



**You are at the...**

**Parents, Kids, and Meatballs at  
the Lanphier High Café**

*A Successful Parent Engagement Program*

**Break-Out Session**



**A Brief Introduction of the  
University of Illinois  
at Springfield  
GEAR UP Partnership**

# University of Illinois at Springfield GEAR UP Partnership



University of Illinois  
at Springfield



Springfield  
Urban  
League



Springfield Public School District 186 

**Lanphier High School**

# Lanphier High School

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/lanphier/index.html>

Home of the



Lions

It is the mission of Lanphier High School to provide a safe learning environment that recognizes the diversity of all members of the school community. Our purpose is to promote student achievement through active learning, to encourage positive student contributions to society, and to inspire high expectations for the future in each student. This mission will be accomplished through a partnership of students, school staff, family, and community.

# Lincoln Land Community College

<http://www.llcc.edu/>



Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) offers a high quality, affordable education so all students can move their lives forward. Whether you are seeking an associate's degree that will transfer to a four year college or university; an applied science degree or certificate to move up in your career or start a new one; or knowledge simply for the joy of learning, LLCC is committed to your future.

# Lincoln Land Community College

Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), established in 1967 in Springfield, has touched the lives of countless residents of Central Illinois. By bettering their lives through education, these students contribute to the communities in which they live. LLCC exists to serve the educational needs of residents, and to respond to the needs of the businesses and agencies which fuel the economies of those communities. Our focus, every day, is centered on our students and our community.

LLCC serves the largest community college district in the state of Illinois...all or parts of 15 counties. LLCC is also the best higher education value in Central Illinois, with a cost of less than half of a four year public university, and less than a third of a private institution. Financial aid is available, along with college and Foundation scholarships and tuition waivers based on academic and athletic talents, financial need, and for vocational and GED students.


# Lincoln Land Community College

Studies confirm that LLCC graduates do as well as and often better when they transfer to four year institutions, than students who enrolled in those universities as freshmen. At LLCC, students get personal attention through small class sizes and from excellent professors whose only focus is teaching, and the success of their students. There are no teaching assistants or large lecture classes at LLCC, only the interaction of students and faculty who know each other by name. LLCC students can earn two year associate degrees in arts, sciences, fine arts, engineering science and general education.

The future of LLCC looks bright as it expands and evolves to better serve thousands of community residents throughout its 15 county district. The campus master plan envisions a new library and technology center, a fine arts center and new academic buildings on the main campus, a new classroom building for the Taylorville campus, expansion of the Jacksonville campus and improvements to the Litchfield facilities. Ultimately, LLCC aims to be the first thought and first choice for everyone in the district seeking education, experience or employment. The College will continue to grow by offering the highest quality in educational, personal and professional enrichment opportunities, allowing students of all ages to “Move Life Forward.”

# Springfield Public School District 186

The Springfield Public Schools in collaboration with parents and community, shall develop in all students the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes to empower them to become responsible life-long learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing world. This will be accomplished in a climate that promotes high expectations, strives to meet individual needs, and values diversity.

*Springfield Public School District 186* 





# Springfield Urban League

<http://www.springfieldul.org/>

The mission of the Springfield Urban League, Inc. is to enable African-Americans, other minority groups, and the underprivileged to cultivate their potential and exercise their full human rights as American citizens.

Utilizing the dual role of advocacy and service delivery to accomplish its mission, the Springfield Urban League, Inc. shall:

- intervene in social and economic structures where the interests of African Americans, other racial minorities and economically underprivileged are at stake;
- assist members of the African-American, other minority communities and economically underprivileged in developing strategies and techniques to bring about positive changes in policies and situations that adversely affect their lives;

# Springfield Urban League

- work with existing institutions to make them more responsive to the needs of African-Americans, other minorities and economically depressed in the community;
- mobilize and organize community groups to work toward developing alternatives to systems identified as inadequate;
- conduct specialized programs and/or provide services in any or all of the following areas toward strengthening the growth and development of individuals and families in African-American, other minority groups, and economically disadvantaged-education, housing, employment, economic development, urban affairs, community development, law and consumer affairs, social welfare, and citizenship; and, research and publicize the social and economic needs of the agency's constituency.

# University of Illinois at Springfield

[www.uis.edu](http://www.uis.edu)

The University of Illinois at Springfield has as its primary mission providing excellence in teaching. UIS strives to produce an educational environment where students can acquire:



- 1) a solid foundation for lifelong learning,
- 2) a keen appreciation of intellectual and aesthetic achievements,
- 3) an enhanced capacity for critical thinking and oral as well as written communication,
- 4) a practical preparation for pursuing fulfilling careers,
- 5) a sound basis for informed and concerned citizenship, and
- 6) a productive commitment to improving their world.

# University of Illinois at Springfield

- UIS emphasizes public affairs instruction, research, and service carried out through community partnerships that contribute to social progress, governmental effectiveness, educational excellence, and economic development.
- UIS is committed to addressing the needs of both traditional and nontraditional learners and reflecting cultural diversity in both the curriculum and the university community. UIS encourages innovative approaches appropriate to fulfilling these institutional aims.

