

Perry Boyd, II, Program Manager
Student Success Center
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Dearborn, MI 48128



To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Michigan-Dearborn Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) is a national college access program started in 1999, now in 47 states. The purpose of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of students who stay in school and are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) awards six-year grants to States and to Partnerships between universities and schools. Grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning in grade seven, and follow the cohort through high school.

On behalf of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's GEAR UP Program, I would like to express how appreciative we are for the expertise of Sensible Business Consulting Group (SBCG) in collaboration. SBCG was very instrumental in the success of our program by conducting 50 leadership workshops for 800 students.

A comprehensive "boot camp" to quickly equip 8th grade students with leadership skills and the tools necessary to increase their ability to set and achieve positive goals was implemented. Each student identified a specific dream, developed critical success factors to realize that dream, and devised a plan to attain their dream. Workshops took place at various locations in the Detroit Metro Area. The SBCG team was equipped to provide workshops for the following partners:

- Golightly Educational Center
- Chandler Park Academy
- Marvin L. Winans Academy
- Blanchette Middle School
- Burton International School
- Ann Arbor Trail Magnet Middle School

SBCG provided a program to equip young people of promise with the soft skills and associated tools to be successful in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic Fields- helping nurture, motivate, educate and elevate its participants by promoting academic excellence and responsible citizenship. Students participated in the following workshops:

Character Development

Preparing for Success – Students were introduced to goal setting and attainment techniques. They were prompted to develop goals that are realistic, measureable, and attainable in an identifiable period of time.

Selecting Friends - Students were asked to consider the idea of conformity. They were confronted with the notion that their selection of friends influences their behavior and, ultimately contribute to a pivotal role in goal attainment. Interactive activities encouraged students to select friends who have similar aspirations, dreams and goals to assist them in moving forward.

SBCG has provided great programming to our students for two years and we look forward to working with this extraordinary group for many years into the future. If you need a program that produces results in an engaging way with your students, then you need SBCG. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Perry Boyd II".

Perry Boyd II, Program Manager