

PROGRAM:

Bagels and Bucks

OBJECTIVES:

Parents learn how to begin paying for college early.

LOCATION:

Pioneer Middle School Library, Walla Walla School District

DESCRIPTION:

GEAR UP at Pioneer Middle School organized an event for parents and their children to come to school before the start of classes to learn about grants, scholarships, loans and savings plans for their children to attend college. From 7:15-8:10 A. M. during the month of May, presenters from Baker Boyer Bank, Blue Mountain Community Foundation, the College Success Foundation, and Walla Walla Community College talked with parents about programs and methods to pay for college. Sixty parents attended the event with their children. As one mother was overheard saying to her child, "It is hard to get up this early to come to this event, but I want you to know I did this for you!"

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

- Early in the school year the GEAR UP site director gets permission from the school to put the activity on the school calendar.
- Recruit special presenters during the school year.
- Inform parents of the activity through their students, teachers, GEAR UP and parent educational organizations.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- Evaluation of past event taught that winter is the wrong time of year for the event.
- Late spring works better with parents, students, teachers and the school.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

Breakfast pastry such as bagels, orange juice, and coffee for 80 people.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Marika Tomkins, GEAR UP Site Director
Pioneer Middle School
Walla Walla, WA
(509) 526-8621
mtomkins@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu