

GEAR UP Makes College Real

Success Stories – Parent / Family Program

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"If I can be a role model to anybody, then that's my obligation to my community to help it grow," responds Pat Tatum, a GEAR UP parent and college student. She's talking with her daughter, Estee a high school senior who will be starting college herself next September.



GEAR UP families making college real together

Estee asks, "Do you have any affect on the community that we live in as far as you going back to school?" "Well you know how many people always walk up to me and say it's made a difference," says Pat.

"We feel a commitment not only to our family but to our community because the community that we live in has been a community that typically people just look towards graduating from high school and that's it."

A lot of kids who started off in a community college and dropped out are now coming to Pat seeking information. Both mother and daughter are happy to help. "Sometimes they don't come to me, but they'll come to Estee and ask," says Pat. "Estee's now a recruiter for colleges because a lot of kids, even relatives from other states are calling her and asking, 'What can I do to get into college?'"

It's become a familiar refrain among GEAR UP families – "If you can do it, I can too."

Listen to their story online at: <http://www.gearupchicago.org/>

Did you know? City Colleges of Chicago has Student Services Professionals at each of the city colleges to provide answers and guidance to students. Find out more about services available to you at: <http://www.ccc.edu/new/success.shtml>

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