2001, the Maryland GEAR UP management team developed guidelines for the administration of the Maryland GEAR UP Scholarship Program, which were approved by the Commission. For FY 2002, using scholarship funds from the federal appropriation, the Commission made awards totaling \$424,082 to former NEISP Maryland students pursuing higher education. To be eligible, a student had to be a Maryland resident, have participated for at least three years in a Maryland NEISP program, have submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Maryland GEAR UP scholarship form, and be enrolled at an institution of higher education. Eligible students could be enrolled either full time or part-time (with at least six credit hours per semester) in a program of undergraduate instruction. Awards could not exceed the cost of attendance. Priority went to students eligible for federal Pell grants. Students were able to use the scholarship to pay for studies at a two-year or four-year college or university.

In FY 2003, based on the experience gained in administering NEISP scholarships and other changes impacting the program, the guidelines for GEAR UP scholarships were revised.

The major changes are:

- Requiring, on an annual basis, the determination of an amount to be awarded from the trust fund;
- Capping the scholarship award amount for private two-year and four-year colleges and out-of-state colleges;
- Requiring that institutions certify student eligibility information, the order in which financial aid will be awarded, and the cost of attendance;
- Changing the required participation in Maryland GEAR UP from three years to one year due to the unexpected mobility of the GEAR UP cohort as they moved from middle school to high school;
- Requiring a student signature on a drug-free pledge; and
- Establishing March 1 as the priority deadline for scholarship application.

CPIP HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Institution	Project Name	GEAR UP Site Served	Award
Baltimore City Community College	BCCC GEAR UP Weekend Academy	ACE (Lake Clifton-Eastern)	\$48,746
College of Southern Maryland	Southern Maryland College Preparation Intervention Program	Southern Maryland (Calvert HS, Great Mills HS, & La Plata HS)	\$49,500
Garrett College	Gear Up from High School to College	Garrett Co. (Northern HS, Southern HS)	\$50,000
Hood College, Mount Saint Mary's College, & Frederick Community College	GEAR UP Regional Collaborative: A Model for Enhancing Student Achievement	Western Maryland (Frederick HS)	\$50,000
Prince George's Community College	College Preparation Partners	First Generation College Bound (Laurel HS)	\$50,000
RESA with Hagerstown Community College	Hagerstown Community College/Washington County Board of Education GEAR UP Project	Western Maryland (South Hagerstown HS)	\$50,000
Salisbury University	Excelling in Math and Science IV	Somerset Co. (Crisfield HS and Washington HS)	\$74,916
Towson University	High Standards and High Expectations in High School in Preparation for College	Baltimore City (Walbrook and Digital Harbor HS)	\$47,395
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore	Breaking the Mold	Baltimore Co. (Lansdowne HS)	\$50,000
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore	Biomedical Careers Program	Baltimore City (Digital Harbor HS)	\$49,323
Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County	Partnership for College Preparation: Dundalk High School and UMBC	Baltimore Co. (Dundalk HS)	\$39,666
Univ. of Maryland College Park	College Awareness and Mathematics Preparation Program (CAMP)	Prince George's County (Potomac HS)	\$50,000
Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore	Reap the Benefits II: Effectively Exploring Careers!	Somerset Co. (Crisfield HS and Washington HS)	\$36,645
TOTAL			\$646,191*

* The remaining appropriated FY 2003 funds are being used to develop and distribute college preparation outreach publications statewide. There are two main publications, one for parents of eighth- and ninth-grade students and the other for the students themselves. Both publications offer guidance on how students can prepare for postsecondary education.

CPIP Grant Project Summaries

Baltimore City Community College

Project Title: BCCC GEAR UP Weekend Academy

Project Director: Carolyn Dabirsiaghi
Natural & Physical Sciences Department
Baltimore City Community College
2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, Life Sciences Bldg.
Baltimore, MD 21215
cdabirsiaghi@bccc.edu

Award: \$48,746

Project Abstract:

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), in collaboration with the Academic Champions of Excellence (A.C.E.) GEAR UP, conducts a GEAR UP Weekend Academy, an early intervention college preparatory program intended to serve 100 Baltimore City Public School GEAR UP students. The GEAR UP Weekend Academy is conducted on the Liberty Campus of BCCC for ten Saturdays: five Saturdays during the fall semester and five Saturdays during the spring semester. This academy focuses on academic enrichment activities in algebra I, college preparatory science courses, and language arts courses. In addition to academic enrichment activities, students will be engaged in career and college preparation workshops that will include college admissions, financial aid preparation, and other college preparatory activities.

