Once again, I would like to congratulate all GEAR UP II students for a job well done. Our program has provided great educational activities and opportunities throughout the year. “Gateway To Success,” was chosen as the theme for our 2003 Summer Program because we want the students and parents as well to understand the gateway is open now. Everything our students learn and experience will have a direct impact on their future success. Empowerment by education, mentorship, personal experience, community service and social interaction with others has shown students have a higher success rate. Our program is committed to academic achievement and excellence. Students, it’s too late to begin thinking about a career in your senior year. You must work hard in all subjects, seek help in needed areas of improvement, and believe that through realistic goal setting and dreams, you can accomplish anything. Those of you that have known me for a while, have heard me say “I can’t” is not in my vocabulary. You may have to put forth more effort. I personally wish to thank Ms. Valerie Guy, Ms. Sherrie Howell and Ms. Lori Colston for their hard work and dedication, to include: planning and execution of the summer program. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

From the Director

Our program is proud to announce the arrival of our new web site. You can find us at http://www.ksu.edu/gearupII. This site will allow you to easily access the latest news and information regarding our program. Our home page gives information on the purpose and services of GEAR UP II and provides links to the National GEAR UP web site, KSU home page, GEAR UP II staff and contact information, and GEAR UP II events. Please take a few minutes and check this out the next time you are on a computer. Let us know what you think by using the easy “Feedback” link on our home page. We always welcome suggestions on how we can improve our web site to serve you better. Special thanks goes out to Raj Bhyri, our Graduate Assistant who designed and maintains the web site.
The GEAR UP II program is leaving Junction City Middle School as we follow our last class to the High School. We would like to thank the faculty and staff at JCMS who have supported our program for the past three years. A special thanks goes out to Dr. Miller for helping our program to become an active partner with his school. Together we have been able to provide many services to our students to facilitate their success. A complete listing of our activities would be too lengthy for this article but we would like to mention a few of the events we hosted throughout the years.

Our tutors worked with students in PM Academy and Summer School to help improve academic achievement. These tutors also served a mentoring role by visiting with students and sharing their personal experiences from college. This daily contact is a vital aspect of our program as we strive to prepare and motivate students to complete high school and attend college. In working toward this goal, we sponsored campus visits and opportunities to attend college events such as KSU football and basketball games. GEAR UP II also encouraged good grades and behavior by supporting and supplementing the Renaissance program at JCMS. Additionally, we had after school programs open to students and parents that discussed college and financial aid.

GEAR UP II was honored to participate in the Farewell Ceremony at JCHS on May 29th. We hope you enjoyed the colorful program brochures we were able to print on our new laser printer. It was great to see our students as they were recognized for their hard work and successful completion of middle school. It was especially nice to have all the parents and family members there to show their support. Our program director, Mr. Robert McNair, gave an inspirational speech to encourage students to continue their hard work and set personal goals that will lead to college and future life success. We would like to remind everyone that our program provides on-going services throughout the high school years to any student in the graduating classes of 2006 and 2007. Our office is located in room 157, directly across from the cafeteria. Please stop in next year and visit us.

GEAR UP II and GEAR UP I collaborated to present a special program for parents that was held on April 10th at JCHS. Over 100 parents of 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students attended the event that included educational videotapes and discussions about parenting teens. We appreciate all the people who took time out of their busy schedules to come. The meeting also included information and registration for the GEAR UP Summer programs. Special thanks to Dr. Larry Dixon for attending and providing the meal that was catered by USD 475 staff. We would also like to thank Mr. Ronald Walker, Ms. Melissa Sharp, Mr. Shaun Moseman, Dr. Ferrell Miller, and Mr. Veryl Switzer for coming to show their support for our programs.

State of Kansas students must meet one of the following requirements to qualify for admission to any of the six Kansas Regents universities:

- Achieve an ACT composite score of 21 or above; or
- Rank in the top one-third of your high school’s graduating class; or,
- Complete the Qualified Admissions curriculum with at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale. (See page 7 for details.)
Inaugural Class Completes Freshman Success Academy

It has been our pleasure to be a part of the Freshman Success Academy. GEAR UP II has developed a close partnership with the FSA Staff and provided many services to students throughout the school year. Our tutors worked in the double-dose math classes to assist students with their studies. We also partnered with the FSA administration and teachers to help develop an academic and behavior incentive program to encourage all students to excel. Every six weeks we provided rewards to each student on the team that won the award for best academic improvement, attendance, and behavior.

Other highlights from the year include our fall pre-game cookout and our fan bus to the Varsity football game in Salina (including a free dinner). We offered these events to encourage students to get involved in school activities. Studies have show that students who participate in school activities do better academically and are more likely to complete school.

