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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](http://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

# Fourth Annual GEAR UP Conference

"Partnering for Long-Term Student Success"

## **Tuesday, March 17, 2009 – Keynote Speaker**

Aric Bostick is one of America's top youth Success and Leadership speakers. As a former teacher and coach, he has created a winning formula that teaches young people how to succeed in school and life.



Aric has spoken for some of the largest leadership organizations in America, such as People to People Ambassador programs, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Peer Assisted Leadership organizations, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, MADD Power Camp and at state and regional Student Council Conferences across the country. He is also one of the most sought after school assembly speakers in America.

Aric's desire to give even more to the students to whom he speaks has led him to create his own summer Success and Leadership experience called, The Camp of CHAMPS. The Camp of CHAMPS has helped hundreds of students learn how to live their dreams and to become leaders in their schools and communities. For additional information, samples of his work and videos go to <http://aricbostick.com>.

## **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 – General Session Speaker**

Dr. Frances Contreras is a University of Washington Assistant Professor in Education Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Contreras will head a study of the Hispanic student achievement gap commissioned by the Washington state Legislature.



The study "seeks to understand the opportunities that Latino students and their counterparts have to learn and succeed in school by studying the context for learning, achievement levels, and parent and student perceptions, in high schools and middle schools in high concentration Latino schools and regions."

Dr. Contreras presently researches issues of equity and access for underrepresented students in the education pipeline. She addresses transitions between K-12 and higher education. Her new book will be recently published and available for purchase at the conference: [The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies](#). Harvard University Press. Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Contreras received her Ph.D. from Stanford University, Master of Education from Harvard University and B.A. from University of California, Berkeley.

Please ask your GEAR UP Director for more information or call Alma Benitez at RGI Corporation, at (509) 839-2700. [www.rgicorporation.com](http://www.rgicorporation.com)

SPEAKERS



# Conference Topics/ Sessions



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

- **Opening Session – Keynote Speaker**
- **Kids at Hope**
- **Strategies for Providing Financial Aid Information**
- **PSAT/ACT/SAT**
- **Successful GEAR UP Strategies in the High School**
- **Effective Tutoring**
- **Parent Student Communication Strategies**
- **Mentoring Freshman Transition**
- **College Planning**
- **Summer Leadership Camps**
- **Community Collaborations**
- **New Math Standards and High School Graduation Requirements**
- **Link Crew High School Transition Program**
- **Last Call for College Bound Scholarships**
- **Effective Middle School After School Programs**
- **US Congressional update on GEAR UP**
- **National Legislative update on GEAR UP**
- **Arts in Math**
- **Recognition Luncheon**



# Conference Schedule

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



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### Day 1 Tuesday – March 17, 2009

9:00 – 9:30 AM	Conference Registration/ Coffee
9:30 – 10:30 AM	<b>Opening Session – Keynote Speaker</b>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:50 Noon	(3) Session Workshops
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<b>Recognition Luncheon</b>
1:05 – 2:15 PM	(3) Session Workshops
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 – 3:40 PM	(3) Session Workshops
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Gallery Walk of Best Practices
4:15 – 6:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 PM	Dinner on your own

### Day 2 Wednesday – March 18, 2009

9:00 – 9:30 AM	Conference Registration/ Coffee
9:30 – 10:30 AM	<b>General Session Speaker</b>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:50 AM	(3) Session Workshops
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Luncheon Speaker
1:05 – 2:15 PM	(3) Session Workshops
2:15 – 3:10 PM	(2) Session Workshops
3:10 – 3:30 PM	Closing Session
3:30 PM	Conference Adjourns

Questions? Please call Alma Benitez at RGI Corporation – Conference Planner– (509) 839-2700  
or Email: [alma@rgicorporation.com](mailto:alma@rgicorporation.com). [www.rgicorporation.com](http://www.rgicorporation.com)



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# Conference Information

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

### Workshop Topics:

The conference will offer a keynote speaker for each day and breakout sessions on GEAR UP related topics. Topics will include Strategies for Effective Tutoring, Providing Financial Aid, Middle School After School Programs, Parent Communications, and Mentoring. These also include an update from US Congressional Representatives, State College Bound Scholarships, PSAT/ACT/SAT, Kids at Hope, Summer Leadership Camps and New Math Standards and High School Graduation Requirements. A Gallery Walk of Best Practices will also be available. 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.