College of Southern Maryland (La Plata)

Project Title: Southern Maryland College Preparation Intervention Program

Project Director: Patricia Schroeder
Admissions and Orientation
College of Southern Maryland--La Plata
8730 Mitchell Road, P.O. Box 910
La Plata, MD 20646
patsc@csmd.edu

Award: \$49,500

Project Abstract:

The College of Southern Maryland works in collaboration with Southern Maryland GEAR UP to increase academic achievement of GEAR UP students through teacher development activities and tutoring services. Tutoring services are provided for GEAR UP students at each of three Southern Maryland GEAR UP schools. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a weeklong summer academic residential camp at St. Mary's College, which focuses on geometry and reading. The project also provides two workshops for GEAR UP teachers to focus on needs of students with differing cultural backgrounds and learning styles. The Learning Styles workshop explores the question of how learners differ from each other in terms of learning styles, preferences, strengths and weaknesses, and orientation to various forms of instruction. The Diversity workshop engages participants in examining research on multicultural and intercultural education, and on curricular and instructional implications of diversity.

Garrett Community College

Project Title: GEAR UP from High School to College

Project Director: James Allen
Garrett Community College
687 Mosser Road
McHenry, MD 21541
jallen@garrettcollege.edu

Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

Working in partnership with the Garrett County Board of Education, Garrett College has developed a program of activities for students, teachers, and parents that focus on the cohort group of tenth-grade students participating in the GEAR UP early college intervention program being implemented in the Garrett County Schools. College students serve as tutors and mentors for students in the cohort who have been identified as needing additional encouragement to be academic achievers. These students will also have the opportunity to participate in a special summer camp designed to provide academic remediation through a variety of high interest hands-on activities. The project provides cohort parents with information on financial planning for college and on college admissions criteria. Several professional development activities are planned for teachers, including instruction activities that teach teachers how to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to bring traditional math and science classes into the realm of real-world application.

Project Title: GEAR UP Regional Collaborative: A Model for Enhancing Student Achievement

Project Director: Kathleen Bands
Department of Education
Hood College
401 Rosemont Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701
Bands@Hood.edu

Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

Hood College, Frederick Community College, and Mount St. Mary's have worked collaboratively for the last two years to serve GEAR UP students and parents of Frederick High School. This year's program, "The GEAR UP Regional Collaborative: A Model for Enhancing Student Achievement," is an academic and cultural intervention program designed to academically prepare students to pursue postsecondary education and to develop the skills necessary to be life-long learners. This model incorporates the most effective elements from the first two CPIP grants: (1) providing college student mentors to serve as role models, (2) replicating college experiences such as registering for classes and using declining balance cards to purchase texts and meals, (3) attending "mini" college classes tied to academic content area for career exploration, and (4) offering an intensive summer camp for students to develop an electronic portfolio.

The summer camp experience uses Blackboard.com as a means to further develop an electronic portfolio, which includes (1) a completed essay suitable for submission as college-level work, (2) mock interviews recorded and housed on the Web site with feedback from appropriate audiences, such as faculty and college admissions, and (3) a college plan of action, which details all the steps and necessary forms, tests, and requirements for applying to colleges. The project also provides information sessions for parents on a variety of topics including career development, the college selection process, and financial planning.

