



State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION

Governor Chris Christie
Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno
Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks

**Secretary of Higher Education's GEAR UP Program Hosts 81 at Planning Event;
Leaders Discuss How to Help Disadvantaged Students Transition to College**

Program Helps Students in 56 Schools in Eight Cities

For Immediate Release

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The New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education's GEAR UP State Project hosted its first statewide stakeholders meeting on Feb. 27 with the theme, *Sustaining Effective Partnerships to Help GEAR UP Students Prepare for College*.

The event brought together 81 district and school administrators, institutional and state representatives and GEAR UP program staff to discuss how partners and stakeholders can strengthen the project to better prepare low income students to succeed in high school and beyond.

GEAR UP – or **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms -- strives to increase the number of low income New Jersey students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, GEAR UP services students in eight cities and 56 schools throughout the state. The program addresses the educational needs and aspirations of disadvantaged, at-risk youth in grades six through twelve.

Assistant Secretary of Higher Education Glenn Lang provided the welcome remarks, which set the tone for the day's event. Participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions on how GEAR UP can increase its visibility and its effectiveness in providing college access initiatives to all GEAR UP target schools to prepare students to succeed in a post-secondary environment.

To see photos from the day's event, go here: