

## **GEAR UP Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2013**

**10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Research Park / One Net Conference Room

#### **Members Present:**

Yolanda Alexander	Penny Gandy	Cathy Hunt
Rick Peters	Gary Sackett	Jeanie Webb
Jolynn Horn	Cathy Perri	Lorri Thomas
Kerry Ridener	Kristi Allison	Amy Bruce
Edra Thrower	Terri Grissom	Tony Hutchison

#### **Members Not Present:**

Linda Bailey	Julie Dawson
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#### **Guests:**

Ann Lillich	Tammy Swinburne
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The second meeting of the GEAR UP Advisory Board came to order at 10:35 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013.

Cathy Perri opened the meeting with introductions by the members and guests present.

Jolynn Horn began the meeting by reminding the board that we are now in Year 2 of the 2011-2018 GEAR UP grant (as of October 1, 2012). Some of the ongoing initiatives during this past year have been heavy involvement in a newly developed 17 State GEAR UP Consortium activities/meetings and presentations towards our goal of College Access & Success for Oklahoma. Our staff has become known for their expert EPAS knowledge and were asked to present to the Minnesota State GEAR UP group, the Western States GEAR UP conference and at the upcoming NCCEP/GEAR UP National conference in February. We have also been implementing the Value Added Model to our schools and have more training coming in the spring.

Jolynn also announced that our new motto is “Progress and Projects of Promise” as we move forward with our K-12 and Higher Education Partners with involvement in NCAN, Ed Trust, ASCD, SREB, ACT, etc.

Our staff recently has had some staff changes; in January, Pam Pollard retired, Donna McMillan left the agency, Ann Lillich joined our staff and we will have a new staff member in early February.

Amy Bruce and Kristi Allison brought the board up to date on the ongoing communications activities. During the last of October and first of November 2012 GEAR UP College Application week was conducted at our 24 schools, with 2,000 college applications started (via OKCollegeStart.org) and 100’s of volunteers, even some state and local dignitaries. This was a huge success! Next year’s week may coincide with the American Application Week sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates.

In February, we will begin a big OKPromise push out to the schools and will be adding additional subgrant monies to the schools that turn in the most applications. News should be out around February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Terri Grissom has been gathering data and conducting evaluations on how best to provide services in schools through PLAN/EXPLORE scores, conducting financial aid meetings, and working with the site coordinators and administrators.

Terri also reminded that the APR information is being gathered from Students, Parents and Faculty via surveys supplied by the Federal Government per grant guidelines and will be due on April 16, 2013.

Edra Thrower gave an update on the Direct Student Services programs such as the summer STEM camps and various programs that schools can pick to participate in throughout the year. We had 21 of our 24 schools participate in the free ACT practice tests! The ACT Prep workshops had 15 of 24 schools participate. There are some issues with the set up at the Career Tech locations due to availability of computer labs. One of the most popular services seem to be the College Campus visits, however the logistics such as transportation, food costs, personnel and

timing may need to be revamped for next year. It was suggested that Wednesday is the best day for students to be away from their MS or HS.

College Ed (program of College Board) has will be replaced by Career Choices going into this next year as part of the Direct Student Services strand.

Lorri Thomas handed out an updated list of professional development dates. Note these are subject to change and any updates will be announced. There will be more trainings coinciding with the Common Core Standards. We are adding a new Math II workshop/training and grant writing workshops with an emphasis on grant management and the new regulations coming out in early summer that will require the fiscal agent, budget personnel, bookkeeper and site coordinator to attend to fully understand what grant monies can and cannot be used for.

Tammy Swinburne, Education Specialist, gave us an overview of what a week in the life of an Ed Specialist consists of; visiting each of her schools weekly working with mostly high school counselors assisting with testing and reading results, OK Promise applications, FASFA questions, conducting financial aid nights with parents, PTA meetings, church meetings, sports functions (with a GEAR UP booth answering questions and handing out information on OKCollegestart and OKPromise, etc.) She is driving an average of 970 miles per week! Kudos to all of our Education Specialists!!!!

Open discussion consisted of summary of the Parent Leadership Academy that was held September, October and November 2012. We have one approved project and others working on plans to move forward. Our next PLA will be in 2014. If you have any questions regarding this, please see Cathy Perri.

Battelle for Kids, Leadership Academy is pending but hope to rollout in the near future. Value Added Toolkits content had some suggestions such as what kind of information should be included; PowerPoint on how to read the reports ; use the reports to make curriculum decisions; frequently asked questions section; what's the difference between the Report Card vs. Value Added data; multiple measures of data explanation, not just student achievement. Any other questions or suggestions can be emailed to [tgrissom@osrhe.edu](mailto:tgrissom@osrhe.edu)

Questions were also asked regarding the funding time table due to the date of the grant vs. the fiscal year date. This will be answered after some discussion regarding splitting the Budget in 1/3 during up to the 2014 grant year.