

## **Oklahoma GEAR UP College Access Subgrant Program 2006 Grant Recipients and Project Highlights**

Grant recipients will adopt at least two of the following research-based, student-intervention programs.

- **Dr. Ruby Payne's A Framework for Understanding Poverty** – This program is designed to train school faculty in strategies for supporting children and parents who live in poverty. The strategies are utilized in classroom settings and are meant to enhance student academic achievement.
- **Thinking Maps** – This program is designed to train school faculty in the implementation of “visual thinking tools” in the classroom. The eight Thinking Maps can be used across subject areas and grades. They serve as strategies students can use to process, recall and utilize information in a demanding curriculum.
- **USA Today Education** – This program brings the *USA Today* newspaper to the classroom. *USA Today* trains faculty in reading strategies to utilize across the curriculum while using a current events tool.
- **LOGIC Professional Development** – This sequence of workshops is designed to provide 12 days of intensive professional development that focuses on educational leadership, guidance and curriculum. The training is designed for school leadership teams committed to creating a culture of high expectations.

Subgrantees may initiate or enhance other professional development/educational programs with GEAR UP subgrant funds but must provide evidence that the program is scientifically research based as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

**Achille Public Schools** will partner with the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University for “Achille GEARS UP for Education.” They will implement the Ruby Payne, Thinking Maps and *USA Today* programs. In addition, grant funds will help continue an ACT student preparation computer program, provide opportunities for student and peer mentoring and tutoring, and support a local promotion effort of Oklahoma’s Promise – OHLAP.

**Altus Junior High School** will partner with the Altus Lions Club and Western Oklahoma State College. They will implement the Ruby Payne and Thinking Maps programs. In addition, grant funds will support teams within the school to help improve reading and math scores; a parent orientation to discuss their child’s academic future and Oklahoma’s Promise – OHLAP; before- and after-school tutoring and mentoring programs; and the Reading Renaissance Program with the Lions Club that encourages and promotes reading.

**Altus High School** will partner with the Altus Ministerial Alliance and Western Oklahoma State College. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. In addition, they will help ninth-grade students develop a five-year plan of study and encourage parental involvement in education through a local media campaign.

**Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa**, will partner with American State Bank and The University of Tulsa for “Logical Thinking.” They will implement the Thinking Maps and *USA Today* programs. In addition, grant funds will help support college nights, money management seminars and student/parent meetings to discuss preparing for college.

**Carver Middle School, Tulsa**, will partner with the Tulsa Urban League, Tulsa Technology Center and Oklahoma State University – Tulsa for the “Focus on the Future” program. They will implement the LOGIC and Ruby Payne programs. Grant funds will help Carver students work with community partners to identify career and educational options. Also, mentoring and tutoring will be provided with a key focus on decreasing gaps identified on the eighth-grade EXPLORE test. In addition, student/parent community workshops are planned.

**Chouteau-Mazie Public Schools** will partner with Boys and Girls Club of Green Country and The University of Tulsa. They will implement Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help support college campus visits, college night activities, parent meetings, after-school programs, and summer tutoring and mentoring. In addition, the funds will boost the Wildcat Achievement Program for reaching individual academic and career goals.

**Crescent Public Schools** will partner with Farmers Merchants Bank, Crescent Lions Club and Northern Oklahoma College for “Project EDGE: Excellence Drives Gains in Education.” They will implement the Thinking

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Oklahoma GEAR UP  
College Access Subgrant Program  
2006 Grant Recipients and Project Highlights  
Page 2

Maps and LOGIC programs. The grant will help the district work on writing skills for students, provide afternoon tutoring with community partners, augment teacher training and implement the Oklahoma Career Information System to help students explore careers and the skills and classes they will need for occupations. Also, activities on goal setting, test taking, study skills and counseling on long-term careers are planned. College nights, parent nights, financial aid seminars, field trips and campus visits are also included in the grant.

**Daniel Webster High School, Tulsa**, will partner with Southwest Tulsa Education Initiative and Tulsa Community College for the “Webster Initiative.” They will implement the Thinking Maps and LOGIC programs. Grant funds will help Webster establish a career center within the school with career software, self-assessment materials and general information about occupations and necessary skills. Also, students will have access to new ACT preparation software, internship and job shadowing opportunities through community partners, mentoring and tutoring, and presentations from local business leaders.

**East Central High School, Tulsa**, will partner with East Tulsa Prevention Coalition and Tulsa Community College for the “Summer Bridging Project.” They will implement the Ruby Payne and *USA Today* programs. All incoming freshman who failed the eighth-grade reading and math tests will have the opportunity to attend a free, two-week summer enrichment program prior to the start of school during the first two weeks of August. Activities to increase academic levels will be emphasized. Also, students will participate in opportunities to improve social skills, develop peer mentoring, tutoring and mediation skills, and learn to appreciate diversity more readily.

