

# Parents and Teachers GEAR UP!

## GEAR UP Kentucky's Celesta Riffe helping students

Making a difference is important to Celesta Riffe and that's one reason she enjoys serving as Project Associate of GEAR UP Kentucky, which serves Perry, Knott, Whitley, Clay, Leslie, Breathitt, and Wolfe counties. She and GEAR UP Site Coordinators Neomia Hagans and Linda Poppas work with schools in all seven counties to help students be ready for college. "College can be scary for some and we want to help students overcome many of these obstacles," said Riffe, a first-generation college graduate.

Hazard Community & Technical College's GEAR UP program is similar to the one Riffe worked with at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College for five years. Some 5,300 students in seventh, eighth and ninth grades are served by GEAR UP each year.

HCTC President/CEO Allen Goben said, "We're delighted with the quality student service provided by Celesta and her



Celesta Riffe, GEAR UP Kentucky Project Associate

team. Their helpful nature and student friendliness truly help make higher education not only a possibility for students, but they help provide the skills and knowledge to make it a reality."

**Source: Hazard Community and Technical College Press Release, February 4, 2008**



## Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award

Teachers are doing great things in Kentucky! If you know of a GEAR UP Kentucky teacher who deserves recognition for performance in the classroom, nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Department of Education and Ashland Inc.

You can nominate a teacher online or by filling out a print nomination form that will appear in the April issue of *Kentucky Teacher*. Print nominations should be mailed or faxed by May 15 to:

2009 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Program  
Kentucky Department of Education  
ATTN: Donna Melton  
500 Mero St. Room 1716  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-6952 (fax)

**Source: Kentucky Department of Education, ParentInfo Newsletter, March 1, 2008**

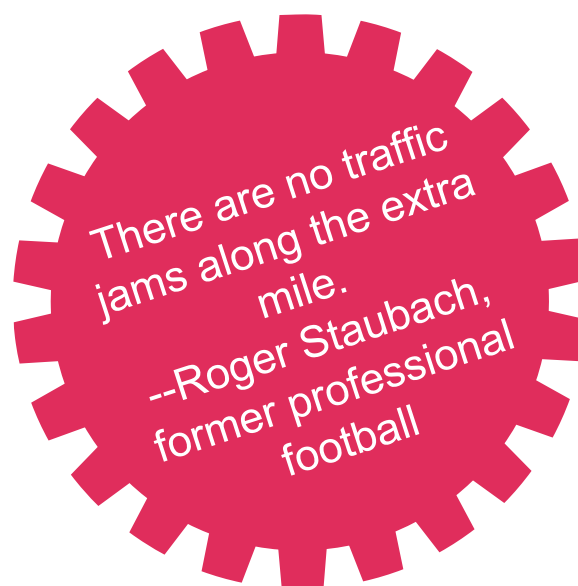
## Internet safety education

Attorney General Jack Conway is committed to working with students and parents in Kentucky to educate them about possible dangers that may be lurking online. Those dangers include: possible encounters with internet sex predators, identity theft, cyberbullying and harassment, and lost opportunities because of inappropriate online postings.

The Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection has developed presentations for middle and high school students and parents.

For information on how to host a presentation at your school, contact:

Debbie Gilbert  
Office of Consumer Protection  
1024 Capital Center Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-696-5385  
debbie.gilbert@ag.ky.gov



## ??Questions/Comments??

Do you have questions or comments about this issue of the GEAR UP Gazette? Would you like to submit your own story for publication in the next issue? If so, please contact:



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