



STUDENT VOICES: BE YOUR BEST SELF

By **THOMAS R. HORNE**, 12th grade, Rutherford County Schools

My experiences at the 2010 GEAR UP/NCCEP Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) were, to say the very least, rewarding. The conference and all of the wonderful people there from all over the country gave me a chance to learn about myself and to learn so much about the variation in culture within the United States. I was surrounded by intelligent and well-rounded student peers who had faced much more adversity than I ever thought possible in the short time before graduating from high school. Maybe these students were not brilliant in the sense that they were in the top of their class or made A's in every class, but rather in the sense that they were extraordinary people who broke the mold, who set standards, who had cheated death, and who were passionate. My fellow attendees of the seminar were also extraordinary at motivating others to better themselves.

At the seminar we separated into four groups, each to work on a separate part of the presentation that we were to present at the end of the conference. In my group was a young man from American Samoa named Anthony Talosaga. Anthony was shy and my perception was that he might have been a little unsure of his English even though he spoke it near perfectly. Anthony was not like a "typical" teenage male from American Samoa: he was not physically large; he did not have long hair; and he did not like football. What Anthony did like was learning - he really loved to learn. Anyone who met Anthony could see that he is constantly observing and inquiring. Anthony told me he came to the conference because he wanted his people to realize that there was more of a future for a boy from American Samoa than football or fishing. He thought GEAR UP could help. Anthony is a prime example of the far-reaching impact of GEAR UP.

There were four attendees of the seminar who had attended the conference the previous year and were there to lead us. One of these four students was a young man who would become one of my best friends in a period of four days. Nik Hernandez is a moving ball of energy. I do not mean he is always bouncing off the walls, I mean wherever he goes people are happy and feel loved. In a short period of time I noticed that Nik never looked out for himself. Nik was too busy caring for other people's problems. The other day I saw on a social networking site that Nik's school gave him an award called the "Best Man On Campus" award. I couldn't help but realize that there was no better way to describe him than the best man around, no matter where he was.

Ruben Martinez was my roommate at the seminar. Before moving to Salt Lake City, where he currently resides, Ruben lived in Mexico and southern Los Angeles. A cheery guy, Ruben always seemed carefree. On the first night, as we were getting ready for bed, Ruben took off his shirt to get in bed and I noticed some serious scars on his torso. I asked Ruben about the scars and he told me about his past.



GEAR UP North Carolina's Thomas Horne (top left corner) with student attendees from the 2010 GEAR UP/NCCEP Youth Leadership Seminar in Washington, DC posing in front of the US Capitol.

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Ruben lives in a part of Salt Lake City much like southern Los Angeles and had been shot and stabbed multiple times. He was attacked on the way home from a party and was left to die. Ruben made it to the hospital, had a full recovery, and subsequently made some changes in his life. Ruben began to take school more seriously so that he could get a college degree, a good job, and a home in a neighborhood where you do not have to worry about being ganged in the street.

Another one of my friends from the seminar is Spenser Dauwalder. Spenser had already completed basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and was working to further his certification. As I heard him talk about his training and experiences, I could not help but be amazed at his passion. He was dedicated to helping people and was more determined to do just that than anybody I had ever met. Then, I found out why. Spenser's dad was very ill. Spenser told the group stories about having to get up in the middle of the night and check to make sure his dad was breathing and about his dad had nearly died and had to be rushed to a hospital. I was blown away that Spenser could share this with the group and all of a sudden his motivation was clear.

The reason I decided to share all of their stories was so that I could share mine. This summer I saw all of these people being their best selves. Often these people were their best selves despite tribulations I have never seen. It made me realize that I need to put more effort into doing the things that I see that need to be done, rather than merely recognizing the need. I was changed by YLS, and I would do it a million times over. I would recommend this conference to anyone who asked and would encourage more students to apply for a chance to have four amazing days just like I did. At the beginning of the seminar, one of our leaders, Justin, told us that we would leave the conference different people than we entered. Justin was 100% correct. I would like to thank GEAR UP North Carolina for sponsoring my trip and ask GEAR UP to continue to sponsor students to take part in such a wonderful experience that allows students to become their best selves.