# Presenters

Marica Cullen – Lanphier High School

Geri Marion – University of Illinois at Springfield

Bekky Lanphierd – University of Illinois at Springfield

Steve Rambach – Lanphier High School

# Marica Cullen



Marica Cullen holds a M.A. in English Literature and Administrative and Education Specialist Certificates from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Additionally, Ms. Cullen is a Doctoral student in Educational Administration and Foundations at Illinois State University. She currently serves as Assistant Principal and Guidance Dean at Lanphier High School. Previous work experiences include middle-school English and math and high school English teaching positions, as well as serving as curriculum and teacher training coordinator for District 186.

# Gerri Marion



Gerri Marion holds a M.A. in Human Development Counseling from the University of Illinois at Springfield. This is Ms. Marion's third year as Project Coordinator for the UIS GEAR UP Partnership. Previous positions held include Career Counselor for the UIS Office of Career Services and Associate Registrar for Springfield College in Illinois.

# Rebekah J. Lanphier



Rebekah J. Lanphier holds a M.A. in Communications and B.A. in Political Studies and Legal Studies. Ms. Lanphier is a Visiting Research Data Analyst at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Her work experience includes data collection and analysis, the coordination of trainings, and the creation of products used to disperse information through electronic formats.



# Steve Rambach

Via Video...





We're

To Begin!

About



# Parents, Kids, and Meatballs at the Lanphier High Café



*A Successful Parent Engagement Program*

# Agenda



- **Session I - *Where We Were***
- **Section II - *Where We Are***
- **Section III - *Our Top Five Strategies***
- **Section IV - *Break-Out Session***
- **Section V - *Questions and Answers***

