



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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ITEM 112-100-R0701 ATTACHMENT
July 10, 2001

July 12-13, 2001

TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Joyce A. Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs
RE: Administration of the Gear Up Program

On June 13, Mr. G. Bruce Meyers accepted the position of Coordinator of Indian Affairs in the Office of the Governor and resigned as Gear Up Director, effective June 29. I consulted with Office of Public Instruction, campuses, and the schools about how to proceed with program direction.

Many with whom I spoke were concerned about Gear Up losing momentum and direction if we conducted another national search. Further, this loss of momentum would be compounded by the time required for an incoming director to "get up to speed." Finally, colleagues noted that Gear Up begins this Fall, for the first time, full collaboration with the high schools--doubling the number of schools working together--and that we must be "fully ready" by August.

It became apparent that a strategy that drew upon the expertise of several individuals and our two years of experience with Gear Up would be the best for continuity and delivery. We formulated a management plan to place responsibility with co-directors and to invest others with special assignments.

I recommend that Jan Clinard and René Dubay be appointed Gear Up Co-Directors, each with distinctive responsibilities.

- Dr. Clinard taught English in middle and high schools, worked at OPI as a curriculum and assessment specialist and been active in state and national professional associations curriculum alignment. She is currently directing a Gear Up Summer Writing Camp on the University of Montana campus. She would be responsible for OCHE academic initiatives (writing and mathematics proficiency) and the academic components of Gear Up: curriculum, professional development, technology and PLATO, summer camps, and scholars recognition events.
- Ms. Dubay has led the OCHE's Educational Talent Search project since 1983. She is active with TRIO regionally and nationally, serving as president of the regional association. She founded and chaired the National Native American Task Force, authored and directed the SHEEO-Ford Foundation project that led to the creation of the Office of American Indian and Minority Achievement. She currently assists Salish-Kootenai College with a TRIO training grant on serving indigenous students. She authored the Gear Up grant and will be responsible for Gear Up school partnerships, parent and community service (including VISTA), counseling, campus visits and OPI collaboration.

Under this design, Mrs. Arlene Hannawalt, Director of Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, would continue to manage the Gear Up Scholarship competitions and awards. Ms. Mary Craigle, System Information and Research Officer, would oversee the project's assessment component, and I would continue to oversee budget. I will be happy to respond to any questions the Board may have.

Pc: Commissioner Crofts
J. Clinard, R. Dubay, A. Hannawalt, M. Craigle