ASHEBORO'S GEAR UP AFTERSCHOOL ACTION & GEAR UP GOVERNORS ATTEND ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By RON HARRIS, GEAR UP Coordinator, Asheboro City Schools

Several GEAR UP Afterschool Action Team members attended the Annual College Fair held at the Greensboro Coliseum on October 5th. There were over 150 colleges and universities represented at the fair. The students really enjoyed hearing directly from the schools they have been researching for higher education. They spoke directly to admissions officers as well as financial aid counselors. Some of the colleges and universities that were in attendance were: UNC-Chapel Hill, Clemson, NC State, Wake Forest, Wingate, Maryland, Vanderbilt, ECU, Furman, Virginia Tech, NCA&T, NCCU, and the University of Georgia to name a few of them. This college fair was very helpful and informative for the students.



Asheboro students visit a college booth during the Annual College Fair.



Asheboro GEAR UP Governors served at the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Asheboro during Thanksgiving.

During GEAR UP for College Week 2010, several GEAR UP Governors, a leadership group from Asheboro High School, participated in a mentoring program at a local middle school and elementary school. Students discussed the challenges of making the transition from middle to high school, as well as, elementary to middle school. They talked about the class offerings and the rigor involved in some of the classes. The students remained attentive throughout the presentation. One topic that was of great interest to the fifth grade students was the topic of choosing a locker. The GEAR UP Governors found it quite amusing, yet remembered those feelings.

GEAR UP Governors from Asheboro High School strike again. Five GEAR UP Governors served the needy during the Thanksgiving break. They volunteered for three hours at the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Asheboro. They not only understand the importance of gaining awareness and readiness for college, but they also understand the importance of giving back to the community.

GRANVILLE COUNTY HOSTS SAT PARENT NIGHT; STUDENTS VISIT NC SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & MATH ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By CONNIE RAGLAND, GEAR UP Coordinator, Granville County Schools

On November 1st, GEAR UP Granville County hosted a parent information session with Dr. Joseph Aicher as the facilitator. Dr. Aicher, a retired professor at NCCU, has traveled around the state providing information about test taking skills, study habits, scholarship opportunities, and preparing for the SAT. He also gave participants a sample practice test and discussed the results with students and their parents. Dr. Aicher has been providing this type of service for about thirty years and travels throughout the United States. Parents were enthusiastic about the information they received. On November 8th, a group of sophomore students from JF Webb High School travelled to the NC School of Science & Mathematics in Durham for an Ethics & Leadership Conference. Students attended a general information session and individual sessions that they selected in advance. There were an array of topics that included everything from animal rights, to social networking and sports ethics. After lunch on site, students were also given a tour of the campus by one of the student ambassadors and were able to ask questions and gain valuable insight into the offerings of the school. Some of the students are now interested in applying to the school. This was an excellent event to attend and the students thoroughly enjoyed it.



Granville County students visit the NC School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC.

BESSEMER CITY HIGH SCHOOL GEAR UP INTRODUCES NEW LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES TO BOOST ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

By LUKE UPCHURCH, GEAR UP Coordinator, Gaston County Schools

Over the past three years, Bessemer City High School has created an initiative to introduce 21st century technology into the classroom by purchasing notebook computer labs, interactive whiteboards, and classroom clickers. Under the leadership of the GEAR UP Coordinator and English Teacher, Sharanda Payseur, Bessemer City High School has implemented E-book reader devices into the classroom to increase participation among struggling readers. By using the readers, teachers can incorporate 21st century learning technology in developing critical reading skills necessary for postsecondary education. The E-book reader contains many features, such as an interactive dictionary and the ability to change font size, which are useful for struggling readers who are often overwhelmed by too many words on a page. In addition, students can create notes electronically in the text which allows them to become active readers by making their own analysis through annotations. Immediately after introducing the devices, students became noticeably more eager to read their assigned books. In addition to the increase in engagement, students identified as struggling readers began to demonstrate higher levels of comprehension and retention of material. The devices have been extremely useful in implementing differentiated instruction techniques in order to meet the needs of each individual learner. Although students are not allowed to take the E-book readers home, students are able to access the books by downloading the applications on electronic devices such as iPods and cell phones. Due to the successful implementation of E-book readers in the classroom along with other attributes, Sharanda Payseur was awarded Teacher of the Year for integrating 21st century technology into the curriculum.

Congratulations Ms. Payseur!



