



MEDIA NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gear Up Memphis to Celebrate Second Year Student Success

MEMPHIS, TN (April 18, 2008) – Students and their parents from Geeter Middle School, Hamilton, Raleigh-Egypt, Riverview and Southside Middle Schools will all be recognized at the first **Gear Up Memphis Academy Awards luncheon** on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 11:30 a.m., in the Robert Lipscomb Dining Hall at the LeMoyne-Owen College. The Awards program is being held to recognize students who have successfully completed the Gear Up Memphis Saturday Academy which offers tutoring services in English, Mathematics, Science and Technology to help students improve their success in school and to make progress toward graduation.

The program is part of the “Every Child, Every Day, College Bound” initiative designed to improve graduation rates in Memphis Schools. LeMoyne-Owen College is partnering with Memphis City Schools, Southwest Tennessee Community College and the University of Memphis to work with students from (5) most at-risk middle schools. Beginning in seventh grade and continuing through twelfth grade, students receive tutoring and other assistance to help them to succeed academically and make steady progress toward graduation, and possibly, college.

Project “Gear Up,” is a national effort designed to enhance student performance.

Now, in its 9th funding year, GEAR UP has received nearly \$2.4 billion since the program began. Nationally, GEAR UP can be found in nearly 2,700 schools and incorporates more than 2,000 community colleges, universities, businesses, and civic and education organizations through a partnership based model.

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Memphis City Schools acquired a six-year grant under the program to help boost graduation rates among its students.

The Gear Up Memphis Awards Luncheon will be attended by LeMoyne-Owen College President Johnnie B. Watson, Memphis City Schools' Superintendent Dan Ward, and the principals of the participating middle schools and high schools involved. Memphis City School officials responsible for Project Gear Up will also be in attendance including Memphis Gear Up Director Gwen Crawford-Hayes.

For more information about the Memphis "Gear Up" Luncheon, see the contacts listed above.

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Press Policy for campus visits:

LeMoyne-Owen College welcomes appropriate and "pre-approved" visits to its campus by members of the News Media. However, the privacy, security and well-being of our students and campus family must be our primary concern. We therefore **require that all Media organizations** receive approval from the Office of Public Relations or the President's Office **prior to your arrival on our campus.** No other staff person, faculty, or student may grant permission for media visits. **Call 901.324.3705; or 901.292.3943.** Media representatives **will be asked to leave the campus,** if visits have not been properly approved – no exceptions. **Effective January 2004.**