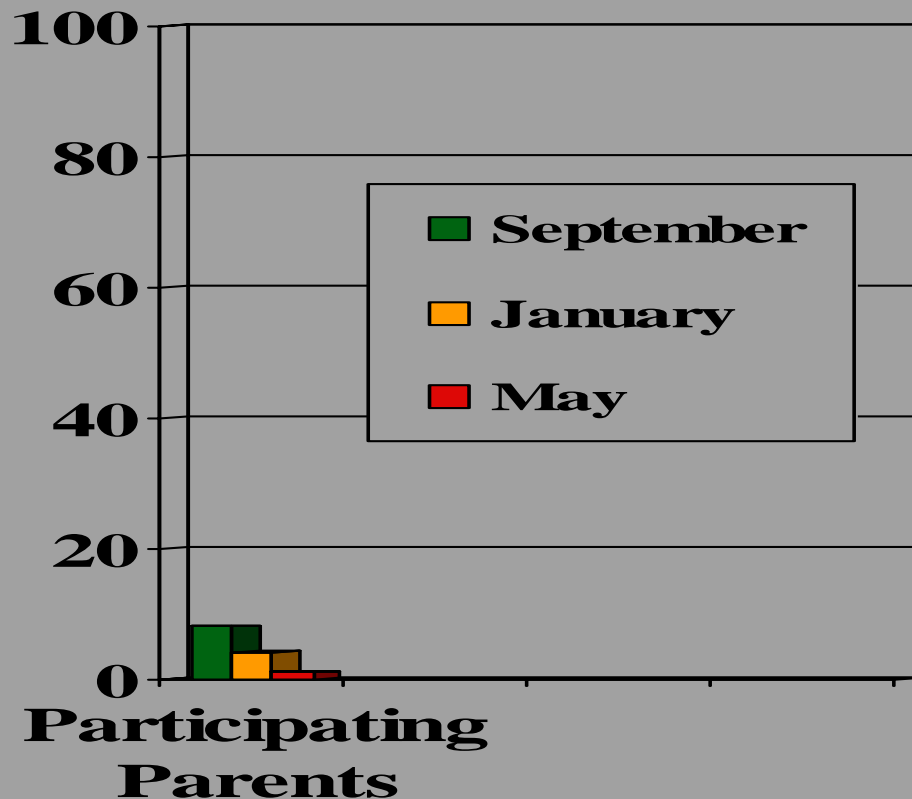


# Where We Were Before **GEARUP**



*Section I*

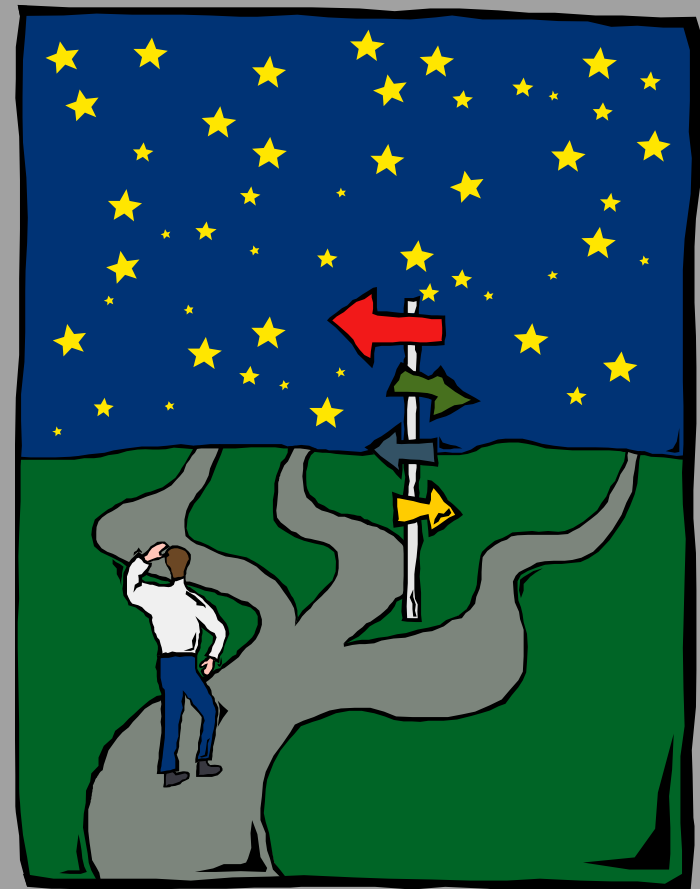
# Limited Parent Participation



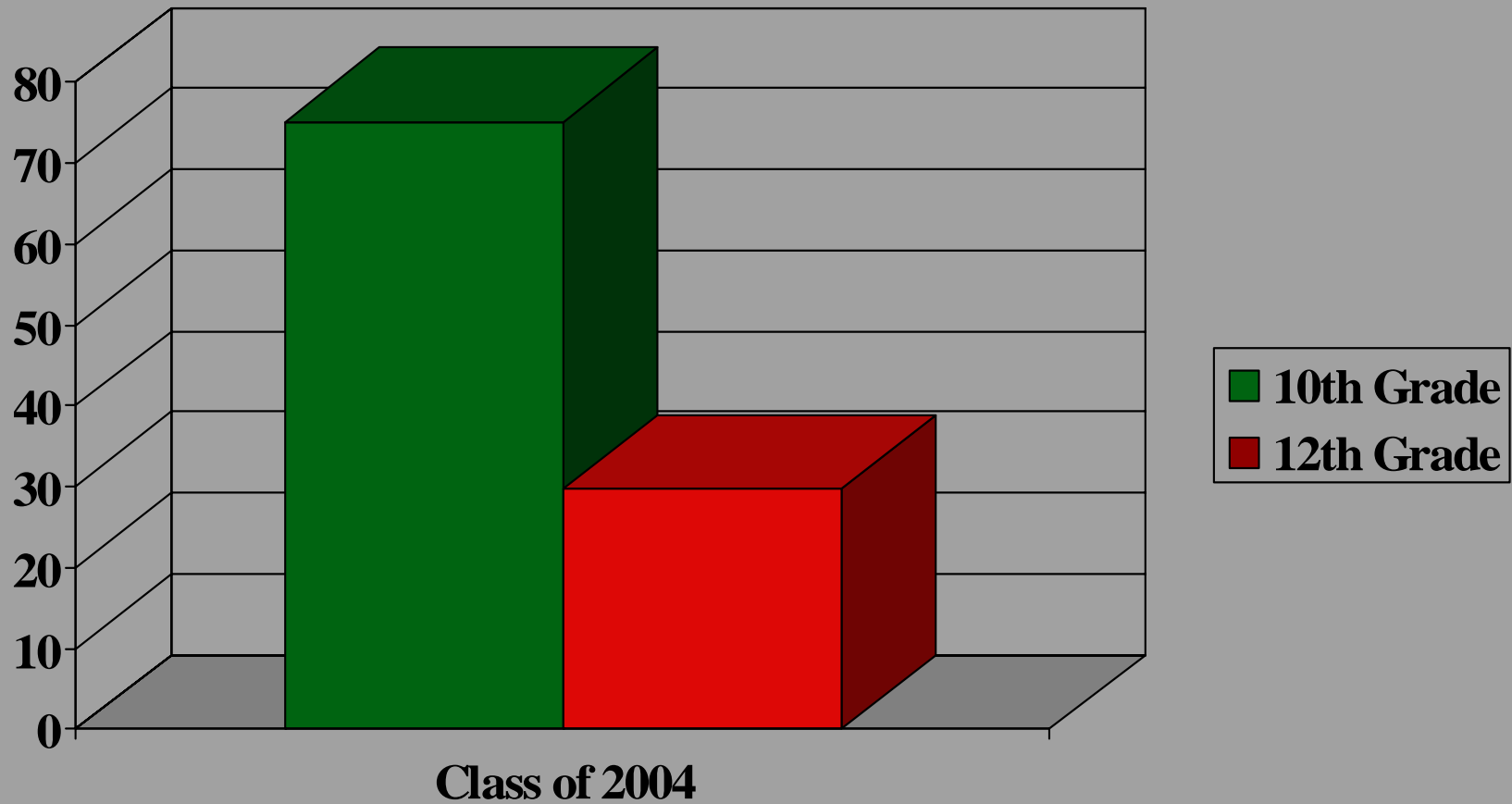
- *Only Monthly PTO Meeting*
- No Other Regular All-School Parent Groups