STUDENT VOICES: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?

By HEIDI MILLSAPS, 10th grade, Graham County Schools

The college and career fair we had at Robbinsville High School was absolutely fantastic.

There were tons of college booths and information. My favorite part was Congressman Heath Shuler's very motivational speech to everyone. It showed us that no matter how high you set your goals, you will always get there if you put 110% into it. He has motivated me to make a list with 10 things I want to accomplish. He has inspired me to do my best in everything I do and to never give up hope.

Thank you Mr. Shuler, you have made a difference.



(Left) Sharanda Payseur teaching 9th grade students on how to use their new E-book readers. (Above) Heidi Millsaps with Congressman Heath Shuler at a GEAR UP event.

“VAMOS A LA UNIVERSIDAD/GOING TO COLLEGE”



Students and families who participated in the GEAR UP Hispanic Student and Family Conference gather for an end of the day photo.

On October 22nd and 23rd, GEAR UP North Carolina hosted its first “Going to College” Hispanic Student and Family Conference in Chapel Hill. The event was open to three school districts: Asheboro City, Lexington City, and Johnston County. Friday kicked off with campus tours of Meredith College, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Saturday was filled with a full day conference including sessions on CFNC.org, college tips from professors, career planning, and building a campus community. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of admissions counselors and Latino students from the three campuses visited as well as, the following additional institutions: Appalachian State University, Salem College, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Wilmington. One of the many programmatic highlights was the opening speaker, Irving Zavaleta-Jimenez, originally from Veracruz, Mexico who overcame challenging obstacles to obtain his BA from Guilford College and is currently enrolled in his final year of the Masters of Business

Administration program at High Point University. Irving’s motivating story was an inspiring opening to the day and set the tone for an open dialogue between students, parents, and guest presenters. Between sessions students and their families were encouraged to visit college information tables where they could speak individually with admissions representatives and gain more information on potential college options. Due to the success of this event and positive feedback from the participants, GEAR UP hopes to offer similar opportunities to its students and families in the future.

LATINO STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE:

Presenter Sarah Nuñez from WCU at AB Tech introduced students and their families to the new online Latino Student Resource Guide available at :

latinoresources.wcu.edu

This online resource guide has links to important websites on the following topics: financial aid and scholarships for all types of students in both English and Spanish; research for university administration and faculty; community resources for the western NC region; federal and NC policy; and tips on what you need to do to be successful when applying to college.



PARENT VOICES:

My experience at the GEAR UP North Carolina “Going to College” Hispanic Student and Family Conference held on October 22nd-23rd in Chapel Hill was excellent. I felt welcomed, respected, and valued. It was very encouraging for me as a parent and I imagine for the High School students as well to be given information about how to apply to the university. Personally, it was like my daughter’s dream of going to college could come true. I have seen her work very hard for high grades all her life. She has also explored other areas such as signing, dancing, and helping out in the community to become a well-rounded student.

Above all, I have seen her persevere in everything she undertakes. After this experience, I trust that my daughter will be able to pursue higher studies in this country with the invaluable help of the institutions supporting this program, and above all with God’s help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people and institutions that have made this event possible. Rest assured that this program is not just spending money, but is investing it in the future of this country. Please keep up these programs for those students who are college material and whose talents would probably be wasted without your opportune help.

- MS. VERONICA SOTELO, Parent, Lexington City Schools

GEAR UP HISPANIC STUDENT & FAMILY CONFERENCE

STUDENT VOICES:

“My experience going to the Hispanic Student and Family Conference was that it was very helpful. I got the chance to visit a college and I learned a lot from the student in that college. They helped me understand how important it is to stay in school. I also liked the information other colleges gave to us. This conference make me look at going to college as a goal.”

- JOSE ESCAMILLIA, 12th grade, Lexington City Schools

“My experience with GEAR UP at the Hispanic Student and Family Conference was one that was not only beneficial to me as a student, but also as a person in the school and community. As a Latino student, I am very appreciative for GEAR UP and all the people involved. The trip to Meredith College was a great opportunity. I got to tour the college and loved it.”

