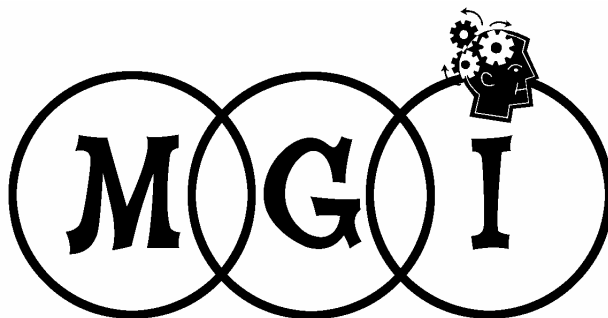




NYC
Department
of Education



Middle Grades Initiative/GEAR UP Monthly News

January/February 2007

MGI/GEAR UP Program
Lehman College, CUNY
250 Bedford Park
Boulevard West
Carman Hall, Rm 189
Bronx, NY 10468
<http://mgi.cuny.edu>

Becky Noack,
Program Coordinator
718.960.8524
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Aisha Barnes, Advisor
Guidance Suite
Mondays & Tuesdays

Angelina Diaz, Math Tutor
Ms. Clarke's Class
Tues, Wed, & Thurs

Eleni Katechis, ELA Tutor
Ms. Branch's Class
Mon, Wed, & Fri

Roseanna Sahadeo, ELA Tutor
Mr. Kolessar's Class
Wed, Thurs, & Fri

Lorent Santos, Math Tutor
Ms. Tsirkus's Class
Tues, Wed, & Thurs

East Bronx Students Head to Lehman College for Saturday Academy

East Bronx 6th & 7th graders have a chance to take part in a special program this spring: the Lehman College MGI/GEAR UP Saturday Academy! For five weeks in March, 40 students will come to Lehman's campus to take two classes: Robotics, working with Lego Robotics kits, and Web Design, creating their own websites. Students will also get to have breakfast and lunch on campus, and there will be plenty of time to play basketball and volleyball in Lehman's gymnasium.

Also, on the last Saturday, March 31, students will have a special field trip to the SONY Wonder Technology Lab in Manhattan. This free museum lets students get up close and personal with technology, trying out computer-based weather management programs, learning about how music is mixed electronically, and creating a "commercial" for a new movie.

This program can only take 40 students, and it is first-come, first-served, so get your permission slip in early if you want to join! If

you have questions, please contact Becky Noack, MGI/GEAR UP Coordinator, at 718.960.8524.

If you can't make it to the program this time, don't worry! Lehman's MGI/GEAR UP program will host a special Saturday or Summer Program for East Bronx students every year.

Or you can visit the SONY Wonder Technology Lab yourself – call **212-833-8100** or visit wondertechlab.sony.com for more information, including location & hours.

Saving for College just got easier: Upromise & NY State 529 Plans

We all know that college is expensive, and we know that financial aid is available to help pay for it. But have you heard about Upromise and the NY State 529 Plan? These plans help *you* save money for college so you are ready when it comes time to go. Through 529 plans, parents and families can save money for college, tax free, while

saving money on their income taxes. It's free to sign up for these savings accounts, and you can do so over the phone or online.

The Upromise program lets students and families earn money for the things they buy anyway at stores like CVS and Stop & Shop, just by signing up their store cards with the

program.

For more information about these great programs, contact:

NY State 529 Plan
1-877-NYSAVES
www.nysaves.org

Upromise
1-888-434-9111
www.upromise.com

PARENTS:
Become a part
of the CUNY
MGI/GEAR UP
Parents
Committee

Join other parents of
MGI/GEAR UP
students across New
York City to plan parent
events and make
decisions about CUNY
MGI/GEAR UP!

Dinner Meeting:
Friday, March 9

For more info, contact:

Rosa Cruz-Cordero
MGI/GEAR UP
Parent Services
Coordinator
(646) 344-7332
[Rosa.Cruz-Cordero
@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:Rosa.Cruz-Cordero@mail.cuny.edu)

**College Myths —
Debunked!**

College Myth #2:
**College isn't really
necessary because
you can get a job
right after high
school and start
earning a living.**

Yes, that's true; you *can*
get a job right after high
school. However, it's a
proven fact that college
graduates earn more
money than high school
graduates over the
course of a lifetime — if
you have a college
degree, you will earn
almost \$1,000,000
MORE in your lifetime
than someone with a
high school education
only!

RESOURCES

Know How 2 Go: An Online Resource

Have you seen this
television commercial?
Paper airplanes fly high in
the air all over the city
while adults watch them
fly by. Who sent these
airplanes? Kids on the
school bus, kids standing
on a bridge, and kids
sitting in class. When
adults get a hold of these
airplanes, the simple
message written by the
kids on the planes is clear:
"Can you help me go to
college?"

This television ad, along
with accompanying radio
ads, billboards, and bus
shelter ads, send viewers
and listeners to the website

knowhow2go.org. A
project of American Council
on Education, Lumina
Foundation for Education,
and the Ad Council, this
site offers tips for anyone
who wants to go to college.
The site offers specific
sections for Middle
Schoolers, Freshmen,
Sophomores, Juniors,
Seniors, and Adults, as well
as Resources for people
who help others get into
college.

This is not your typical
college awareness website.
This site offers off-beat but
practical commands for
everyone who wants to go
to college:

1. **Be a pain.**
2. **Push yourself.**
3. **Find the Right Fit.**
4. **Put your hands on
some cash.**

Check out this site to
find out more about going
to college. You can also
view the television
commercial online and
listen to the radio ads. As
the site tells us:

**"You know *why* to go to
college; we're here to tell
you *how*."**

Take the first step by
visiting the site today:

knowhow2go.org

Community Resources in the Bronx

Looking for other services for your student or your family, like college counseling, after school programs, or parent involvement programs? Following is a list of community organizations here in the Bronx. Please contact each organization individually to see what types of programs and services they offer:

East Side House Settlement

718 665-6499
337 Alexander Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10454
718 665-5250

www.eastsidehouse.org

Services: English Language Learners, GED,
translation, literacy, computer center, immi-
grant services, parent involvement, counseling,
drop out prevention, community service

New Settlement Apartments

1512 Townsend Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10452
718 716-8000

College Access Center: 718 294-3870

Services: drop-out prevention, literacy, parent
involvement.

**Educational Counseling Center of the
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center**

3150 Rochambeau Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10467
718 652-0282

www.mmcc.org

Services: early childhood, after school, parent
involvement

Pathways for Youth

625 Castle Hill Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10473
718 828-4518

www.pathwaysforyouth.org

Services: after school, community service, com-
puter center, counseling, English as a Second
Language, GED