



State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

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News

For Immediate Release

101 Bridgeport and New Haven High School Seniors Awarded Scholarships for College

HARTFORD, June 9 — Fifty Bridgeport and another 51 New Haven high school seniors have been selected to receive college scholarships of up to \$4,732 a year under the Connecticut State GEAR UP Project administered by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

The GEAR UP scholarships are for financially needy students who have participated in the GEAR UP Project while in high school. GEAR UP is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. Now in its ninth year, the Connecticut State GEAR UP Project prepares Bridgeport and New Haven students for college through tutoring, advising and other college preparation activities. It currently serves 3,812 students in grades 9 through 12.

The GEAR UP scholarships are renewable for up to four years; the amount awarded to students depends on their financial need. Students are selected based on their grades, SAT scores and involvement in GEAR UP activities.

“These students and their families have every reason to be proud of their accomplishments,” stated Michael P. Meotti, Commissioner of Higher Education. “They have worked hard at their studies in addition to devoting extra time to GEAR UP. Our goal is to make college a reality for more inner-city, low-income youngsters, and these students are proof that early preparation and advising, combined with the right coursework, does indeed make college possible.”

This is the second 6-year cycle of the GEAR UP Project which receives \$3 million a year in federal funds to increase the numbers of Bridgeport and New Haven students graduating from high school and continuing onto college.

A list of the 2008 GEAR UP scholarship recipients appears below.

Bridgeport Students

Bassick High School: Cyntia Arman, Chynna Davis, Yolehema Felican, Sade Garvey, Quan “Alex” Nguyen, Angelica Ortiz, Wesley Suero, Ahmad Wahib, Zenas Walelo and Joshua Wright.

Central High School: Tranisha Blackwell, Valayshia Brookins, Jamieca Brown, Markeya Buster, Blamyris Cardona, Felisha Guirand, Erisa Hasimi, Rithy Heng, Shawanna Jefferson, Wilfredo Leguizamon, Deena Majeed, Giovanni Mendez, Jonathan Montanez, Danika Plummer, Maria Richardson, Albert Sanchez, Brandon Simmons, Francisco Torres, Mathan Touch, Phuongloan “Amy” Tran, Dan Vang and Bin Zheng.

Harding High School: Risha Brown, Shanee Brown, Justin Carde, Sarai Estrella, Dennis Hanton, Jr., Roberta Hardin, Whitney Long, Krystalyz Lopez, Tannishea Mckoy, Duc Ngo, Kenechukwu Nwajagu, Erika Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Kaydian Simpson, Gary Smith, Robin Smith, Spring Taft and Anthony Whitaker.

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New Haven Students

Hill Regional Career High School: Chineye Ananko, Deshawn Dyson, Davette Fowlin, Indira Galan and Ashley Torres.

Wilbur Cross High School: Eric Aponte, Christina Balkaran, Alfred Bowman, La Kiya Cobb, Tajma Cosby, Shanette Dickerson, Kenneth Dortche, Ronisha Douglas, Amber Edwards, Theresa Howard, Eric King, Monique Lathrop, Phyllis Miller, Mercedes Perez, Kimberly Stanley, Krystle Stanley, Brad Sutton, Joel Teron, Dion Thomas, Requell Traynham and Antonio Williams.

James Hillhouse High School: Jordan Agnew, Rayyan Akhdar, Shaquasia Alston, Jacqueline Blake, Chatiqua Brown, Nyema Brown, Paul Corona, Irma De La Cruz, Lillian De La Cruz, Pashion Edmundson, Curlishia Gibbs, Jaron Grier, Stephen Holland, Shaquonda Hunte, Kimberly Jowers, Neville Kidd, Jr., Natalie Langley, Linda McDonald, Leshawna Murrell, Rayneshia Myers, Varina Rhodes, Carlos Rivera, Michael White, Michelle White and Toddchelle Young

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