Engaging GEAR UP Students, Involving GEAR UP Families

Families as Partners Supporting Student Success

Juan C. Guerra, Ph.D.
Department of English
University of Washington
Seattle
GEAR UP Conference Workshop

*Achieving Family Engagement*

► Engage GEAR UP Families
  - Examine Social & Cultural Issues
  - Familiarize One’s Self with the Existing Research
  - Deploy Best Practices Effectively

► Identify Obstacles that Get in the Way
  - Parents’ Negative Past Experiences
  - Parents’ Difficult Life Circumstances
  - Uncertainty about their Role in Children’s Education
  - Lack of Contact with & Information from the Schools
GEAR UP Conference Workshop
Achieving Family Engagement
(continued)

► Develop Engagement Strategies for Middle School Context

Maintain Communication between Families & Schools
Communicate in a Language Parents Understand
Empower Parents as Partners in Education
Encourage a Future-Oriented Perspective
Inform Students & Parents about College Readiness
Work with Families to Identify Financial Need & Support
The Stories We Need to Tell to Form Connections and Community with Students, Parents and Families

► About Ourselves
► About Our Work
► About Our Public Schools
► About Advocacy Organizations
► About Successful Students
► About Engaged Parents
Stories About Ourselves

*Life in the Borderlands*

- The Circumstances Under Which We Grew Up
- The Challenges We Faced in School
- The People Who Mentored Us
- The Successes We Experienced
Stories About Our Work

Educators as Agents of Social Change

► Why We Chose Our Professions
► How Our Professions Enrich Our Lives
► Who We Work with to Support Students
► How We Work to Bring About Change
Stories About Our Public Schools

*Benito Juarez High School*

- The Challenges School Districts Face
- The Difficult Work of Teachers and Principals
- The Role of Families & the Local Community
- The Ever Present Potential for Transformation
Stories About Advocacy Organizations

*Campaña Quetzal*

- Acknowledging the Achievement Gap
- Bringing the Community Together
- Challenging the Status Quo
- Enacting Parent Professional Development
Stories About Successful Students

Disenfranchised Students in the University

► Overcoming Academic Obstacles
► Coping with the Imposter Syndrome
► Putting Together a Full Quiver of Semiotic Tools
► Navigating the Ever Changing Landscape
Stories About Engaged Parents
Association of *Latino Parents at UIC*

- Intervening in a Complex Process
- Finding a Voice and Strength in Numbers
- Interrogating the Powers that Be
- Making a Difference in the Lives of Others
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