

# **Are You Ready for Afterschool?**

*Engaging Philadelphia middle school and high schools  
students in college readiness through after school  
programming with school partners and college students*

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## **Our Goal:**

**ENGAGE PHILADELPHIA  
STUDENTS IN COLLEGE  
READINESS AND  
POSTSECONDARY  
PREPARATION THROUGH  
UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**



**Before we jump in...**

**What program and/or organization are you from? Your role?**

**What population of students do you serve?**

**What are the objectives/goals of your program?**

**What are you hoping to get out of this session?**

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## **GEAR UP PROGRAM:**

*Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs* - grant funded program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education providing critical early college awareness and support activities such as tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, financial education and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for minority and disadvantaged first generation students and their families.



# Temple University GEAR UP Scholars Program @ Hartranft School

- ★ Facilitated by Temple University students - Dominique Mathis and Brianna Morales. Oversaw four GEAR UP Coaches
- ★ Provide academic tutoring to 8th grade students at John Hartranft Elementary School *Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3-5pm*
- ★ Curriculum designed by GEAR UP coaches and coordinators. Worked very closely with school administrations and lead teachers through weekly meetings and shared documents.
- ★ Biweekly meeting with 8th grade lead teachers regarding curriculum and student needs.
- ★ Coordinate with 8th grade students, parents, and school staff to put on fundraisers, participate in community service projects, and participate in school related events

# UPenn/Drexel - After School Programming @ West Philadelphia High School

- ★ GEAR UP Coaches plugging-into existing OST programming run by the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania
- ★ Provide academic tutoring to 9th grade students Monday-Thursday
- ★ Additional activities designed by GEAR UP coaches and coordinators to support general academic skill building, goal-setting and college awareness
- ★ Informal college tours led by GEAR UP Coaches
- ★ GEAR UP Coaches met bi-weekly with Coordinator to troubleshoot any challenges and make connections with school-day coaches
- ★ Coordinator met regularly with 9th grade teachers and AP to review common goals

# UPenn/Drexel/Temple - After School Programming @ Ben Franklin High School

- ★ Collaborative effort from UPenn/Drexel and Temple GEAR UP Coaches and Coordinators
- ★ Provide academic tutoring to 9th grade students Monday-Thursday
- ★ Began in Spring Semester
- ★ Informal college tour led by GEAR UP Coordinator, Manager and Coaches
- ★ Piloted incentive system to encourage students to utilize tutoring services

# GEAR UP Scholars Success



Relationship Building - Students, School Admin, Teachers, Parents, College Peers

Emphasis on the Importance of Education

Shared Experiences

“About me” Student Version

Program Expectations/Goals

Consistency -Time Invested

Passion for Youth Development

College Student Growth and Development

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*GEAR UP Coach Graduation Send Off*

John Hartranft 8th grade students



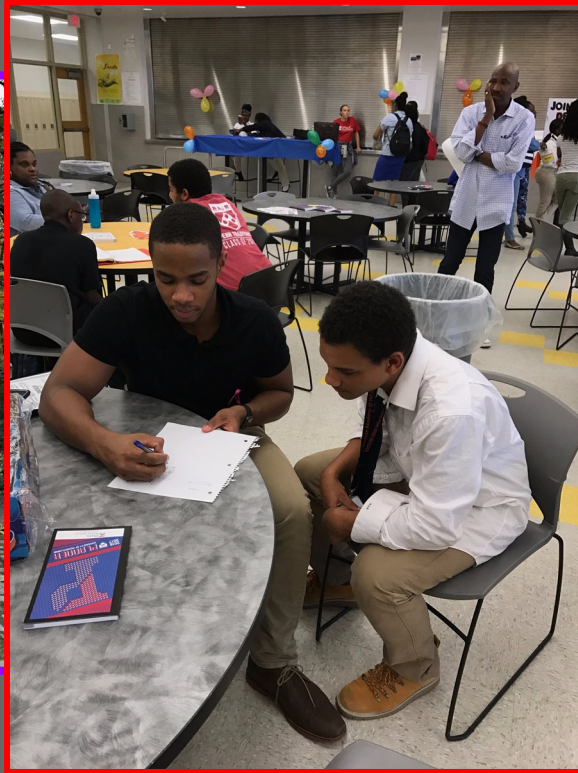
*8th Gr. PBJ Competition - Donations to Visiting House*