- MARY SANTIAGO, 12th grade, Lexington City Schools

PRESENTER VOICES:

"It was gratifying to both of us to see a room full of motivated and well prepared students, supported by their parents. We were pleased to have a few resources to provide the group, but we were thrilled about the genuine exchange that followed - questions, comments, concerns, and high hopes about what it might mean to be a college student some day. Just remember everyone: there is no shame in taking the bus to get from point A to point B, but if you are able to invest in a car, you can make your own decisions about where you are going and can bring some friends and family along for the ride!"

- DR. LAURA GONZALEZ AND DR. JOSE VILLALBA, Professors, UNCG

GRADUATE STUDENT VOICES:



“When I was invited to the GEAR UP Hispanic Student and Family Conference, I thought I was there to share my story. However, it was the students’ eagerness to learn more about getting a higher education that what was initially encouraged me to pursue my own dreams of becoming an inspirational speaker. I won’t forget how the students came to me and said, “Eres mi heroe.” I would like to share with all of the students the following message: College is not only important, but a crucial tool to make your dreams come true, too. Tu Tambien Puedes!”

- IRVING ZAVALA-JIMENEZ, Graduate Student and Keynote Speaker



(Above Left) Irving motivating GEAR UP student participants with his story and artifacts from his journey to postsecondary education. (Left) Irving as the GEAR UP Hispanic Student and Family Conference keynote speaker with his motivational presentation titled, “Tu Tambien Puedes!”

COLLEGE FAIR PARTICIPANTS:

Many thanks for your support of GEAR UP!



COORDINATOR VOICES:

“The two day conference was not only fun for the students but very informative. The students walked away knowing that they can be successful academically beyond high school. They were particularly excited to be on the school grounds and get the feel of what it is like to actually be on a campus. After the campus tour, several students expressed an interest in the campus visited as a prospective student. This was a great conference and the next class of Hispanic students are looking forward to the conference next year as a result of all the positive feedback.”

- RON HARRIS, GEAR UP Coordinator, Asheboro City Schools

REGIONAL DIRECTOR VOICES:

“The conference was small enough to associate with family, but large enough to meet the needs of the participants. Families were overwhelmingly appreciative of the efforts to help them help their child in the pursuit of postsecondary education reality.”

- MICHAEL LANE, GEAR UP Western Regional Director

“During the college tours, parents and their children not only heard about the importance of getting a higher degree, but they learned how to apply, where to get financial aid, and what to expect from their children when they enroll in college. This sort of information breaks many barriers keeping parents from sending their children to college.”

- DONNELLE GRAHAM, GEAR UP Eastern Regional Director

GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE WEEK 2010: DAY BY DAY SNAPSHOT

MONDAY: COACH HERMAN BOONE TEACHES ASHEBORO STUDENTS THE "IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DISCIPLINE IN LIFE"



By **RON HARRIS**, GEAR UP Coordinator, Asheboro City Schools

Special Guest, Coach Herman Boone kicked off GEAR UP for College Week 2010 with a powerful message of hope and tolerance to the student body at Asheboro High School. Coach Boone also incorporated the importance of staying in school and having discipline in life. He stated that with discipline and determination, anything is possible to achieve. After the assembly, the GEAR UP Governors hosted a reception in the media center for Mr. Boone and other dignitaries of the Asheboro community.

(Left) Asheboro High School's GEAR UP Governors with Coach Herman Boone (center), real life inspiration for Denzel Washington's character in the movie, *Remember the Titans*, after he motivated students during an assembly to kick-off GEAR UP for College Week.

TUESDAY: GEAR UP KICK-OFF IN WINSTON-SALEM MOTIVATES STUDENTS TO "STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE"

By **RONNIE CHRISTIAN**, GEAR UP Coordinator, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Annual GEAR UP for College Week Kick Off events took place on September 24th at Robert B. Glenn HS and on September 28th at Simon G. Atkins HS. The events were well attended by students and staff. Students from local colleges (Winston-Salem State University, Salem College, Forsyth Technical Community College and Wake Forest University) participated in the GEAR UP Program at R. B Glenn HS. GEAR UP's Western Regional Director, Michael Lane, addressed students at Simon G. Atkins on the importance of going to college.



(Above) Simon G. Atkins High School students captivated by their marching band, dance team, and cheerleading squads. (Left) GEAR UP Coordinator Ronnie Christian addresses students about the importance of going to college during the kick-off to GEAR UP for College Week.



