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Fourth Annual GEAR UP Conference "Partnering for Long-Term Student Success"

December 5, 2008

Dear GEAR UP Staff and Supporters,

We invite you to attend the Fourth Annual GEAR UP Conference being sponsored by the University of Washington and Washington State University GEAR UP Programs. This year's conference theme will be "**Partnering for Long-Term Student Success.**" The goal is for GEAR UP staff from the various programs to share promising practices and network with other colleagues. We will also have GEAR UP Programs from other states sharing their best practices. A special feature this year will be a **Recognition Luncheon** to honor individuals and partners who have demonstrated extraordinary service in the GEAR UP Programs.

The conference will be two full days to be held on **March 17 and 18, 2009** at the WSU Tri-Cities Campus. The conference will offer keynote speakers, sessions on Successful Strategies GEAR UP in the High School, Strategies Providing Financial Aid Information, PSAT/ACT/SAT, Effective Tutoring, Parent Student Communication Strategies, Mentoring Freshman Transition, Summer Leadership Camps, Congressional Update, State Higher Education Initiatives, Effective Middle School After School Programs and Others. A Gallery Walk of Best Practices will also be available. This will be an opportunity to meet other program Site Coordinators/Directors and to network.

We invite you and other individuals interested in learning more about the many GEAR UP Programs. Enclosed are additional materials about the conference. Please share this information with others.

Please call each respective GEAR UP Director with questions about the conference or call RGI Corporation the Conference Planners at (509) 839-2700. Registration forms and more information are also available at www.rgicorporation.com by selecting the GEAR UP Conference icon.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference!

Sincerely,

Loueta Johnson, Director, UW GEAR UP
Genoveva Morales-Ledesma, Director, WSU Tri-Cities GEAR UP