



## ***Parent Leadership Academy***

# **FACT SHEET**

### **What is the Oklahoma GEAR UP Parent Leadership Academy?**

The Oklahoma GEAR UP Parent Leadership Academy (PLA), a program of the Center for Parent Leadership at the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, helps Oklahoma parents become more involved in improving public schools to enhance academic achievement for all students.

### **What are the mission and goals of the Oklahoma GEAR UP Parent Leadership Academy?**

**Mission:** To develop a network of skilled confident parents who will partner with local school sites to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

**Goals:** Graduates of the PLA will be able to: (1) provide leadership in parent-school-community partnerships that enhance student achievement in preparation for entrance and success in postsecondary education, (2) design and implement school-wide or district-wide processes that promote a high performance learning culture, and (3) encourage historically under-involved parents to engage in a strong community-school partnership.

### **How many parents will participate?**

The Academy will train 30 parents in 2014 throughout Oklahoma. These parents will engage other parents through projects and activities in their local schools and communities.

### **Who will participate?**

The Academy will accept nominations from the 24 school districts/sites participating in the Oklahoma GEAR UP grant. Participants must have an interest in the improvement of Oklahoma student achievement.

### **What will participants in the Academy be trained to do?**

Participants will be trained in leadership and communications skills, given information, including achievement data, and provided an explanation of Oklahoma's public education system. Training will enable them to work more effectively with other parents in their communities to improve local schools and increase student achievement by designing and completing a project in their school or district.

### **Where will the institute sessions be held?**

The sessions will be held in Midwest City, Oklahoma at Rose State College, Professional Training Center.

### **How much do the sessions cost?**

The Academy is free to all participants; all expenses including lodging, meals, and materials will be provided.

### **How does someone get more information on the Oklahoma GEAR UP Parent Leadership Academy?**

For more information, please e-mail or call Oklahoma GEAR UP (contact Linda Cocklin – [lcocklin@osrhe.edu](mailto:lcocklin@osrhe.edu) or 405/225-9406).

For more information regarding the Prichard Committee and the Center for Parent Leadership Institute, check this website: <http://www.centerforparentleadership.org>.



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## Parent Leadership in a Nutshell

### What you give . . .

- Your time-by attending all 6 days (6 days and 3 evenings spread out over 3 months)
- Homework- there will be homework following each session
- Understanding-the institute classes are just the beginning, the real work is the project (for which you will receive support and money)
- Commitment to student achievement and involving all parents

### What you get. . .

- Skills and knowledge that will make you an expert in your school
- Expertise that will help you in your job
- Experience to add to your resume
- Lots of materials and resources
- A personal trainer/coach
- Information to help you become a better parent
- Skills to become a better communicator
- Chance to make new friends who care about what you care about
- Opportunity for personal growth
- Good food
- 6 free nights of lodging
- Stipends to cover gasoline and childcare
- CHOCOLATE



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### **BENEFITS OF PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR PARENTS:**

- Parents will be better informed about education, in general
- Parents will have clearer understanding of education terms/jargon which facilitates more effective conversations between parents, teachers and students
- Parents will have clearer understanding of what children are expected to learn and be able to do
- Parents will place higher value on education for their child and for themselves
- Parents will help schools better communicate with all parents

### **BENEFITS OF PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS:**

- Schools will have parents who are better informed about the challenges schools face
- Schools will have parents who are more supportive of schools and school staff
- Schools will have parents who are better prepared to serve as effective members of school committees, councils, etc.
- Schools will have parents who understand the need to be involved in their child's education
- Schools will have parents who can bring skills and resources to schools

### **BENEFITS OF PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR STUDENTS:**

- Students will have parents who better understand the child's strengths and challenges at school
- Students will know their parents are interested in their education
- Students will know their parents value education
- Students will have parents who are stronger advocates, decision-makers and teachers
- Students will have greater likelihood of achieving at higher levels and of continuing education after high school