

GEAR UP Makes College Real

Success Stories

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"I was so afraid to take that step to go back to college," says Yolanda Watson, GEAR UP parent from the Chicago Woodlawn Network. "I didn't know all the questions". Now, "we do the television show to help you with the process." she says referring to **Parent to Parent**, the parent-produced TV show, which provides families with vital information about college.



Daughter and mom are now both in college thanks to GEAR UP.

"It was always, I'm going, I'm going ... but ...I just didn't have the push I needed or the information that I needed to get started." Then GEAR UP came along.

"I just needed somebody to get me the information to get started. [Then] I could do it myself."

GEAR UP helps teachers, students and parents assume responsibility for preparing for college. GEAR UP helped parents organize a field trip to Kennedy-King Community College. During the trip, Yolanda filled out an application. When she went home that day, she said "Guess who's going to school?"

Yolanda knew that her daughter was determined not to go to college. She decided the only way that she could convince her was to go to school herself. Leading through example did the trick. Her daughter, Nichole, started at Kennedy-King and transferred this winter to Columbia College.

Listen to their story online at: <http://cuip.net/schools/gearup/chicago/>

Did you know? All Chicago Public School graduates are automatically accepted at City Colleges of Chicago. If you are interested in attending, you can find more information at <http://www.ccc.edu/>