# Limited College Plans

- First semester sophomore year **75% planned to attend college**
- Second semester senior year **less than 30% had applied to college** and/or had firm plans to attend



# College Plans





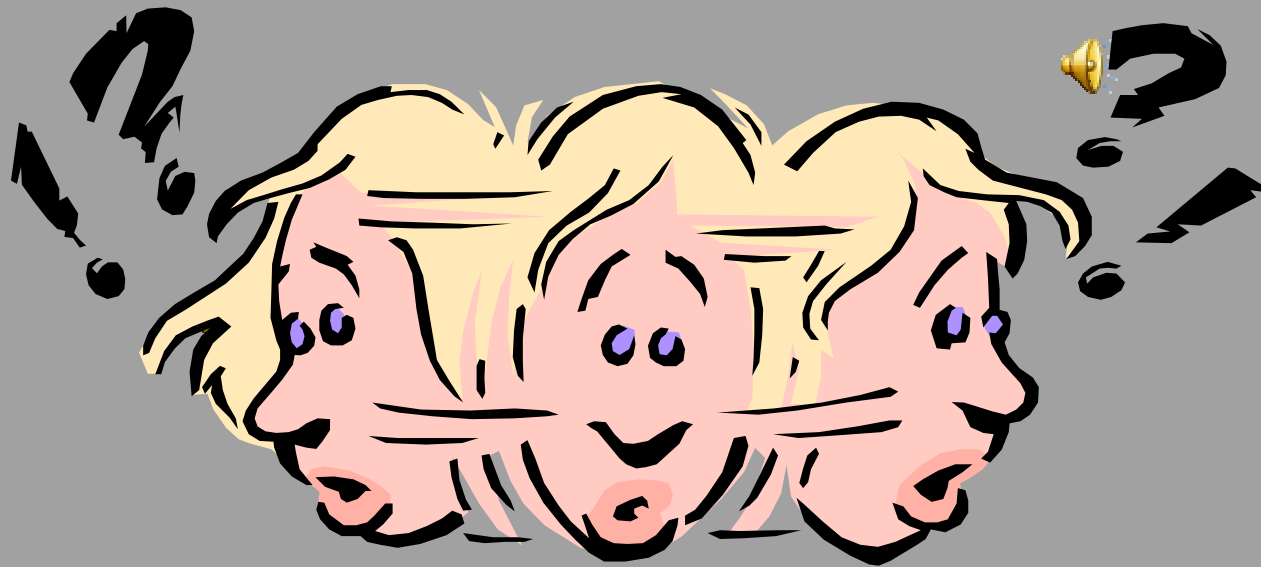


**Overwhelming Dean to Student  
Case Load**

# Limited Financial Aid Knowledge



# Limited Knowledge of College Success Factors



# Declining District Resources and Supports



- Failed Ed Fund Referendum in 2003
- **\$9 million in cuts** in budget lines for direct student services
- New superintendent and majority of Board of Education 2003



# Limited Community Support



# No Continuing Partnerships



- No Clear Direction for Students after High School
- Limited Contact Between School and Universities
- Limited Contact Between School and Community



