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For Immediate Release

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**GEARUP SCORES! Celebrates National GEARUP Day – Friday, September 18, 2009**

The Cincinnati GEARUP SCORES! Partnership is joining the celebration of National GEARUP Day to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of this college access program for economically disadvantaged youth. Since its inception in 1999, GEARUP (Gaining Early Awareness and Education for Undergraduate Programs) has improved educational outcomes for millions of low-income students across the United States.

In Cincinnati, the GEARUP SCORES! partnership delivers college awareness and readiness services to a group of more than 4,700 Cincinnati Public School 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in 30 K-8 elementary schools.

As part of the local celebration, GEARUP SCORES! students will be asked to sign a pledge board at each school to demonstrate their commitment to graduating from high school and college. Each student also will receive a pledge card on which to insert their projected high school and college graduation dates. GEARUP staff and other representatives, including CPS Superintendent Mary Ronan, will speak with students throughout the day about the importance and value of education.

**Media are invited to witness the activities:**

- **Friday, September 18 - 12:45 p.m.**
- **John P. Parker School – 5051 Anderson Place, Cincinnati 45227 (Madisonville)**

The primary partners in GEARUP SCORES! are the University of Cincinnati (UC), Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC), Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, and Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati (PPSGC). Community partners providing additional support include the Enquirer, the Cincinnati Reds, and the Cincinnati Bengals. The Partner for Achieving School Success (PASS) center in the UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, & Human Services (CECH) serves as the partnership's lead agency and provides administrative and fiscal leadership and oversight.

“National GEARUP Day provides a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the importance of GEARUP in the local community” according to Bob Suess, Project Director of GEARUP SCORES! “As a result of this outstanding program, we now have 29 full-time staff providing direct services to CPS students on a daily basis in order to improve academic achievement and to increase the likelihood of college access and success.”

For more information about GEARUP SCORES!, please contact Project Director Bob Suess at 556-4184 or Program Coordinator Denise Hewitt at 556-3714, or visit the GEARUP SCORES! website at [www.uc.edu/gearup](http://www.uc.edu/gearup)

For more information about CECH PASS, please contact Executive Director Steffi Cappel at 556-3611.

To learn more about the national GEARUP program, please contact the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships at 202-530-1135 or [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org).

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