



September 2009

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Welcome Back!

We hope you had a relaxing and educational summer and are ready for the new year.

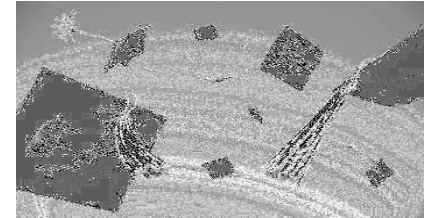
As our GEAR UP students are getting closer to the end of their high school career, their focus on school becomes increasingly more important. This year, sophomores should be exploring careers they might be interested in and keeping their grades up to ensure they will be eligible for scholarships. Juniors should be preparing to apply for scholarships, taking the ACT and focusing on colleges choices. Look for ACT Prep classes at your school.

Parents, your support and guidance are crucial in these coming years. Take time to talk to your student about what they want to do and help them make a plan to reach their goals. Attend college visits, college fairs, and workshops on financial aid. The GEAR UP staff at your school and in our office are always available to help answer any questions that you have. Take time to check out the GEAR UP website for valuable information and resources: www.fairmontstate.edu/gearup.

WIN, WIN, WIN!

POP QUIZ FOR PRIZES

Look for the first Pop Quiz for prizes question next month, for a chance to win prizes from a local college!



Amie Fazalare, GEAR UP Director and Betty Biggs accepting her award

Betty Biggs, Fairmont State GEAR UP Parent, Receives National Recognition

Betty Biggs, a GEAR UP parent at Pickens School, was recognized as one of five individuals to receive the National GEAR UP Parent Leadership Award. Betty received the award at the annual NCCEP (National Council on Community and Education Partnerships) Conference on July 20th in San Francisco, CA. Betty's application was submitted by the FSU GEAR UP office after being selected as Fairmont State GEAR UP's Parent of the Year. Betty was one of five parents selected nationally to receive this award.

Betty volunteers in her community and at Pickens to ensure that GEAR UP is a successful program and assists the students in achieving their educational goals. We are grateful for Betty's dedication to the GEAR UP program and congratulate her for this award.

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West Virginia College Day Schedule 2009

Take the opportunity to visit one of the following College Fairs:

September 18th 9:00 am—Davis and Elkins College

September 21st 9:00 am—West Virginia University

September 22nd 8:30 am—Fairmont State University

September 22nd 1:30 pm— Lewis County High School

***September 22nd 6:30 pm—Meadowbrook Mall**

*** Attend this fair for a chance to win a \$300 Scholarship!**

September 23rd 9:00 am—Doddridge County High School

September 24th 2:30 pm—Calhoun County High School

October 22nd 9:00 am—Braxton County High School

October 22nd 1:00 pm—Gilmer County High School

**Be sure to complete the
Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application
when you receive it at the beginning of school**



Why? Qualifying for this program will assist you in many ways. For example, **you can receive two fee waivers to take the ACT College Entrance Exam.** Also, **some colleges will waive their application fee** if you qualify for free or reduced lunch. Even if your child does not regularly choose to eat school lunch or breakfast, the benefits are available to you. Just complete the form (you can list all the children in your household on the same form) and submit it to your school with all the requested information.

Who can get free /reduced meals? Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or getting TANF, and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.