

DEF - CCAP GEAR UP

SEPTEMBER 2007



CRISFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL WICOMICO HIGH SCHOOL

Delmarva Education Foundation
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We're on the Web!

Rhonda Elswick, DEF-CCAP Manager encourages all students to get to know their DEF-CCAP advisor.



For more information on these programs talk to your GEAR UP/DEF-CCAP contacts at your school. You may also call or visit the DEF main office in the Wicomico Public Library.

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Welcome back! I recently had an opportunity to listen to Michael Irvin speak at his induction into the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. The former Dallas Cowboy receiver shared his three keys to success: "getting up", "gearing up" and "never giving up." I believe that this advice is well worth listening to. Specifically, it's the "Gear Up" part that brings many of us together this year. GEAR UP to me means: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). This program is designed to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP (GU) does this by providing resources to students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follows the cohort through high school.

Thanks to a grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission awarded to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, starting this year the Delmarva Education Foundation (DEF) will also be serving GU students (currently 9th graders) through DEF-CCAP, their College/Career Access Program. The goals of GU complement the purpose of DEF-CCAP: "to help boost the college-going potential and career preparation of young people on the lower Delmarva Peninsula."

GU/DEF-CCAP helps students in Crisfield (CHS) and Washington (WHS) high schools in Somerset County and Wicomico High School (WiHi) in Wicomico County prepare for life after high school. DEF is not new to the business of offering

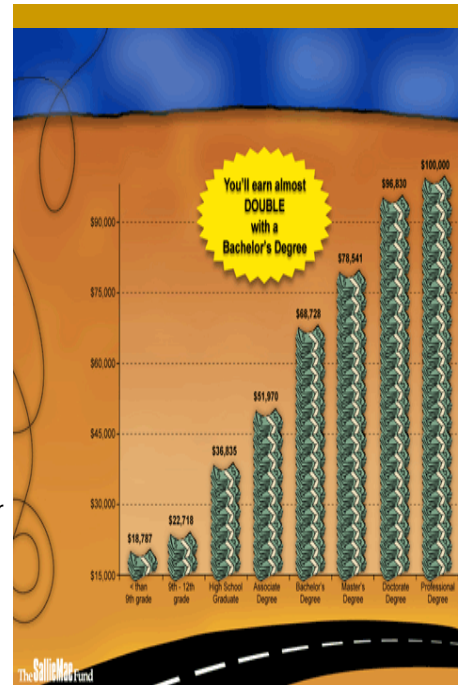
college and career assistance. DEF-CCAP started two years ago at WiHi and WHS and expands this year to serve Crisfield High, and GU students at all three schools. Now a significant portion of DEF-CCAP services will focus on the needs of our GEAR UP freshmen although, as in past years, events such as college fairs, career day, and financial aid night will be offered to assist all students, as well as their families, prepare for jobs or college.

Each of the 3 schools will have at least one full time and one part time DEF-CCAP Advisor; their offices are located in the schools' Media Centers. The advisors work with students who request assistance with career exploration, study skills, choosing a college, SAT enrollment and practice, financial aid information, applications completion, and scholarship searches, etc.

This grant project also includes assistance to teachers by paying for testing needed for certification and to parents by offering computer training classes. After-school math tutoring will be available to students, and teachers who participate will be paid for their services.

Along with the freshmen GU students in Somerset and Wicomico counties, DEF-CCAP services continue to be available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors this year through grants to DEF from the Rural Maryland Council and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to cover the '07-'08 school year.

DEF-CCAP advisors will not turn any student away who requests assistance.



DEF is a local nonprofit whose mission is "to improve educational opportunities for residents of the lower Delmarva Peninsula using a regional approach to facilitate quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of education for all ages."



- Dr. Michael A. Nugent, Principal Investigator, GEAR UP grant
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