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Program Overview

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a competitive federal program that provides multi-year grants to education/ community partnerships and states to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

CFES: Brilliant Pathways received its first GEAR UP grant in the fall of 2018. The seven-year, \$11.6 million award is used to provide direct services to over 2,000 students and their families each year through partnerships with seven school districts in the Adirondacks region. The program serves students in grades 1st through 7th and follows them for the duration of the seven-year grant.

With additional in-kind contributions from nonprofits, businesses and higher education partners in the area, as well as a commitment of support from schools, investment in the future of your child's education is our shared vision.

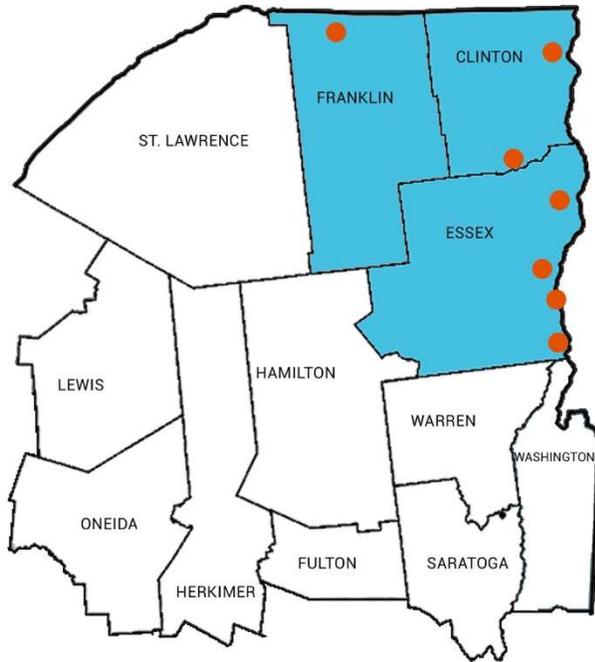
CFES Brilliant Pathways is a non-profit organization based in Essex, NY that works with school districts throughout the United States to help students become college and career ready. Since its start in 1991, CFES has helped nearly 100,000 students from 1,500 schools discover new career pathways and the tools necessary to make informed decisions about postsecondary education. We achieve these goals by exposing students to different careers and teaching them essential skills and how to use them.



'Mentoring Madness' Gives Northern New York Students a Leg Up on College

GEAR UP students met with Middlebury College students and local professionals on Monday, January 14, 2019, as part of the CFES Brilliant Pathways GEAR UP mentoring program. Mentoring Madness was "one of the largest single-day mentoring events ever held in the North Country." The organization sent over 100 volunteers from local colleges, hospitals, businesses and nonprofits to serve as mentors to roughly 3,000 students at 13 schools in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties.





Benefits to Adirondack Communities

CFES GEAR UP and its partners will provide direct support to schools, and provide additional staff members to work with students. In the coming years, this will result in an increase in the number of direct service hours provided to students and families that would not be possible without this program.

Benefits to Students and Families

- Students receive support through in-class and extended-day tutoring and homework assistance, mentoring, and career and college exploration, including postsecondary campus visits.
- School districts provide activities to assist students with college and career preparation and awareness.
- Schools provide a number of family events per year to increase knowledge.

Program Goals

- 60% of GU Scholars will exhibit academic improvements
- 95% of GU Scholars will graduate from high school
- 85% of GU Scholars will attend an Institution of Higher Ed (IHE) immediately following high school
- 60% of GU Scholars will graduate from an IHE within 6 years
- 75% of parents of GU Scholars will indicate they are knowledgeable about high education pathways, including financing
- 60% of GU Scholars with a STEM/computer science pathway will obtain recognized postsecondary credentials in STEM or computer science
- 85% of GU Scholars will indicate knowledge of the common rights and responsibilities of American citizenship and civic participation
- 85% of GU Scholars will exhibit overall increase in personal financial understanding and responsibility



Upcoming Events

- Healthcare Career Fair, March 19th
- Aviation Day, April 9th
- Family Partners Night, watch for more information from your child's school administrator.

Contact

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