Project Title: College Preparation Partners

Project Director: Margaret Taibi
Student Development Services
Prince George's Community College
301 Largo Road
Largo, MD 20774
mtaibi@pgcc.edu

Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

The College Preparation Partners project serves low-income tenth-grade students and their parents at Laurel High School. Prince George's Community College, First Generation College Bound, and Laurel High School continue as partners in this program. Activities are intended to increase students' academic achievement and readiness for postsecondary education, increase their understanding of the relationship between career goals, secondary school academic achievement, and postsecondary educational opportunities; and increase their understanding and acceptance of greater academic challenges. The five program components are (1) Saturday Academy during the academic year; (2) a parent education and support program; (3) success newsletters; (4) an early intervention program using the community college's placement test assessments, and (5) a summer enrichment program. Activities will be offered in the evening and on weekends at Laurel High School and at Prince Georges' Community College main campus and the Laurel College Center.

**Regional Education Service Agency of Appalachian Maryland with
Hagerstown Community College**

Project Title: Hagerstown Community College / Washington County Board of Education GEAR UP Project

Project Coordinator: Rebecca Elgin
Hagerstown Community College
11400 Robinwood Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21742
elginr@hagerstowncc.edu

Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) has collaborated with the Washington County Board of Education to continue to expand the services provided to South Hagerstown High School GEAR UP students for the past two years. The project includes activities that serve SHHS students, their parents, and their teachers. The two primary activities targeted at SHHS students include a tutoring program and focus group sessions. Tutoring is provided by college students at the high school, and through this process, some students are also mentored. Last year, HCC students and the project director interviewed SHHS GEAR UP students to assess the career interests, hobbies and talents of GEAR UP students. Based on the answers to these interview questions, the project established focus groups that explore career options and addresses students' questions about gaining admittance into college. The project also attempts to get parents more involved by offering an all-day workshop, which covers a series of topics, such as "strategies for success," Preparing your Child's College Entrance, and "Positive Parenting." Realizing the importance of effective teachers, HCC faculty conducted professional development workshops, which trained SHHS teachers to use Blackboard software, promoted active learning lesson plans, and discussed how teachers could identify Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) students. HCC hopes to bridge the school-to-college gap for low-income, low achieving GEAR UP students at SHHS.

Project Title: Excelling in Math and Science IV

Project Director: Robert Tardiff
Henson School of Science and Technology
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Ave.
Salisbury, MD 21801
rmtardiff@salisbury.edu

Award: \$74,916

Project Abstract:

Salisbury University (SU) has been a college partner with Somerset County Public Schools (SCPS) GEAR UP program since July 2000. In July 2002, Wor-Wic Community College (WWCC) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) joined this partnership to provide college support for SCPS. The goals and objectives of this partnership remain unchanged, with the primary goal being to increase the number of students, particularly African American students in Somerset County, who will go on to postsecondary education upon graduation from high school. As most of this year's SCPS cohort will be taking geometry, English, and biology, SU has developed a project based tutoring/mentoring service in these subject areas, with classroom teachers as consultants, who help identify students who could benefit from the these services. The consultants will also help identify short projects that engage the students and are aligned with the curricula. University faculty collaborate with university tutors and teachers to develop academically sound materials. Each project team includes five high school students led by a SU student. In addition, following two years of a successful Academic Summer Kamp (ASK), WWCC will host a third year of ASK in 2004. ASK is a one-week camp, which offers a variety of activities including daily instruction in math, science, language arts and career exploration. All three campuses will continue to support this program.

Project Title: High Standards and High Expectations in High School in Preparation for College

Project Director: Barbara Bass
Maryland Writing Project
Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252
bbass@towson.edu

Award: \$47,395

Project Abstract:

The Maryland Writing Project (MWP) works in collaboration with the Towson University MWP to improve the writing skills of Baltimore City Public Schools GEAR UP students at Digital Harbor High School and Walbrook Uniform Service Academy. The program also helps students better understand writing by exposing them to different writing styles and genres. This is the second year that the MWP and TU partnership has served GEAR UP students. The MWP and Towson University will provide professional development for teachers through MSDE in-service courses and enrichment programs for students, which include college, career, and financial awareness information. For teachers, MWP will provide intensive training in leadership and writing through MWP's five-week invitational Summer Teacher Institute. For students, MWP will provide scholarship funds to attend the Summer Student Writers' Workshop at Towson University where MWP teacher-consultants coordinate groups of 10-15 students in direct writing instruction and guided individual writing. Parents will also be given strategies to help their young writers. Towson University will address students' need in other academic areas through hands-on activities in science, math, technology, and SAT preparation.