# Where We Are After GEARUP



*Section II*

# Real Parent Participation



Greater Parent and Student Attendance at GEARUP  
Monthly Events Each Year

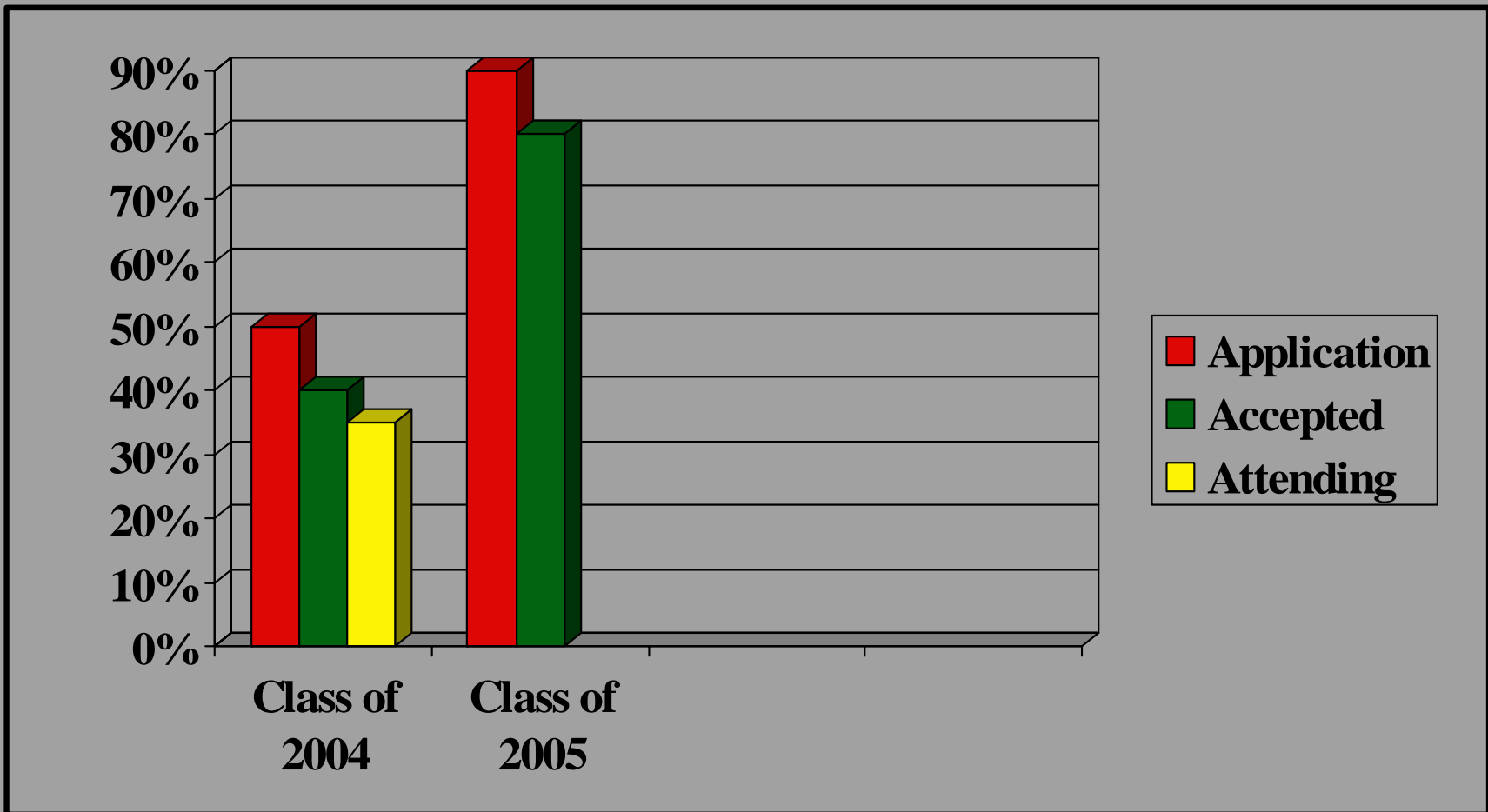


# Real Parent Participation



Parent Followup - Contact with Parent Coordinator  
and Guidance Deans

# Increased College Applications and Acceptance Rate



# Financial Aid Knowledge



- Presentations by Financial Aid Officials Representing our Partners
- Personal Contact for Parents and Students



# College Resource Specialist/Parent Coordinator



# Gaining Knowledge to Succeed College

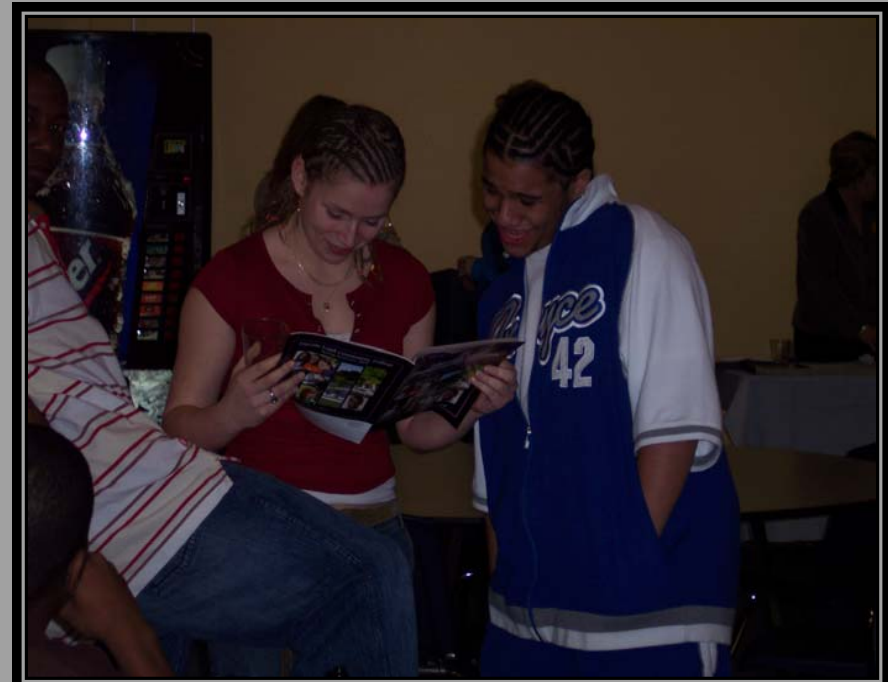
Setting  
Goals

Managing  
Time



Learning  
Styles

Study  
Skills





# District Support



- Reallocation of District Resources to Support Parent Coordinator Role
- Positive Relationship with Central Office

