

Eastern Oklahoma State College
Hank Mooney, Office of Public Information

Grant team attends Texas workshop

(Press Release 02-12-10)

Five members of the Eastern Oklahoma State College *GEAR UP for a Brighter Tomorrow* team and two Eastern Oklahoma State College employees joined GEAR UP professionals from across the nation as they attended the NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity–Building Workshop 2010 in Houston, TX, February 7–10. The workshop is designed to help new and experienced GEAR UP professionals effectively meet their project goals and objectives through professional development and strategic planning activities. Each participant selects a track to attend. The Capacity–Building Workshop is coordinated by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) and is planned in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education.

The conference began Sunday. Eastern’s team attended the *Final Performance Report*, *Documenting the GEAR UP Matching Funds* and the *Annual Performance Report* workshops.

NCCEP President Hector Garza and NCCEP Executive Vice President Betty Paugh Ortiz addressed the audience throughout the conference. Attendees from across the nation meet to hone their grant implementation practices. In addition to the numerous workshops, opportunities were available for networking with colleagues. Houston’s mayor, the Honorable Annise D. Parker welcomed the group during the opening session. Mayor Parker, the 61st mayor of Houston, is only the 2nd woman to be elected to the mayor’s office.

Team members selected various workshop tracks. GEAR UP Project Assistant Helen Scott, GEAR UP Data Analyst Cheryl Roberts, and Eastern Oklahoma State Grants Manager Debbie McIntyre attended the *GEAR UP Grant Administration: Strategies for Managing Strong GEAR UP Projects* track. GEAR UP Education Coordinators Nina Fereday and Peery Lee selected the *GEAR UP 101: The Fundamentals of GEAR UP Programs and Services* workshop track.

Eastern Oklahoma State Vice President of Student Affairs Vic Woods attended the *College Admissions and Financial Aid: Getting Your GEAR UP Students into College* track. GEAR UP Project Director Linda Morgan attended the *Leader’s Symposium*. Morgan also attended a mandatory meeting of all GEAR UP Project Directors with Sariane Leigh, U.S. Department of Education Program Officer.

Team members also attended “How–To Seminar Sessions” including *Engaging Males in Your GEAR UP Program: Issues and Solutions*; *Vision It Possible!*; *GEAR UP Program Evaluation Basics*; *Catalysts for Change: Advancing College Access Through Advocacy*; *A Shout Out to Get the Word Out*; and *How to Find Out What Parents Really Think: A Parent Board Conducts Research*.

“The opportunity to attend the 2010 GEAR UP Capacity-Building Workshop in Houston with the EOSC GEAR UP staff was an ‘eye opening’ experience,” said Woods. “We have a

wonderful and devoted GEAR UP team at Eastern. It was a pleasure to spend some quality work time with the Eastern team to learn more about the ‘nuts and bolts’ of our grant, the magnitude of the federal initiative, and how this initiative provides a variety of targeted educational tools to work directly with the staff and students of partnering public schools. To sum up my experience at the workshop I would say that I now understand that GEAR UP is a means to make sure our most deserving students are prepared to succeed when they transition to postsecondary education. GEAR UP is a landmark college access initiative.”

GEAR UP Education Coordinator Nina Fereday added, “It was very informative, and it was wonderful to get to meet and interact with people from other states and find out information we can use to better serve our students.”

Eastern Oklahoma State College received a \$6.7 million federal GEAR UP grant and is in its fourth year of implementation. Eastern has partnered with 23 area schools to provide students with additional educational opportunities. Partner schools include Antlers, Bokoshe, Buffalo Valley, Canadian, Clayton, Crowder, Haileyville, Hartshorne, Indianola, Keota, Kiowa, LeFlore, McAlester, McCurtain, Moyers, Panola, Pittsburg, Quinton, Rattan, Red Oak, Talihina, Whitesboro, and Wilburton.



Caption info:

Members of Eastern’s delegation to the 2010 NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity Building Conference include from left: GEAR UP Education Coordinator Nina Fereday, GEAR UP Project Assistant Helen Scott, Eastern Oklahoma State Grants Manager Debbie McIntyre, GEAR UP Data Analyst Cheryl Roberts, GEAR UP Education Coordinator Peery Lee, GEAR UP Project Director Linda Morgan, and Eastern Oklahoma State College Vice President of Student Affairs Vic Woods.