

THE

# gear up GAZETTE

FEBRUARY ISSUE

## NFTE News!

NFTE (pronounced nifty) stands for the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship and has been a part of the GEAR UP Kentucky program since 2001.

The NFTE experience:

- Helps young people from low-income communities develop their individual skills and talents.
- Involves hands-on, interactive learning relevant to the real world.
- Helps youth explore new opportunities and build a vision for the future.

Over 150,000 NFTE students across the nation learn about banking, credit and loans and apply for business licenses and sales tax ID numbers. That sounds impressive, doesn't it?



2007 GEAR UP Kentucky/NFTE State Level Competition Winner, Jacob Simanek who now attends Bryan Station High School

The kickoff of GEAR UP Kentucky's 2007 NFTE program was reported in the February 2007 issue of the GEAR UP Gazette. It's now time to report the outcome of everyone's hard work and effort! The winners of the 2007 GEAR UP Kentucky/NFTE state level competition were:

Third Place: Chris Roberts (Clay County Middle School Middle School in Manchester): "Chris's Sports Cards" — buy/sell sports cards and sports memorabilia

Second Place: Haley Edwards (Clay County Middle School in Manchester): "Memories in the Making" — custom slideshow scrapbook

First Place: Jacob Simanek: "Little Germany...The land of chocolate" — delectable treat with the consistency of fudge, but the taste of Oreo®.

Jacob, at the time an eighth-grader at Leestown Middle School in Lexington, had a business idea for making an Oreo®-tasting chocolate ball made from crushed Oreos® and cream cheese.

His idea won him the statewide competition (hosted by the University of Louisville's College of Business) and a trip to New York to compete as one of 30 finalists from across the country in the second annual Smith Barney/NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. The finalists, from 12 different states, presented

their business plans October 3 at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

Congratulations, Jacob!

Congratulations, also, to your NFTE instructor, Vint Collins and your school principal, Debbie Tronzo.

A special thank you to Omari Gletten of GEAR UP Kentucky, who is the program consultant for the NFTE program. And we can't forget to thank all of the GEAR UP Kentucky NFTE teachers and judges. Without you, NFTE would not have been possible!



Jacob gives his award-winning presentation, "Little Germany...The land of chocolate"

## Career day in Butler County

Butler County Middle School students took part in Career Day in December. This event was the combined effort of GEAR UP and the Youth Resource Center. Each student chose two careers to learn more about. Each session lasted about 30 minutes. Volunteers from the community included nurses, teachers, mechanics and state troopers.

The Butler County Area Technology Center

in Morgantown also supported the event by providing speakers for various careers. The technical center provides training in carpentry, auto body, mechanics and industrial maintenance.

Author: Angie McKinney, GEAR UP Site Coordinator, Host Institution: Elizabethtown Community and Technical College



Butler County Middle school students decorated the hallways during their College Awareness Week last fall.

**Find out more. Visit [GoHigherKY.org/GearUp/](http://GoHigherKY.org/GearUp/)**

For additional GEAR UP Kentucky information, please contact Yvonne Lovell, Executive Director, (502) 573-1555 x136