

## CALIFORNIA GEAR UP PROGRAM

### MAJOR IMPACT OF THE CALIFORNIA GEAR UP PROGRAM

Under the stewardship of the University of California on behalf of the Governor and the California Education Round Table over the last 12 years, the California GEAR UP Program has impacted:

- 256 middle schools across half the state's counties in which at least 51 percent of the students are eligible for the free- or reduced-lunch program in order to develop a *college-going culture*;
- 270,000 middle school students who have benefited from program services;
- approximately 2,100 middle school educators -- teachers, administrators, and counselors -- who have participated in professional development activities designed to enhance the academic rigor at their schools;
- 51,000 families of middle school students who have learned strategies for partnering with schools and supporting their children to succeed in high school and college; and,
- 5,190 middle school students who had Education Trust Awards accounts established in their names through ScholarShare -- the state's college savings program -- in the amount of \$2,000, for a total of \$10,380,000. These accounts grow to nearly \$2,500 by the time that the student graduates from high school. Once enrolled in college, the student can withdraw funds from his/her account to pay for college expenses.

### MEASURES OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

#### *Cohort of Low-Income Students in Elk Grove Participating in GEAR UP since Grade 7*

- Significant increases in the proportion of cohort students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade scoring Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Test in English/Language Arts, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Chemistry above the previous class of eleventh graders (16.5%, 100%, 12.5%, and 22.6% respectively);
- Significant increases in the proportion of cohort students earning at least C grades in their senior year over their performance in the freshman year in English, History/Social Sciences, Foreign Language (12.3%, 111%, 189% respectively); and,
- Proportion of cohort students enrolled in Advanced classes in their senior year is high: English=92%; mathematics=97%; Science=58%; and, History=98%.

#### *Low-Income Middle Schools in the GEAR UP Program for Six Years*

- Significant increases in the proportion of students scoring Proficient or Advanced on the California Standards Test in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra, Geometry, English/Language Arts, Science, and History (55%, 28%, 49%, 69%, and 93% respectively).
- The proportion of students at GEAR UP schools scoring Proficient or Advanced on the Adequate Yearly Progress measure in mathematics increased by 27 percent; the statewide increase during that time was 15 percent.
- The proportion of students at GEAR UP schools scoring Proficient or Advanced on the Adequate Yearly Progress measure in English/Language Arts increased by 31 percent; the state increase during that time was 19 percent.
- The Academic Performance Index at GEAR UP schools increased by seven percent; the statewide average was 6.5 percent.

#### *Low-Income Education Trust Award Recipients*

- Over 59 percent of Trust Awardees who have graduated from high school enrolled in college; the statewide average in 2008 was 45.3 percent.
- At least 36.5 percent of these college students were enrolled in baccalaureate-granting institutions; the corresponding figure for the 2009 high school graduating class statewide was 26.7 percent.