GEAR UP II sponsored two freshmen (Jessica Jackson and Tim Testa) who attended a Student Leadership Conference in Wisconsin last fall. These students then shared their new skills and knowledge with their classmates by hosting “Dress for Success Days” and leading group discussions. Students who participated in these activities were then able to attend a “Fine Dining Etiquette” meal and presentation at K-State and enjoy the Broadway play RENT. In the spring, Tim and Jessica visited with middle school classes to help prepare students for the transition to high school.

The GEAR UP II program brought in KSU football star Ell Roberson and former KSU basketball player Shalondra Booker to present an assembly for the FSA on May 7th. These athletes talked about preparing for college and reaching personal goals. Both speakers stressed the importance of hard work, perseverance, seeking support, and selecting positive peer groups.

GEAR UP II helped wrap up the school year by providing refreshments for an end of the year celebration planned by the FSA staff. Unfortunately, the FSA staff had to cancel the celebration. Students were still able to enjoy grilled sausages, chips, and drinks at a lunch offered by our staff. We would like to give special thanks to Armour Swift-Eckrich for donating the smoked sausages and to McDonald’s for donating the orange drink and glasses for both the fall and spring cookouts.

Big 12 Conference

By Dr. LaVerne Baker,
GEAR UP I Newsletter, March 2003

Mrs. Winsome Morgan-Bartley, Project Coordinator for GEAR UP I, and Ms. Valerie Guy, Community Coordinator for GEAR UP II attended the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government. The conference was held on February 20-23, 2003 in Norman, Oklahoma. HAR-AMMBEE: MYSELF, MY PEOPLE, MY PURPOSE was the theme of the conference, which featured workshops and several outstanding and interesting speakers. The workshop provided experiences for GEAR UP staff to learn about opportunities for minority students in the college/university setting.

National Conference

By Dr. LaVerne Baker,
GEAR UP I Newsletter, March 2003

GEAR UP I & II Directors Dr. LaVerne L. Baker and Mr. Robert L. McNair attended the GEAR UP National Conference on Feb. 10-12, 2003 in Phoenix, AZ. The GEAR UP Post-Award Capacity-Building Workshop was designed to help grantees meet their grant goals and objectives through professional development and capacity building. One of the major emphases of the conference was providing guidance from the U.S. Department of Education grants management program evaluation staff to ensure greater efficiency and accountability. The conference provided opportunities to meet with the National Project Director and network with GEAR UP staff across the USA.

Line up your summer activities, if you haven’t already. What types of jobs or projects would look good on your college application and let you explore interests?
Wow! Is the adjective used to describe the success of our 2003 GEAR UP II Summer Residential Program. 52 students participated in a variety of activities from June 1-12, 2003 at Kansas State University. Our students have a better appreciation for college life and all they must put into it. Team building activities like the kickball tournament, the egg drop contest, and Fear Factor taught our students that we must work together to achieve a common objective or goal. All students participated in each of these activities. We all learned that it’s okay to laugh at ourselves sometimes when we are not as skilled as others, and to have fun.

On June 12-14, we experienced the historical and cultural richness of St. Louis, Missouri. We began with a college visit at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, followed by a visit to the St. Louis Science Center and a social event hosted by the St. Louis GEAR UP program staff and students. Some students even conquered their fear of heights by going to the top of the St. Louis Arch. The last day was dedicated to having fun at Six Flags Over St. Louis. It’s hard to describe how some students arrived very shy and quiet, but truly opened up and had tremendous fun by the time the program ended.

On behalf of our staff, we express appreciation for our parents. Without your support, our program wouldn’t have been a success. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Our staff would like to acknowledge four team members who truly committed themselves to empowering our students through mentorship, leadership by example and teamwork. They are Shalondra Booker, Rickey Frierson, Megan Baum and Schyler Thomas. We also greatly appreciate our support staff who made sure all program logistics were finalized. They are Raj Bhyri, LaVerne Johnson and Mr. Larry Dawson (Dorm Master). A job well done by all!

A special thanks goes out to many organizations and staffs that supported us: The 1st Tee Program staff, Flint Hills Job Corps Center (Mr. James Reynaud), KSU Student Union, KSU Housing and Dining Services, KSU Physics Department (Dr. Tim Bolton), KSU Motor pool staff, KSU Recreation and Natatorium, Colbert Hills Catering Services, Arrow Stage Bus Lines (Mr. Jeff Weeden), USD 475, KSU Telecom Services, Night Stars presenter (Mr. Dean Stramel), Self Defense Instructor (Ms. Diana Tarver), and KSU Controller’s Office.
Gateway To Success Participants

GEAR UP II would like to recognize the following students who participated in our summer residential program and helped make it such a success. Way to go!

SESSION ONE:

Justin Black
Jaime Brockish
Rashita Brown
Samantha Cleveland
Andrew Conaway
Christine Defibaugh
Dee Doty
Jacob Gabriel
Rachel Gabriel
Kevin Gladney
Erick Gonzalez
Randy Gonzalez
Molly Johnson
Tahani Leon-Guerrero
Jessica Lewis
Lafayette Marshall
Andrea Pearson
Alisha Pease
Ramona Rucker
Crystal Searles
Linea Taylor
Ayjenelle Thompson
Arica Timms
Deon Vornes
Isaiah Winder
Jaleesa Woods

SESSION TWO:

Joseph Brock
Frieda Buchanan
Chriisy Cervera
Brittany Davis
Brandon Dudley
La‘Darius Evans
Marquis Evans
Whitney Foust
Jordan Guy
Paige Hoover
Candace Humbard
Kaleb James
Cedrick Jeffery
Selina Jones
Rachael Lawrence
Brittany Marshall
Keanna Medlock
Jordan Parker
Tiffany Richardson
Jerica Teal
Tim Testa
Amanda Thomas
Randin Ulmer
Charity Wicks
Curtis Williams
Joey Zamorano

Ms. Murphy from the University of Missouri St. Louis (UMSL) gives students tips on preparing for college.

Dancing to the music with the St. Louis GEAR UP students.

A group picture at the base of the St. Louis Arch.

Enjoying the day at Six Flags Amusement Park in St. Louis.
USD 475 Partners with YouthFriends®

Valerie Guy, Community Coordinator for the GEAR UP II Program, is coordinating YouthFriends® services for the GEAR UP II cohort next school year (freshman and sophomore classes). YouthFriends® is a national program that promotes community involvement in public schools. Adult volunteers are matched with students to participate in a variety of positive developmental experiences. While there is a focus on one-to-one mentoring, there are also opportunities for small and large group activities. Services may include academic tutoring, reading partners, school to work transition, career and college coaching, job skills, and resume building. We need your help to make this program a success. No prior experience is required as training and support will be provided. Service hours can be tailored around your schedule. Volunteer and make a difference in the life of a young person.

Want to volunteer with young people? GEAR UP II/YOUTHFRIENDS is a great place to start. IT’S FUN. Be a lunch buddy. Share an interest or a hobby. Or just be a good listener. IT’S FLEXIBLE. Volunteer for as little as one hour a week for four weeks, a semester, a school year or longer. IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
Quite simply, GEAR UP II/YOUTHFRIENDS helps young people succeed.

Contact Ms. Guy at (785) 532-3658 for information on how to:

• Volunteer with kids at Junction City High School
• Involve you place of worship or civic organization

• Involve your place of business
• Make a tax-free charitable contribution
### Qualified Admissions Curriculum

**English**  4 units required  
At least one unit of English or language arts must be taken each year of high school.

In addition to this requirement, students are encouraged to take courses in journalism, speech, drama/theater, and/or debate. These courses do not count toward the English requirement.

**Natural Science**  3 units required  
Students must take three units chosen from the following courses:
- Biology
- Advanced Biology
- Physical/Earth/Space Science/General Science
- Chemistry**
- Physics**
  ** At least one unit must be in chemistry or physics

If these courses have been approved by the Kansas Commissioner of Education, students may take up to two units in:
- Applications in Biology
- Applications in Chemistry
- Principles of Technology I and II

Applied/technical courses (e.g., Applied Chemistry, Applied Physics) may not be substituted for the requirement that one unit of natural science credit must be in chemistry or physics.

Students are encouraged to take one additional unit of science chosen from the courses listed above.

**Math**  3 units required in high school at or above the level of Algebra I.  
*For students graduating in 2006 and thereafter*

Mathematics courses completed in middle school or junior high will not count toward the Qualified Admissions math requirement.

Completion of both Applied Mathematics I and II can be substituted for Algebra I only.

*Students are strongly encouraged to take a mathematics course every year of high school.*

**Social Sciences**  3 units required  
Students must complete the following:
- One unit of U.S. History
- One-half unit of U.S. Government
- One-half unit selected from:
  - World History
  - World Geography
  - International Relations

**Computer Technology**  1 unit required  
The school may fulfill this requirement by use of a test. The test grade must be listed on the transcript with a grade as one unit. You need not, however, count it toward graduation.

**Foreign Language**  Recommended but not required for Qualified Admissions.

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GEAR UP II PARTNERSHIPS

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Mr. Reginland McGowan, Dr. LaVerne L. Baker, Ms. Kathy Greene,
Ms. Rebecca Leon, Mr. Robert McNair, Ms. Margaret Turner

KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS
Ms. Tina DeLaRosa

EARL WOODS NATIONAL YOUTH GOLF ACADEMY
Mr. Veryl Switzer

FLINT HILLS JOB CORPS
Mr. Gary Vesta

USD #475
Dr. Larry Dixon, Dr. Ferrell Miller, Mr. Greg Springston

YOUTHFRIENDS
Ms. Lori Johnson

Notice of Nondiscrimination
Kansas State University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other non-merit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), all as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries, including those concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, has been delegated to Jane D. Rowlett, Ph.D., Director of Unclassified Affairs and University Compliance, Kansas State University, 225 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124 (785-532-4392).