Project Title: Breaking the Mold

Project Director: Vanessa Fahie
School of Nursing
University of Maryland, Baltimore
655 W. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
fahie@son.umaryland.edu

Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

The University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Nursing serves students of Baltimore County Public Schools at Lansdowne High School through its Breaking the Mold project. Breaking the Mold is a pilot program that includes four components: an expanded tutoring program, a Health Careers Club (HCC), a career fair, and a financial aid and college information forum. The Breaking the Mold project has supported Lansdowne's existing after-school tutoring program by hiring an additional science instructor for the two-day per week program. The focus of the tutoring program is to strengthen math, reading and writing skills. The School of Nursing has attracted students with an interest in pursuing health-related careers to the HCC. School of Nursing students from the Black Student Nurses Association and the Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority mentor HCC GEAR UP students. The HCC students also visit clinical simulation laboratories and participate in laboratory activities such as (1) learning how to administer CPR and first aid; (2) beginning assessment skills-measuring temperature, pulse, respirations, height and weight; and (3) developing interpersonal communication skills using patient actors. The project will sponsor and host a career fair and financial aid and college information forum for students and parents.

Project Title: Biomedical Careers Program

Project Director: Norbert Myslinski
Department of Biomedical Sciences, Dental School
University of Maryland, Baltimore
666 West Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
nrm001@dental.umaryland.edu

Award: \$49,323

Project Abstract:

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) serves students and teachers at the Baltimore Public School's Digital Harbor High School. Digital Harbor students gain technology skills. The Biomedical Careers Program's primary goals are to increase academic achievement of GEAR UP students through exposure to hands-on science activities, increase students' acceptance of greater academic challenges through group competitions, and increase their understanding of the relationship between education and career goals by helping them apply technology skills learned at Digital Harbor to a career in the biomedical field. Digital Harbor GEAR UP students will participate in presentations and competitions at UMB and the Maryland Science Center. In addition, 24 GEAR UP students and two GEAR UP teachers will be selected to participate in an eight-week intensive summer experience in 2004. Summer activities will include science seminars, career seminars, survival skills workshops, mini field trips on campus, laboratory visits, student presentations, student bioethical debates, group competitions, and community service activities. Each participating GEAR UP teacher will be matched with a UMB scientist and work on a scientific project in the mentor's lab. The overall goal of the project is to increase academic achievement of Digital Harbor students and their awareness of science as a career.

Project Title: Partnership for College Preparation: Dundalk High School and UMBC

Project Director: Rehana Shafi
The Shriver Center
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
rshafi@umbc.edu

Award: \$39,666

Project Abstract:

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) supports the Baltimore County Public Schools GEAR UP Program at Dundalk High School. Through the Shriver Center, the program offers an on-site tutoring program, a series of college and career awareness workshops, and PSAT preparation classes. The after-school tutoring program is offered three days/week for both the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, college and scholarship essay writing workshops are incorporated into the students' English classes. The Shriver Center's staff collaborates with UMBC's Admissions Office to raise awareness of requirements for applying to and gaining acceptance into college. UMBC works to provide on-site and off-site financial aid outreach so that GEAR UP students and their families have more and better information about how to make college a viable choice. Particular attention will be paid to involving community partners (e.g. various workplaces) as resources for guest speakers. The project will also engage UMBC staff and students to provide role models for invaluable information regarding college life, and sources for career-related knowledge and skills.

Project Title: College Awareness and Mathematics Preparation Program (CAMP)

Project Directors: Rosemary Parker, Joelle Carter, and LaWanda Kamalidiin
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Award: \$50,000

Project Abstract:

The University of Maryland, College Park, in collaboration with the Prince George's County Public Schools GEAR UP, provides instructional, college planning and career exploration activities for Potomac High School students. The Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering (CMSE) in partnership with the Science and Technology Addressing the Need for Diversity (STAND) Program in the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (CMPS) offers Saturday academies and a summer program to (1) give students supplemental instructional in algebra and geometry, (2) expose students to activities that will increase their awareness of college and career opportunities and requirements, and (3) develop supplemental activities for the existing GEAR UP after school program.