*Breakfast with the Brothers, April 2017*



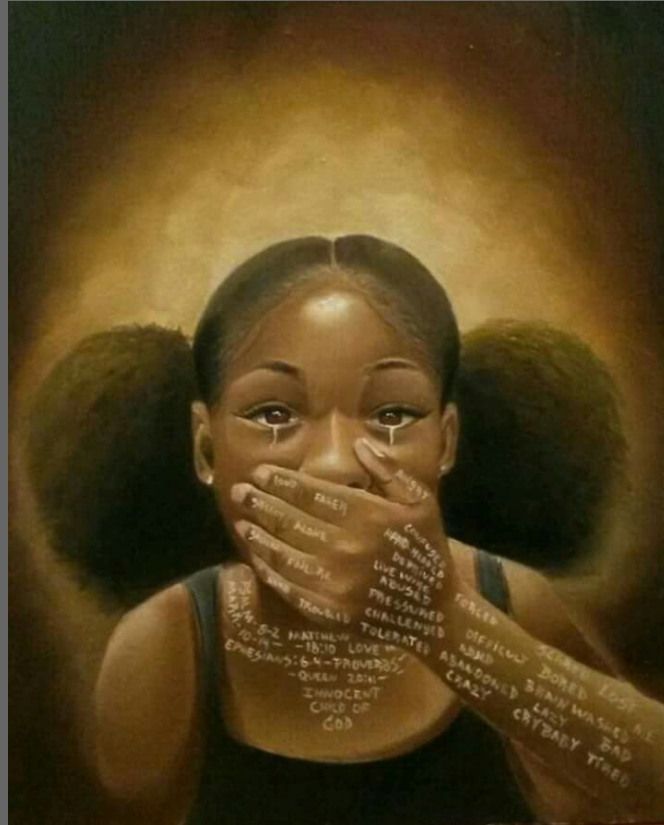
*WPHS Students Tour UPenn's Campus*



*Ben Franklin Tours UPenn's Campus*

9th Graders from WPHS and Ben Franklin

*GEAR UP Coaches?*



*GEAR UP Scholars?*

*School Administration?*

*Teachers?*

*Community?*

*Families?*

**Challenges**

# **Training GEAR UP Coaches**

*(Educating our Educators!)*

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## Some of our strategies...

- Cohort-wide training at the beginning of each semester
  - Fall: Tutoring and Mentoring 101; Cultural Competency
  - Spring: Math and Literacy Support; Classroom and Afterschool Support
- Bi-Weekly Check-Ins to provide additional training and opportunities for reflection and feedback
- End-of-Semester surveys for GEAR UP Coaches, Partner Teachers, and Students

Examples from Training...

Did you attend after school programs?

- What activities were available to you as a student?
- Did your school offer after school programs?
- Were there caring adults in your school/community?
- Were there college readiness programs available to you?
- Would you say you were a “good” student?
- How or why did you get involved in extracurricular activities?

## After School Program Goals

- Increase student engagement both in-school & out-of-school
- Retain students & keep them engaged in fun & enriching activities
- Empower students as change-agents in their communities
- Increase student awareness of college & career pathways
- Provide supportive and nurturing relationships
- Keep students safe

# **After School Best Practices**

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# Student Voice

This is especially important if you are creating enrichment activities or ongoing lessons for high school students. If they do not have a say in what they are learning, it is extremely unlikely that they will participate consistently.

# Planning and Preparation

You must have a game plan before walking into the school. Although it is helpful to be flexible, if you rely on 'playing it by ear' being productive will be a challenge. Students are very good at reading people and if they get the sense that there isn't a plan, they are likely to take advantage of the situation. This is especially true if there is not a school-day teacher who is leading after school sessions.

# Acknowledging & Celebrating Student Progress/Success

This is huge for maintaining student persistence. Unfortunately, it is common that students are only reprimanded when they do something wrong and never recognized for positive behaviors or progress. You can help show them that it is worthwhile to try.

# Making Connections

Making connections is crucial on many levels. The more connections you can make to prior knowledge during tutoring or mentoring sessions, the more likely it is that the student will retain the information they are learning. It is also important to make connections to why any of the work they are doing is valuable to them and how it will help them achieve their goals. Also, make connections with school-day teachers and content so that the work they are doing after school is supporting their school-day efforts.

# HAVE FUN

It sounds cliché, but it is true! If it is all work and no play, soon you will not have any students to work with. After school dismisses, there are many other things students might rather be doing than participating in tutoring or other enrichment programs. Get to know students. Get to know what they like. Get to know what excites them, what motivates them, what makes them laugh. At least 50% of the work towards successful tutoring is relationship building.

# Resources!

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[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JjsMrw1yyuaEV8HnBNr\\_KHG654ew8MxO\\_stPfQmsXik/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JjsMrw1yyuaEV8HnBNr_KHG654ew8MxO_stPfQmsXik/edit)

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# Thank you!

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