Community Engagement

KHEAA Bus Visits GEAR UP Schools

This Spring the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) made visits to most of the GEAR UP students in the participating GEAR UP middle and high schools in Jefferson County. The "KHEAA BUS" is equipped with 11 computers and comfortable desk chairs in work stations for students to use in small groups throughout the school day.

In this way, KHEAA provides intensive workshops for students to explore careers and colleges and to gain an understanding of the financial aid process and opportunities for grants, scholarships and student loans.

Students are directed by KHEAA experts in financial assistance and are enabled to work alone or in groups with similar interests. There is on-going discussion during the KHEAA experience. The students asked questions such as, "How do you get the money to go to college, How much is tuition, and What are the admission requirements?" To help answer these questions and more, the KHEAA representative walked the participants through definitions and examples of grants, loans and a variety of different types of scholarships so that each student can begin to understand that college is possible for everyone who participates positively in high school.

Another useful exploration included in the KHEAA Bus visit is the KnowHow2Go.org website. In this section of the college preparatory activity, students can take a virutal tour of a college campus; see inside a virtual dorm room or even engage in virtual intramural tennis.

The KHEAA Bus visits helped inspire and motivate the GEAR UP students to know, beyond doubt, that he or she has the ability and the plan to succeed in high school and to go on to college.

GEAR UP is part of the Office of Community Engagement and has been on the UofL campus for ten years.

By GEAR UP Staff

KHEAA Bus visits middle and high school students

Upward Bound Program Success

SUCCESS can be measured in dollars and cents for University of Louisville Upward Bound student participants. This fact was clear during their annual academic banquet. The 28 seniors in the class of 2009 accumulated a total of over $1.2 million in scholarships for college.

The goal of the Upward Bound Program is to increase the rate at which its student participants enroll in and graduate from college through assistance with pre-college curriculum, college exploration, and advising during the college admissions process.

In addition to the University of Louisville, many colleges and universities around the United States have accepted the Upward Bound graduates, including Pennsylvania State University, DePaul University, and Western Michigan University.

Tony Stallings speaks at Upward Bound Banquet

At this year's banquet, Tony Stallings, UofL graduate and former football player, addressed students, parents, and staff. Interactive humor, applicable metaphors, and spiritual guidance filled Stalling's speech. The audience was truly moved, motivated, and inspired. The atmosphere of this year's banquet was one of pride, empowerment, and community.

Marking its 43rd year of existence on the UofL campus, the program continues to provide educational support to high school students that demonstrate academic potential and have the desire to pursue postsecondary education. The program is directed by Mary Thorpe and currently enrolls over 150 middle and high school students.

By Kenneth Allen, Senior Program Coordinator/ Unit Business Manager, Upward Bound Program

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