

## July 22, 2008: Sanchez Supports National GEAR UP Day

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Underscoring her strong support of higher education, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez joined her House colleagues in cosponsoring H.Res 1311, a resolution designating a National GEAR UP Day, recognizing the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs' (GEAR UP) 10th anniversary on July 22, 2008.

GEAR UP is the only federal program that provides resources and assistance on a school-wide basis to close the achievement gap by preparing students for college. According to the most recently available data from the U.S. Department of Education, 85.5% of the second class of GEAR UP students graduated from high school in 2006. This remarkable graduation rate is well above those of other low-income students (64%) and all students nationally (73.9%).

"GEAR UP has proven to be instrumental in preparing students for college," said Sanchez. "In addition, GEAR UP offers parent empowerment, college campus tours and other college resources that expose and encourage low income students to pursue a higher education."

GEAR UP is currently providing essential college preparatory services to 640,000 students in over 5,000 schools across 46 States, the District of Columbia, America Samoa, Palau, and Puerto Rico.