**El Reno Public Schools** will partner with the El Reno Ministerial Alliance, Oklahoma State University Extension and Redlands Community College. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. The subgrant will help fund monthly GEAR UP parent night sessions where community partners will address topics such as ACT preparation, financial aid planning, preparing for college, money management, applying to college and information for future occupations. Also, the grant will provide tutoring and mentoring services.

**Fargo Public Schools** will partner with the Fargo Community Association and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. They will implement the Ruby Payne and *USA Today* programs. Subgrant funds will help students and families learn safe Internet usage. They will learn how to effectively use the Internet to connect with the learning community. Also, college and career days are planned, and NWOSU will provide information at Fargo events on preparing for college and applying for financial aid.

**Fort Towson School District** will partner with the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Grant funds will help faculty learn about the Great Expectations School Reform Model. Also, college and career days, parent nights and preparing for college events are planned.

**Grove High School** will partner with the Grove Education Foundation for Excellence and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College for “A ‘LOGIC’al Framework for Student Success.” They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help support the establishment of a college and career center in the library, as well as creating mentoring, tutoring, peer mediation, public speaking and college prep activities.

**Hammon Public Schools** will partner with the Western Oklahoma Coalition for Community Strengthening and Southwestern Oklahoma State University for the “Preparing Incredible Leaders of Tomorrow - PILOT” project. The district will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Also, they will participate in the Southern Regional Education Board’s *Creating High Performance Learning Cultures* training. Subgrant funds will help provide a college/career night for juniors, seniors and their parents; a financial aid seminar; a pre-enrollment night for parents and students; and ACT preparation activities for students.

**Heavener Public Schools** will partner with Heavener First Baptist Church and Carl Albert State College. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help Heavener with college

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preparation activities in the community and create a graphing calculator course and an ACT preparation course, as well as purchase planning books and new materials for the library.

**Pawhuska Public Schools** will partner with the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce and Rogers State University for "Project Access – All Community Collaboration for Excellence in Secondary Schools." They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help provide career and course selection mentoring. In addition, the subgrant award will help provide programs to improve student skills in reading, math, test-taking and studying. Also, campus visits, career fairs, college fairs, financial aid nights and job shadowing are planned through the grant.

**Poteau Public Schools** will partner with the Poteau Chamber of Commerce and Carl Albert State College. They will implement the Thinking Maps and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help provide college visits and community speakers. In addition, career information and student goal-setting activities are planned.

**Ryan Public Schools** will partner with the Ryan Lions Club and Cameron University. The district will implement the Ruby Payne, Thinking Maps and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funding will help Ryan Schools implement tutoring, mentoring, financial aid counseling, college visits and college awareness activities.

**Sand Springs Public Schools** will partner with the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation and Oklahoma State University – Tulsa. The district will implement Ruby Payne and *USA Today* programs. Subgrant funds will help provide parent workshops each semester about financial aid and planning for college. Also, a summer academy will be instituted that includes arts programming and leadership skill-building activities.

**Sentinel Public Schools** will partner with the Sentinel Ministerial Alliance and Southwestern Oklahoma State University. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help Sentinel add an ACT preparation class for grades 11-12 and help initiate the Capturing Kids' Hearts and Teen Leadership course. The program helps teachers reach students who are at risk and on the verge of giving up on education. In addition, college campus tours and a day in the college library are planned.

**Tushka Public Schools** will partner with the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. They will implement the LOGIC, Thinking Maps and *USA TODAY* programs. The grant will help support parent outreach activities, parent/student nights at college, job fairs and college campus tours.

**Valliant Public Schools** will partner with the Valliant Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. They will implement the *USA TODAY* and Thinking Maps programs. The subgrant will support activities to help Valliant utilize consistent teaching tools across all disciplines in grades five-12. In addition, the award will help provide academic enrichment, and career education, community involvement activities and college awareness activities are also planned.

**Vici Public Schools** will partner with the Vici Chamber of Commerce, Northwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma. They will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help establish and support a local information campaign on preparing academically and financially for college. In addition, college visits for students, mentoring, tutoring and college prep activities at the community level are planned.

**Warner Public Schools** will partner with First Baptist Church of Warner and Connors State College. The district will implement the Ruby Payne and LOGIC programs. Subgrant funds will help establish a club to boost interest in reading and help increase student reading levels, as well as academic enhancement activities for college-bound students, such as robotics and engineering exploration activities. In addition, workshops on college preparation and financial aid for parents and students, tutoring, mentoring and ACT preparation classes are planned.