### Registration Fee:

**Includes two lunches, coffee breaks, and all conference materials**

(Early) \$270 per person for 2 days. Must register before February 13, 2009  
\$150 per person for 1 day. Must register before February 13, 2009

(Late) \$295 per person for 2 days. After February 13, 2009  
\$175 per person for 1 day. After February 13, 2009

Please make payment by check. Payments must be received by RGI prior to the conference. RGI is not able to accept credit card payments at this time.

### Location:

**Washington State University Tri-Cities Campus  
CIC Building (Consolidated Information Center)  
2710 University Drive – Richland, WA 99354-1671  
Ph (509) 372-7298 Fax (509) 372-7187**

**Directions from Yakima:** Take I-82 South, Exit I-82, US-12 via ramp at sign reading "Exit 102 I-182 E/ US-12 E to Richland/Pasco." Exit I-182, US-12 via ramp at sign reading "Exit 5B George Washington Way" and continue on George Washington Way, going North for 4.8 miles. Turn right on First Street and turn right at University Drive to enter the Consolidated Information Center (CIC) Bldg parking lot. (Please note the CIC Building is not on the main campus entrance.)

For more directions, go to [www2.tricity.wsu.edu/campus.html](http://www2.tricity.wsu.edu/campus.html)

### Parking:

Parking on campus is free.

### Hotel Information:

Clarion Hotel – 1515 George Washington Way, Richland, WA	(509) 946-4121
Red Lion Hotel – 802 George Washington Way, Richland, WA	(509) 946-7611
Hampton Inn Richland – 486 Bradley Boulevard, Richland, WA	(509) 943-4400
Shilo Inn – 50 Comstock, Richland, WA	(509) 946-4661
Marriott Courtyard – 480 Columbia Point Dr, Richland, WA	(509) 942-9400

We have **not** reserved a block of rooms at any of these hotels. However, you should request a state or government rate when making room reservations.

Questions? Call Alma Benitez at RGI Corporation – Conference Planner (509) 839-2700 Email: [alma@rgicorporation.com](mailto:alma@rgicorporation.com). [www.rgicorporation.com](http://www.rgicorporation.com)





Registration Form
Fourth Annual GEAR UP Conference
'Partnering for Long Term Student Success'
March 17 & 18, 2009 at WSU Tri-Cities Campus

Registrant Information

Register only one person per form. Please type or print name exactly as you wish it to appear on your name badge.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization Program/Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant Fees

Table with 3 columns: Duration (2 Days, 1 Day), Early (Before February 13, 2009) fees (\$270, \$150), and Late (After February 13, 2009) fees (\$295, \$175).

Do you plan to attend the social hour Tuesday, March 17 at 3:45-6:00 p.m. hosted by RGI Corporation? [ ] YES [ ] NO

Registration fee includes two lunches, coffee breaks and all conference materials.

Please make payment by check. Payment must be received by RGI prior to the conference. RGI is not able to accept credit card payments at this time.

Payment should be made and sent to:
RGI Corporation
2650 Yakima Valley Highway, Suite C
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received in writing by March 2, 2009 will receive a full refund less a \$25 processing fee. Cancellations received after March 3, 2009 are nonrefundable. Substitution of sending another staff member is permitted with advanced notice.

Special Accommodations

Please let us know if you require any special vegetarian meals or other accommodations. \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call:

Alma Benitez, Conference Planner
RGI Corporation
2650 Yakima Valley Highway, Suite C
Sunnyside, WA 98944
Ph (509) 839-2700 Fax (509) 839-3600
www.rgicorporation.com

Please complete and fax to (509) 839-3600 or email to alma@rgicorporation.com