The theme for this year's GEAR UP Program is

"Are You College Ready?" Students at R. B. Glenn participated in an interactive panel discussion with college students representatives. Topics of conversation ranged from time management, peer pressure, the importance of academics, and preparation for the SAT. Students were also treated to a step-show by Winston-Salem State Universities members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Phi Beta Sigma.

Simon G. Atkins students were captivated by their very own marching band, dance team and cheerleading squads. The GEAR UP cheers really excited the students as they prepared for the guest speaker, Michael Lane, GEAR UP Western Regional Director. Mr. Lane motivated and challenged each student to "strive for excellence" in everything they do. He challenged them to study hard and make good grades as they prepare for college. Moreover, he reminded them to take full advantage of every resource at their disposal such as teachers, counselors, parents, and the GEAR UP Program. More than 1400 students were in attendance at R. B. Glenn HS and approximately 750 at Simon G. Atkins HS.

WEDNESDAY: GEAR UP NC INVITED TO PRESENT DURING THE NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY VIDEOCONFERENCE WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION



On September 28th, 2010, GEAR UP North Carolina was one of four invited grantees to participate in a video conference with U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. GEAR UP North Carolina was chosen because of our dedication to using data to make programmatic decisions. The College Preparatory

Data Management System (CPDMS) was highlighted in addition to College Application Week as an example of a data-driven program. The CPDMS is a University of North Carolina developed and owned data tracking system for longitudinal analysis of pre-college programs. In response to the videoconference, staff from GEAR UP North Carolina were invited to present at the U.S. Department of Education. This presentation, which included both Department career and political staff took place in November and was very well received. Many thanks to the officials at the U.S. Department of Education who helped make this happen!

THURSDAY: WELDON STEM HS STUDENTS VISIT HOSPITAL FOR A JOB SHADOW DAY

Roanoke Chowan Hospital (RCH) in Ahoskie, NC sponsored a Job Shadow Day for students from Weldon STEM HS who were interested in various health careers. The day started off with a welcome from the President of RCH, Mrs. Sue Lassiter. Mrs. Lassiter shared with the students that, not only are there opportunities in the field of medicine within the hospital, but also many other careers in the fields of business, finance, facility services, dietary, etc. A tour of the entire hospital followed, with a special tour of the Wound Center where the students got a first-hand look at a hyperbaric chamber. Additionally, the students spent the early afternoon experiencing first-hand life as a hospital employee. Roanoke Chowan Hospital offers a Volunteens program during the summer for students who are serious about careers within the hospital. This is a month-long program that can be tailored to fit a group's needs. Thanks Weldon STEM GEAR UP students and Roanoke Chowan Hospital staff for a successful Job Shadow Day!



FRIDAY: 95% OF 300 PARTICIPATING GEAR UP STUDENTS LEARNED SOMETHING NEW ABOUT COLLEGE AT THE UNCW GEAR UP DAY



- 92.3% agreed or strongly agreed that the Admissions presentation was informative and well presented
- 80.2% received helpful tips and strategies during the SAT/ACT discussion
- 87% enjoyed the beautiful campus tour and/or found it extremely helpful
- 87.6% found a major and potential career path during the Career Exploration workshop
- 85.7% were engaged and challenged during their mock class
- 88.7% cherished the Real Talk dialogue about college and step show featuring current UNCW students
- 95% learned something new about college by attending
- 94.9% plan on attending college
- 70.1% have an interest in learning more about UNCW

(Top left) Iredell-Statesville students enjoy a campus tour from a UNCW host; (Top right) UNCW celebrates the 11th anniversary of GEAR UP programming in NC; (Bottom right) A Graham County student interacts with simulation equipment at the School of Nursing during the academic session

Many thanks to Mr. Keryn Vickers, the UNCW Admissions Staff, and everyone at the university that made this event possible.



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MESSAGE FROM GEAR UP

Dear GEAR UP students:

The GEAR UP Office at U.S. Department of Education commends you for your hard work and dedication to the GEAR UP program and increasing the number of North Carolina students, like you, who enroll and succeed in postsecondary education. With the first cohort of GEAR UP seniors, this school year is particularly important as you seriously consider your plans after high school. In addition to the senior class of 2011, we strongly encourage all GEAR UP North Carolina students to take advantage of the GEAR UP coordinators and services available to you this year. From tutoring and academic support to GEAR UP Days and summer enrichment, GEAR UP is there for you as you prepare for your future in postsecondary education.

