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Your Financial Aid Connection

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: John Gilman
515-725-3418
515-868-1767 cell
john.gilman@iowa.gov

GEAR UP Students Explore Quantum Learning

Drake University to host students for cutting-edge summer program

Des Moines, IA, June 29, 2011 –While many high schools students spend their summer months working, relaxing or traveling, 35 students from the GEAR UP Iowa and Des Moines Public Schools GEAR UP programs arrived today at Drake University to participate in a residential leadership camp focusing on the future and how they can achieve academic and personal success.

The Quantum Learning for Students Residential Leadership Camp was made possible due to funding provided by GEAR UP Iowa and additional support from Drake University, Des Moines Public Schools GEAR UP, and Quantum Learning. During the three-day leadership program, GEAR UP Iowa students will learn creative thinking, problem-solving, and goal setting skills as well as develop their leadership and team-building potential to prepare for college and beyond.

“By spending these three days of their summer focusing on their future, these GEAR UP Iowa students are taking responsibility for their future and making a commitment to success,” says Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the state agency charged with administering the statewide GEAR UP Iowa Grant. “While time away from school can be fun, these students recognize the value of learning valuable life skills and planning for their future.”

“The Quantum Learning Camp is a national program based on more than 30 years of experience and research,” explained John Gilman, program coordinator for GEAR UP Iowa. “After attending Quantum Learning, students show increased motivation and self-esteem, have improvement in grades, and are empowered with tools to utilize while navigating their pathway to post-secondary success.”

GEAR UP Iowa partner, Drake University, is hosting the Quantum Learning Program. Participants will be housed in Drake’s residence halls and all learning sessions will be conducted on campus.

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For more information about GEAR UP Iowa or the Quantum Learning Program, go to www.gearupiowa.gov or contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. In addition, more information to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid's website at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR-UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa's students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

About GEAR UP Iowa

Funded by a \$16.8 million Federal grant, GEAR UP Iowa (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is charged with significantly increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP Iowa works to create a college-going culture through statewide and school-based services to a cohort of approximately 6,000 high school students and their families in 18 communities across Iowa. The [Iowa College Student Aid Commission](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov) administers GEAR UP Iowa in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education and other state agencies; local school districts; postsecondary educational institutions; and community organizations, businesses, and industries.

About Quantum Learning Network

Quantum Learning Network (QLN) is a global education organization that began in the United States in 1981 with a small group of educators and has expanded into a worldwide company that has introduced student, school and business programs into 16 countries around the globe. QLN provides students, teachers, academic administrators and business people with learning and life skills programs that motivate each individual to reach their full potential and increase academic achievement. QLN's SuperCamp youth and teen summer camp programs provide training for students in grades 4 through 12 and college. Additional information on the company is available at <http://www.QLN.com>.