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Amie Fazalare  
Director of GEAR UP  
Fairmont State University Partnership

## **An LSI Case Study**

### **GEAR UP for Academic Success**

*Using the NetTutor<sup>®</sup> Online Tutorial Service at the Fairmont State University GEAR UP Program to Help Students Achieve Academic Success*

**Client:** Amie Fazalare, Director of GEAR-UP Program of the Fairmont State University Partnership

**Challenge:** GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federal program designed to increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college.

In 2005, Fairmont State was awarded the fourth largest of the 98 partnership grants given across the nation—the only new grant to be awarded in West Virginia. The grant serves 14 counties: Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis and Upshur.

For each of the six years of the grant, 6,617 students and their parents from 56 middle and high schools in the 14 counties have benefited from GEAR UP programs and services. More than 20 state, business, and community partners—as well as hundreds of teachers—are committed to the program. GEAR UP activities include tutoring, mentoring, summer camps, teacher training and special workshops, field trips to colleges and special events, financial planning for parents, support equipment, and motivational materials.

In 2010, Fairmont State was seeking a company to provide tutorial services to participating GEAR UP students via the internet to tutor in the core subjects of mathematics, writing, foreign language, science, and business. Fairmont State wanted to offer these online tutoring services free of

charge to GEAR UP students.

**Solution:** The Fairmont State GEAR UP program partnered with Link-Systems International, Inc. to offer LSI's online tutorial service—NetTutor®—to Fairmont State GEAR UP students.

**Result:** By working with NetTutor, Fairmont State GEARUP offers a best-in-class service to their students—one that is designed to help them achieve academic success. Students access NetTutor by going to the Fairmont State GEAR UP website and then logging into NetTutor using the username and password assigned to them.

NetTutor provides help in these areas:

- Basic Math
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- English Composition
- English/Language Arts
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Spanish
- French
- German
- Italian
- Information Technology
- Accounting
- Economics
- Finance
- Management

NetTutor hours of operation allow for students to receive assistance during the day, afternoon, and evening, including holidays. NetTutor is accessible in the classroom, in the library, and anywhere the student has Internet access. The platform used in NetTutor is easy-to-use and does not require software installation. LSI provides monthly usage statistics that we are able to correlate back to school and student data.

As planned, Fairmont State GEAR UP offers this service to their students for free, and they advertise it on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. Customized NetTutor marketing materials were also provided to share information with school administrators, site coordinators, teachers, parents, and students.

**Testimonial:** “We want our students to know that college is possible, and we want to help them succeed. Giving our students access to the NetTutor online tutorial service is one of the ways we are providing innovative resources for academic achievement at our students’ fingertips—literally. We enjoy working with LSI and the NetTutor team. LSI and the NetTutor team have been tremendously supportive of our GEAR UP program. We are excited to offer NetTutor to our students!”—**Amie Fazalare, Director of GEAR UP, Fairmont State University Partnership**

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