

THE 7TH CONDITION

(Addendum to the California GEAR UP Rubric)

In August, 2000, a distinguished group of UCLA Professors affiliated with the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access completed a study to address the equity issues for college access into the University of California system for underrepresented minorities with specific focus on African American and Latino students.

The study: “The Social Construction of College Access: Confronting the Technical, Cultural, and Political Barriers to Low Income Students of Color

The group led by Dr. Jeannie Oakes listed and identified among many variables, six conditions for college-readiness that are essential for students to gain admission to and success at UCLA and other colleges.

The California GEAR UP Program adapted these six cognitive conditions that are widely known as the School Self-Assessment Rubric or simply the SSAR

1. A strong College-Going Culture
2. A Rigorous Academic Curriculum
3. High Quality Teaching
4. Intensive Academic and College-Going Support
5. A Multi-cultural, College-Going Identity
6. Parent/Community Connections re: College-Going and Academics

How well GEAR UP schools apply the above six conditions into the context of their school culture may be contingent upon each school’s attitudinal barometer—“The 7th condition”. Attitudes set the tone for getting things done and it will make or break a school.

The late Charles McCabe once wrote that education and learning is more than just a collection of facts, skills, and concepts. Rather it is the development and cultivation of an attitude for the latter that truly defines growth. This must be the “7th Condition--the one that will change the culture of growth and learning for our students and schools. And this is the gist of today’s conference—strong affects develops cognition and powerful cognition develops affects.