



March 30, 2011

Dear Current and Prospective GEAR UP School Partners,

The Syntiro State GEAR UP staff would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the new federal grant. While we anticipated a release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) months ago, we have recently heard word that the RFP will be released in May with a June transmittal date. This is the most current information; as you know it may still change. We appreciate your patience in working with us through this process.

We would like to move forward and share the partnership agreement forms that are required as a component of the application. We will provide assistance to you in completing this form, and will most likely schedule several webinars with our potential partners to assist in understanding the requirements and obligations of being a GEAR UP school. We will share the forms shortly.

We have created a GEAR UP Partnership School Listserv that we will use to share information about the new grant application. We will also be creating a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) section on our Maine State GEAR UP website. You can access this website at <http://www.gearupme.org/>. We look forward to working with you and doing great things together for our students! If you have specific questions, please send them to me at rick@syntiro.org. I will answer them and then post appropriate ones on the website.

For those of you who have been working with and talking to Beth Lambert, I'm pleased to share that she has given birth to a beautiful daughter, Paige. Beth will be out on maternity leave for a few months so I will be your point of contact regarding the new grant.

Thank you,

Rick Wilson