

PROGRAM:

International Speaker Series

OBJECTIVES:

Provide GEAR UP students at Goldendale High School with information, experiences and exposure to cultural environments not found in their community.

LOCATION:

Arlene Schnitzer Hall, Portland, Oregon, and Goldendale High School

DESCRIPTION:

For many Goldendale High School students, participating in the trips to the speaker series in Portland was invaluable. Such opportunities were not available to them in Goldendale. During the field trips students were also informed about different careers available in the Portland area. Each speaker in the series talked about a different topic, and the students learned about economic issues, the climate crisis, global health, the criminal justice system in the United States, and other issues. The experiences encountered by the students opened their eyes to socio-cultural environments vastly different from the ones they are familiar with, and helped them begin to become more tolerant of those with backgrounds not the same as their own.

Students at the high school heard about the different series speakers from the daily school bulletin and where to sign up. They were given permission slips and completed short assignments related to the topic of discussion before turning in their permission slips.

On the day of each event, students loaded onto the bus around 2 p.m. for the trip to Portland. Once in Portland the first stop was a ride on MAX (Portland's public transportation system) to the restaurant. After dinner, students headed to Arlene Schnitzer Hall for the lecture by the guest speaker. Each student had a chance to write questions to the speaker, and a few of their questions were answered. After the speech, the students returned directly to Goldendale, arriving back around 11 PM.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES:

The first meeting to discuss the concept for the event was December 2007. A Klickitat teacher who had just begun teaching at Goldendale had previously taken her students to the International Speakers Series. The GEAR UP coordinator wanted to duplicate the activity at her school and give more students that opportunity. Working with teachers to align the speaker series with classroom curriculum, she developed the concept for the series.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

Follow-up meetings and designated assignments: After each trip, the GEAR UP coordinator checked with the teachers who served as chaperons and asked if there were problems or suggestions for improving the event. She also contacted the bus garage to see if the driver understood the entire drop off and pick up points. When suggestions were given they were responded to in an appropriate manner and changes were made for the next event. Students were interviewed for articles that appeared in the high school newspaper.

COSTS OR COST CONSIDERATIONS:

The major project cost considerations were the following:

GEAR UP funds –This program cost around \$6,050 for the year. GEAR UP paid three staff members one hundred dollars each time for working late into the night and guiding the students safely around Portland. GEAR UP paid the bus driver and mileage for the bus (about \$1,350). GEAR UP also paid for the speaker tickets (\$2,000) and food at the restaurants (about \$350 dollars each trip).

School funds paid for staff to cover the classes of teachers who had to leave early for the event.

Partner funds and/or resources: Volunteers for the event provided discounted tickets.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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ATTACHMENTS (Next Page):

Sample Itinerary

RESOURCES:

Summary comments by presenters

- Literature review list: <http://www.worldoregon.org/events/iss.php>

(Sample Program Itinerary)
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES

David Suzuki
Environmental Activist
“The Climate Crisis”

Itinerary for Wednesday, April 8th

- 1:50 p.m. Depart Goldendale in school bus
- 4:30 p.m. Ride Max in to Portland from Lloyd Center transit station (fare less square)
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner at Bush Gardens- 900 SW Morrison, Portland
503-226-7181
Still working on Japanese Menu
- 6:30 p.m. Global Issues International Speaker:
David Suzuki at Schnitzer Hall
1037 SW Broadway, Portland Oregon 97205
- 8:45 p.m. Depart for home in school bus
- 11:00 p.m. Arrive back at Goldendale High School

What to Bring:

Dress in your best school clothes, no hats please.

Bring jacket, as we will be walking around downtown.

Pillow and blanket for the ride home!

Your best behavior and manners!