

GEAR UP

BIRMINGHAM BULLETIN

UPCOMING EVENTS

- First Day of School**
August 10
- Parent Tuition Waiver Meeting**
August 10
- Labor Day**
September 4
•No School•
- Birmingham National College Fair**
Location: BJCC
September 17
- National GEAR UP Week**
September 18-22

A NOTE FROM DR. SIMMONS

On behalf of the GEAR UP team, it is my pleasure to welcome all of our GEAR UP students and parents back to school after an action-packed summer break.

This school year will be filled with many fun, interactive activities and resources to help propel our students to success. Our parents and students are GUB's number one priority, and I hold my commitment to continuing to foster a strong relationship with you. I wish you much success in the new school year!



Dr. Kisha T. Simmons, NBCT
GEAR UP Project Director
Twitter: @KTSimmons4AU
Email: ksimmons@bhm.k12.al.us

SUMMER BREAK HIGHLIGHTS

School may have been on break, but we certainly didn't stop learning. This summer, nearly 750 students attended 37 camps at no charge to parents/guardians of GUB students. Students were able to enjoy a packed summer filled with fun and enriching lessons catering to all interests including math, writing, science, theatre, game design and much more. Campers had the opportunity to travel to Atlanta to visit Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College; work with Grammy-Nominated Songwriter/Producer Alvin Garrett to develop music and lyrics centered on social justice issues; and get hands-on experience in unique subjects such as forensic science, cancer biology, engineering and more. We are so proud of our campers and thankful to our partners for providing such academic enriching programs for our students.

In July, the GEAR UP team, parents and student ambassadors traveled to San Francisco for the National GEAR UP conference. Over the course of five days, they learned from an array of leaders in the education and GEAR UP community. While in San Francisco, the group visited San Francisco State University and University of California at Berkeley.



GEAR UP PARENT AND STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Parent engagement is a key component to ensuring college readiness for our students. To help determine the specific needs and desires of our community, GEAR UP Birmingham developed a student and parent ambassador program. These ambassadors not only help to facilitate and strengthen the relationship between the GUB staff and families, but also aid in volunteering at events and activities throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the ambassador program, please email mfunderburg@bhm.k12.al.us.

THE GEAR UP BIRMINGHAM TEAM



Dr. Kisha T. Simmons, NBCT

Position: Project Director

My Job: I offer support, strategic vision and leadership to GUB students, parents, staff and partners. My main goal is

to promote academic success by providing all students with the resources needed to attend and graduate from college.

Duration: Four months

Contact: Birmingham City Schools Board of Education
Office #503
205-231-4738
KSimmons@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun Fact: I'm a "foodie"; I love to indulge in a good meal. I also love to read, travel, spend time with family and friends, connect with other professionals via social media, and watch the Auburn Tigers play! #WarEagle. Connect with me on Twitter @KTSimmons4AU.



Position: GEAR UP Birmingham Administrative Assistant

My Job: I provide support services for the GEAR UP staff, students, parents and partners. My expertise in business communications also provides technical and logistical support for projects, meetings, conferences and workshops for GEAR UP Birmingham.

Duration: Three years

Contact: Birmingham City Schools Board of Education
Office #503
205-231-4738
MFunderburg@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun fact: I love to read mystery novels.



Mildred K. Funderburg



Alberto D. Reid, MBA

Position: Budget/Finance Analyst

My Job: I provide customer service and support to students and parents, as well as ensure that all

funds and expenditures are accounted for by USDE guidelines.

Duration: Three years

Contact: Birmingham City Schools Board of Education
Office #503
205-231-4671
AReid@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun fact: Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., very silly, golfer, lover of music and movies



Position: GEAR UP Site Facilitator
Western Region (Jackson-Olin and
Wenonah High Schools)

My Job: I work with students and
parents to increase the academic
performance and preparation for
postsecondary education. I do this
through the facilitation of services
such as tutoring, ACT prep,
mentoring, college and career
awareness, financial literacy/
wellness workshops, resilience
training, college tours and much
more. I also work with community
partners and institutions of higher
education to bring to life the
transition and support programs
for our students and parents.

Duration: Two years

Contact: 205-231-4738
MSavage2@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun fact: I love school! I hold
several degrees — Bachelor of
Science from Miles College, Master
of Arts in Education from the
University of Alabama at
Birmingham, Educational Specialist
and Doctor of Education from
Samford University — and I've
worked in various positions during
my tenure within the Birmingham
City Schools system.



Dr. Marsha H. Savage



Waynetta Turner

Position: GEAR UP Site Facilitator
Eastern Region (Carver and
Huffman High Schools)

My Job: My role as site facilitator
has enabled me to build lasting
relationships with students,
parents, community partners
and school personnel as we've
worked to incorporate tutoring
services, mentoring opportunities,
financial literacy, college tours and
career exposure into the regular
school day.

Duration: Two years

Contact: 205-231-4738
WTurner@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun fact: Extreme couponing is my
newest hobby!



Position: GEAR UP Site Facilitator
Central Region (Parker, Ramsay
and Woodlawn High Schools)

My Job: I help provide GEAR UP's
support services to our students
and parents in an effort to help
prepare them for high school and
postsecondary education. This
includes mentoring, tutoring, ACT
prep, financial literacy, goal setting
and career exploration.

Duration: Two years

Contact: 205-231-4738
TGoldsmith@bhm.k12.al.us

Fun Fact: I love college football.
Roll Tide!



Tanzania Goldsmith

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PARTNERS