According to the Maryland State Department of Education data, in 2002, 75 (39.7%) of the Potomac High School seniors completed University System of Maryland admission requirements and 83 (43.5%) of the seniors indicated that they planned to attend college. The two primary objectives of the UMD GEAR UP CAMP are to (1) increase by 8% the number of seniors completing University System of Maryland admission requirements and (2) increase by 5% the number of Potomac High School seniors planning to attend college.

Project Title: Reap the Benefits II: Effectively Exploring Careers!

Project Directors: Terence Hicks and Kimberly Poole
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Award: \$36,645

Project Abstract:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore works cooperatively with Salisbury University and Wor-Wic Community College to serve GEAR UP students of Somerset Public Schools. The three college partners provide complementary academic and career exploration services to GEAR UP students at Crisfield and Washington High Schools. The program begins with the recognition that exposing high school student to a broad range of occupation that are timely, appropriate, and realistically achievable may not only familiarize them with the world of work, but also assist them in making informed decisions regarding future educational career opportunities. This program helps students understand the critical link between their education and their future careers as they begin the career exploration process. The primary activities proposed are the implementation of systemic career assessments and a Career Academy. UMES provides career and counseling services, visits to the UMES and SU campuses during the university day and delivers a modified tutoring/mentoring program. UMES will also offer career awareness classes during the partnership's third Academic Summer Kamp (ASK) program scheduled for Summer 2004.

MARYLAND GEAR UP SITES

Academic Champions of Excellence (ACE) / GEAR UP

The Academic Champions of Excellence (ACE) program, which served Thurgood Marshall Middle School #170 in Baltimore City and now serves Lake Clifton-Eastern High School, is housed on the campus of Morgan State University (MSU). In addition to MSU, this GEAR UP initiative also partners with Baltimore City Community College, Coppin State College, and Towson University. The higher education partners provide services to the students, their teachers and counselors, and their parents. These institutions offer professional development to the teachers in the form of instructional technology workshops, a summer science institute, and faculty mentors. The current CPIP grant helps prepare more students for the PSAT exam and a college preparatory curriculum through direct services to students, such as tutoring and academic enrichment activities, which are usually held on a college campus. Programs for parents are sponsored both at the school and on campuses and include activities such as college awareness and preparation seminars and financial aid workshops.

Baltimore City GEAR UP

The Baltimore City GEAR UP site served GEAR UP students at Rognel Heights and Lombard middle schools and now serves the cohort students at Digital Harbor High School and Walbrook Uniform Services Academy high schools. Two GEAR UP sites located in Baltimore city were consolidated in FY 2003. Baltimore City GEAR UP now also serves GEAR UP students at Patterson High School. Digital Harbor and Walbrook have resource centers to support the mathematics and writing programs offered by the GEAR UP staff and the site's Towson University partnership projects. Morgan State University continues to provide a summer mathematics/science summer enrichment program for the cohort. The program activities for the 2003-2004 school year include: (1) academic development through the implementation of a pre-college curriculum, tutoring, test preparation, academic counseling, financial aid workshops, and college visits; (2) social development through mentoring; and (3) strengthening support systems through home contacts, parent/student workshops, and professional development for the educational staff.

Baltimore County GEAR UP

Lansdowne and Dundalk middle schools were the two Baltimore County GEAR UP middle schools and Lansdowne and Dundalk are the site's high schools. Its higher education partners are the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Towson University, and the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)—Dundalk, which all offer their services for campus visits and for financial aid and admissions workshops. The CPIP projects offer direct student services such as after-school academic tutoring, career-focused student clubs, and college and scholarship writing workshops. Teachers are also eligible to apply for professional development courses in science taught at UMBC and supported with Title IIA professional development funds granted by MHEC. The site staff and higher education partners provide supplemental instruction and tutoring for students, on-campus cultural activities that support curricular objectives, college and career awareness activities, and financial aid workshops. Panel discussions and other events are planned for the cohort students' parents to assist them in preparing their children to make informed decisions about their education and career choices.