Best of luck to all of you in your journey to postsecondary education.

James Davis, Acting Director, Teacher and Student Development Program Service
Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

GEAR UP CALENDAR

College Readiness

SAT

1/22 Registration Deadline: 12/23
3/12 Registration Deadline: 2/11
5/7 Registration Deadline: 4/8
6/4 Registration Deadline: 5/6

ACT

2/12 Registration Deadline: 1/7
4/9 Registration Deadline: 3/4
6/11 Registration Deadline: 5/6

Programming

2/18 GEAR UP Day at FSU for 9-10th graders
2/19 **FAFSA Day**
2/25 GEAR UP Senior Day at NCCU
3/2 GEAR UP Day at NCSU for 10-11th graders
3/4 GEAR UP Day at Lenoir-Rhyne for 9-10th graders
3/8; 3/15; 3/22 GEAR UP BRITE Futures Day at NCCU for 9-10th graders
3/11 GEAR UP Senior Day at UNC-C
3/18-19 GEAR UP Senior Day at WSSU
3/18 GEAR UP Senior Day at UNC-G & GEAR UP Senior Day at ASU
3/24 GEAR UP Senior Day at ECU
4/2 GEAR UP Senior Day at UNC-G and GEAR UP Senior Day at UNC-W

Professional Development (To Register, visit CFNC.org, go to the left column to CFNC Events and choose "register")

1/26 CFNC Webinars—Electronic Transcripts 10 am & Getting the Facts about Financial Aid 2 pm
2/2 CFNC Webinars—Professional Center 10 am & Getting the Facts about Financial Aid 2 pm
2/11 NCCEP Proposals due to present at the Annual Conference
2/14-17 NCCEP Capacity Building Workshop in Orlando, FL
2/26 CFNC Webinars—Electronic Transcripts 10 am & Getting the Facts about Financial Aid 2 pm
3/2 CFNC Webinars—Professional Center 10 am & Getting the Facts about Financial Aid 2 pm
3/9 CFNC Webinars—Learn About Yourself 10 am & CFNC College and Career Curriculum 2 pm
3/16 CFNC Webinars—Applying to College Online 10 am & Explore NC Colleges 2 pm

SCHOLARSHIP ALERT!

Golden Leaf Foundation Scholarship for qualifying students residing in the following counties: Beaufort, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Graham, Granville, Halifax (includes Weldon City), Hyde, Martin, Randolph (includes Asheboro City), Rutherford, and Wayne (Note: for an entire listing of eligible NC counties go to CFNC.org/goldenleaf).

Award Amount Entering Freshman are eligible for a four-year scholarship totaling \$12,000 (\$3,000 a year for four years).

Eligibility First-year students or community college transfer students planning to attend any of the participating NC colleges and universities who reside in a qualifying county and demonstrate financial need (remember to complete your FAFSA!)

To apply go to CFNC.org/goldenleaf — **Applications due 3/1**

COORDINATORS' CORNER & SHOUT OUTS

Cleveland County's Shelby High School, the only GEAR UP high school in the county, had the highest percentage of students taking the SAT and had the largest improvements in reading, writing, and math this past year compared to the other high schools in the county. Shelby High School students also had the highest reading score in the district. **Congratulations to GEAR UP Coordinator Juan Cherry** and all the GEAR UP students who made this possible! • Virtually all of Hyde County's GEAR UP seniors at Mattamuskeet High School applied to at least one college or university during 2010 North Carolina College Application Week. **Congratulations to GEAR UP Coordinator Kathy Anderson** and all of the GEAR UP students, best of luck to you all in your postsecondary journey! • **Congratulations to Mr. Larry Rogers, Principal of Statesville High School**, for his article titled "GEARing UP for College Readiness" in the National Association of Secondary School Principals' magazine, called Principal Leadership magazine. In the article, Statesville High School was recognized for its data-driven GEAR UP programming and initiatives to increase the number of students who enroll and succeed in postsecondary education including the College Readiness Boot Camp, Parent Alliance Group, the Freshman Achieving Successful Transition Camp, Response to Intervention, and College Readiness workshops.