# Community Support



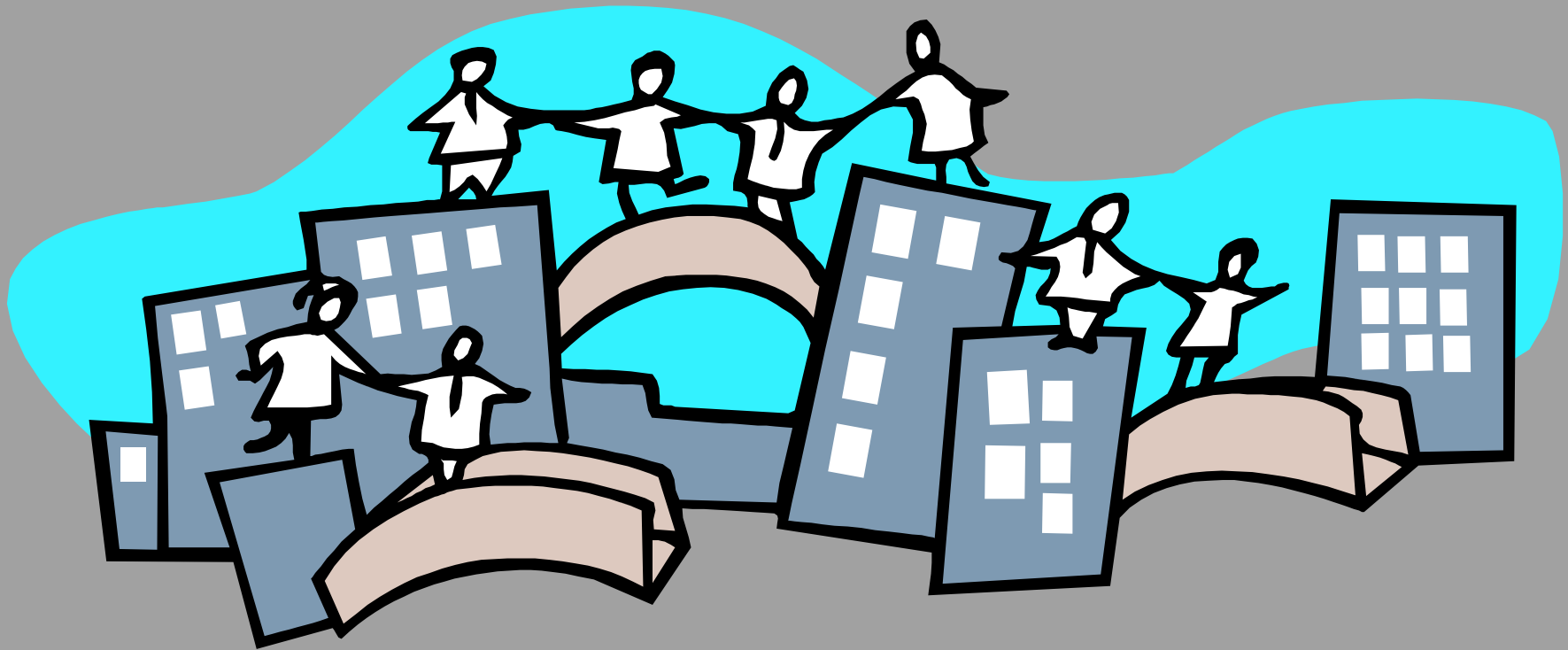
- Over Forty Community Members Attended the May Career Fair
- Sponsors for Food and Attendance Incentives
- Positive Media Reporting

John Staff Carpeting

GIGANTI & GIGANTI



# On-Going Partnerships







# Our Top Five Strategies

*Section III*



# Our 'Top 5' Strategies

- 1. Developing a Functional Partnership**
- 2. Defining the Role of Parent Coordinator**
- 3. Tailoring Workshops to Meet Parental Needs**
- 4. Marketing**
- 5. Gaining School District/Community Support**



