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401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

MEMORANDUM

To: GEAR UP Scholarship Recipients

From: Nicolle McKinney, GEAR UP Program Coordinator
Illinois Department of Human Services

Re: Important 2017-2018 GEAR UP Scholarship Information

Date: May 12, 2017

Submission of Your 2016-2017 Transcript: Please submit an unofficial copy of your transcript that provides your grades for school year 2016-2017. Please submit this documentation as soon as possible. This information is needed to determine your compliance with two GEAR UP requirements: maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or higher and full-time status. Submit the *unofficial* copy of your transcript via fax at 312.793.4666 or email at Nicolle.mckinney@illinois.gov.

New and Continuation Student 2017-2018 Applications: Your GEAR UP application is due on **June 30, 2017**. The 2017-2018 applications (New and Continuation) will be posted on the GEAR UP website. Please visit www.isagearup.org and find the two applications under the tab called **FORMS**. Remember you must submit a 2017-2018 Continuation Application and updated documents for each academic school year to obtain your GEAR UP Scholarship. The scholarship is ***not*** automatically renewed.

The deadline for submission of your FAFSA is midnight Central Standard Time (CST) on **June 30, 2017**. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Standard Time (CST) on September 23, 2017. You are highly encouraged to complete and submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after **January 1** (for example, the 2017-2018 FAFSA should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1, 2017). Each state has a different deadline for the submission. If you are attending a school in Illinois, submit it as soon as possible after January 1, 2017. Awards are made until funds are depleted. Also check the college you are attending for their deadline. Their deadline can vary from the date they receive your FAFSA vs. the date your FAFSA is processed. **When you delay submitting your FAFSA, it decreases the likelihood of obtaining available state financial aid.**

Seniors/Graduates: Congratulations if you graduated this past Winter or Spring semester! We are interested in acknowledging your accomplishments. Please forward the name of your school, your major/minor and any other accomplishments (e.g. honors, etc.). With your permission, we would like to post this information on the GEAR UP website and track our GEAR UP participants' successes. Additionally, please include a short summary of your future plans (e.g. seeking an advanced degree, employment, etc.) and how GEAR UP helped you achieve your goals. Please submit all of this information to Nicolle.mckinney@illinois.gov.

If you have any questions about any of the information shared in this memorandum, please feel free to contact me at 312-793-4639 or via email.