First Generation College Bound, Inc. / Project Bridge

Project Bridge is administered by First Generation College Bound Inc., a community organization that has successfully worked to encourage and prepare economically disadvantaged students for college. Project Bridge served Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Prince George's County and now serves Laurel High School. It has established higher education partnerships with Capitol College, Prince George's Community College (PGCC), and Saint Mary's College of Maryland. PGCC offers a Saturday Academy during the school year, as well as several other services for students and their parents. Capitol College has provided assistance in technology training, and St. Mary's has provided leadership training. The site staff coordinates with its higher education partners and the school for PSAT and SAT preparation, study-skills classes, college and financial aid awareness workshops, a newsletter to students and parents, outreach activities to families and the community, a summer academy, and other direct services to the cohort.

Garrett County GEAR UP

Garrett College has been a GEAR UP partner with the two middle schools in Garrett County, Northern and Southern, and now partners with Northern and Southern high schools. Representatives from the college serve on the GEAR UP advisory board, playing an important role in assessing student and school needs and in developing long-term program plans. Representatives from Garrett County Public Schools and Garrett College have cooperatively integrated GEAR UP activities into the school day. For example, the site offers an advisor/advisee period weekly at both high schools to provide career and college development, character education, dropout prevention strategies and academic remediation. The program also integrates college awareness information into career development activities, offers hands-on science and mathematics activities, links student participation in cultural activities to the school curriculum, provides staff development, and coordinates tutoring and other supplemental academic activities.

Prince George's County GEAR UP

The Prince George's County GEAR UP project has worked with G. Gardner Shugart and Benjamin Stoddert middle schools and now serves the GEAR UP cohort at Potomac High School. Last year, in an effort to create more cohesive groups with the 150-student cohort, site administrators divided the GEAR UP cohort into GEAR UP teams with approximately 20 students each. Each team was assigned a mentor teacher who monitored academic performance, social behavior, and attendance of team members. These teams also met after school to work on activities that enhanced their English, mathematics, social studies, science, and public speaking skills. Since the team formations, students and school staff have remarked that there has been greater attendance in GEAR UP activities and a better working relationship among teaching staff. The site continues this team approach to offering services in the current academic year. For the 2003-2004 academic year, this GEAR UP program partnered with the University of Maryland, College Park, which offers Saturday academies and a summer program to (1) give students supplemental instructional in algebra and geometry; (2) expose students to activities that will increase their awareness of college and career opportunities and requirements; and (3) develop supplemental activities for the existing GEAR UP after-school program.

Somerset County GEAR UP

Somerset County GEAR UP served Greenwood and Carter G. Woodson middle schools and now serves Crisfield and Washington high schools. The GEAR UP program has become an integral part of the high school curriculum and works closely with the School Improvement Team of each school. These teams suggested GEAR UP staff work on obtaining a better assessment of students' career interests. In response, GEAR UP is assisting with the purchase of the ACT's "PLAN"-survey, a career guidance resource developed for tenth-graders. Somerset County has also established closely coordinated partnerships with Salisbury University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and Wor-Wic Community College (WWCC). Salisbury University was awarded a CPIP grant to continue its Excelling in Math and Science program. As most of this year's Somerset County cohort will be taking geometry, English, and biology, SU has developed a project-based tutoring/mentoring service in these subject areas, with classroom teachers as consultants, who help identify students who could benefit from these services. The consultants also help identify short projects that engage the students and are aligned with the curricula. Each project team includes five high school students led by an SU student. Salisbury and UMES coordinate activities, with Salisbury doing most of the mathematics and science instruction and UMES directing most of the related career awareness activities. An academic summer camp is offered at WWCC and includes activities for parents; other family events are coordinated by Wor-Wic throughout the year. Planning for the Saturday program is done in conjunction with school science teachers and supports instruction. Salisbury, UMES, and WWCC, like higher education partners at the other GEAR UP sites, participate in other college awareness and preparation activities as well.