# Developing a Functional Partnership

A. All partner organizations express commitment to project



- regularly attend monthly Steering Committee meetings

# Developing a Functional Partnership

## B. Strengthening lines of communication among partners

- via regular, direct contacts by **Project Coordinator** with all partners

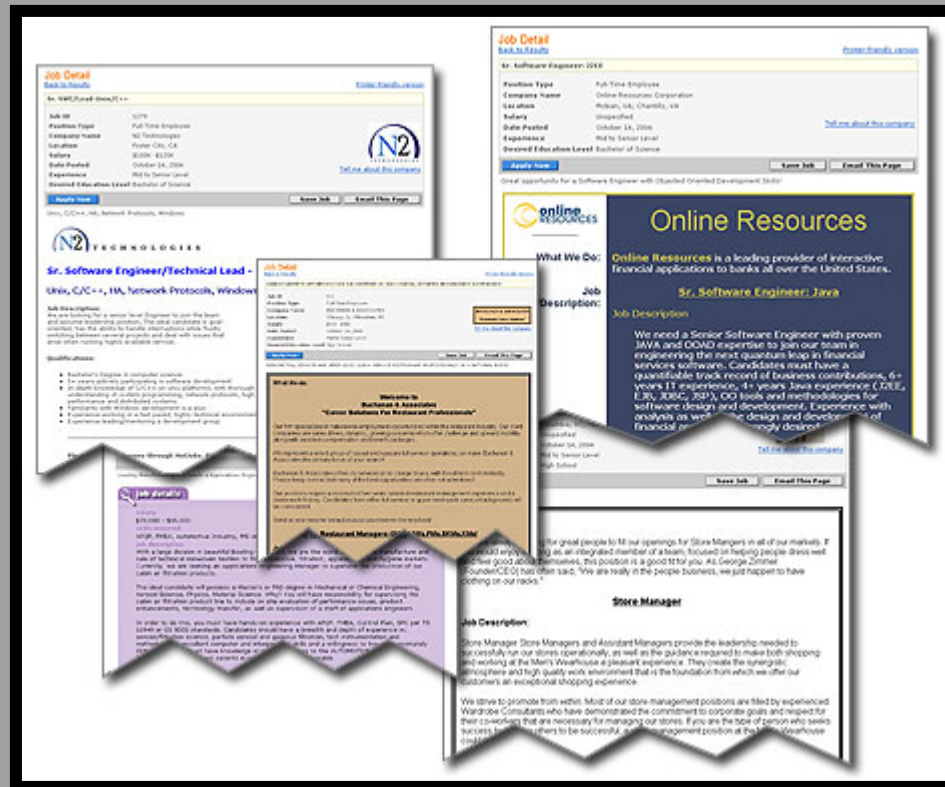


Springfield Public School District 186



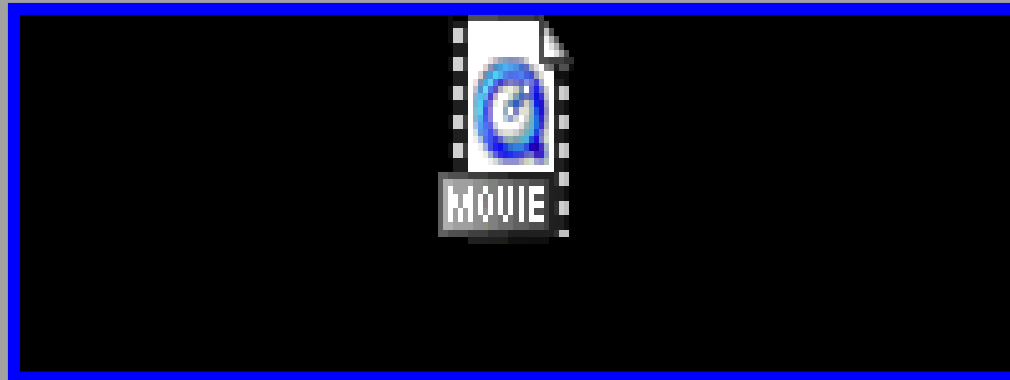
# Defining the Role of Parent Coordinator

## A. Developing a job description



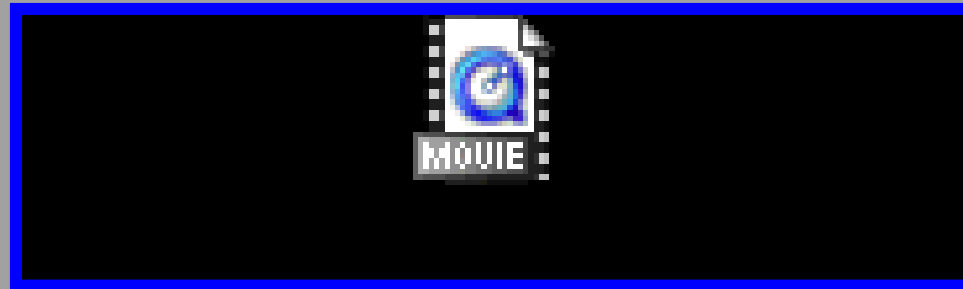
# Defining the Role of Parent Coordinator

B. Introducing Steve Rambach:



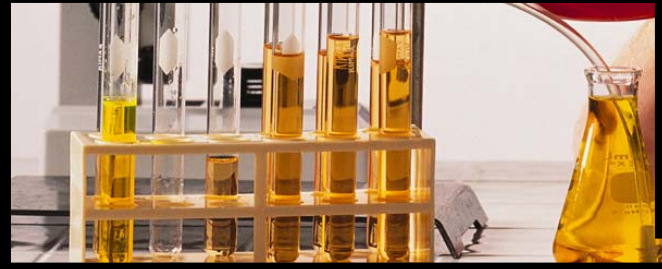
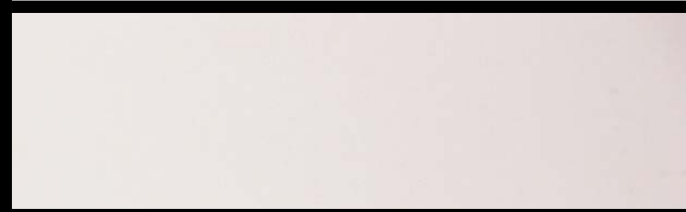
# Defining the Role of Parent Coordinator

- C. Defining the Role of a Parent Coordinator  
Featuring Steve Rambach.



# Defining the Role of Parent Coordinator

C. Ariel Ematly, a Successful Approach.....





# Tailoring Workshops to Parental Needs

## A. Focus groups (meetings w/partners and parents)



# Tailoring Workshops to Parental Needs

## B. 'Listen and respond' attitude



# Marketing

A. Channel all marketing efforts through English department



# Marketing

B. Provide incentives for workshop attendance



# Marketing

## B. Provide incentives for workshop attendance

### Attendance Counts at the GEAR UP Workshop Series (for *both* Parents and Students!!)

Earn one (1) chance per person each time you attend a GEAR UP workshop to win a prize awarded at the last workshop session.



- Prizes include:
- Two (2) desktop computer systems – donated by John Staff Carpeting and Giganti & Giganti Jewelers
  - A 3-credit hour tuition waiver to Lincoln Land Community College





# Marketing

## C. Feed workshop attendees



# Marketing

D. Use a variety of methods to market workshops:



- Flyers

- Direct mailings

- Emails to parents

*(get addresses from sign-in sheets)*

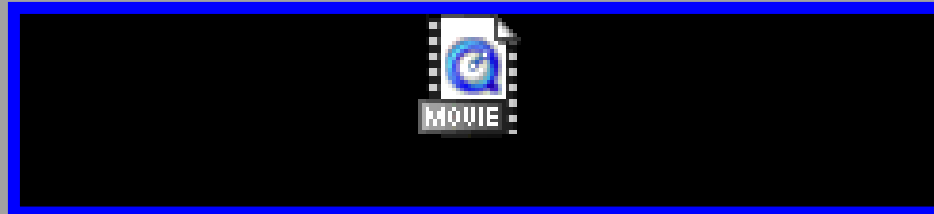
- Classroom presentations

- 'Word of mouth'



# Marketing

\* Steve's Advice on Marketing





# Gaining School District & Community Support

## A. School district support

- get your Superintendent to 'buy into' GEAR UP philosophy & initiatives



<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/>

# Gaining School District & Community Support

## A. School district support

- Have your GEAR UP school administrators develop and nurture relationships with school board members & district P.R. contacts

# Gaining School District & Community Support

## B. Community support

- City administration created a new **Education Liaison** position during grant period



**Mayor Timothy J. Davlin**

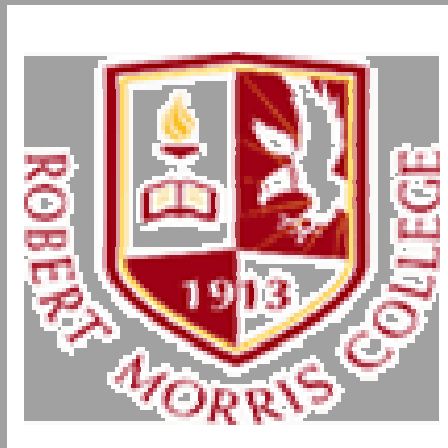
*(provides for better support of, and communication with school district)*

<http://www.springfield.il.us/education/index.htm>

# Gaining School District & Community Support

## B. Community support

- Other local colleges seek to 'jump on the bandwagon'



*Food sponsor for 2005 GEAR UP Career Fair*

# Gaining School District & Community Support

- B. Community support
  - Local businesses





# Group Breakout Activity



*Part IV*

# Questions for Small Group Discussion

- How could your GEAR UP sites implement these strategies?
- What modifications would you propose to increase the chances of success in your setting?

# Group Process Steps

- Select a scribe to capture your ideas
- Discuss the questions within your group
- Determine a speaker to represent your group
- Share one “big idea”



# Group Discussion

- How could your GEAR UP sites implement these strategies?
- What modifications would you propose to increase the chances of success in your setting?



# Questions and Answers



# Questions



# Contact Information

**Marica Cullen**

*Assistant Principal*

Lanphier High School

1300 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street

Springfield, IL 62702

217-525-3073 (phone)

217-525-3386 (fax)

[mlcullen@springfield.k12.il.us](mailto:mlcullen@springfield.k12.il.us)

# Contact Information

**Geri L. Marion**

*GEAR UP Project Coordinator/Visiting Project Director*

College of Education and Human Services

Brookens, Room 335

University of Illinois at Springfield

One University Plaza, MS BRK 332

Springfield, IL 62703-5407

217.206.7570 (phone)

217.206.6775 (fax)

[marion.geri@uis.edu](mailto:marion.geri@uis.edu)

# Contact Information

**Rebekah J. Lanphierd**

*Visiting Research Data Analyst*

Institute for Legal and Policy Studies

University of Illinois at Springfield

Public Affairs Center, Room 460

One University Plaza, MS PAC 451

Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407

(217) 206-6348 (phone)

(217) 206-7397 (fax)

[rlanp01s@uis.edu](mailto:rlanp01s@uis.edu)

# Online Presentation

To view...

Parents, Kids, and Meatballs at the Lanphier  
High Café

*A Successful Parent Engagement Program*

...Please Visit

[http://cspl.uis.edu/ILAPS/CurrentProjects/GEARUP\\_Presentation/](http://cspl.uis.edu/ILAPS/CurrentProjects/GEARUP_Presentation/)