

## **Know How 2Go College Rally**

Over thirty excited and enthusiastic GEARUP 7th and 8th graders from Chase, Mt. Airy, Rees E. Price, Roberts Paideia, Roll Hill, and Ethel Taylor attended the “Know How 2Go College Rally” at Tower Place Mall in downtown Cincinnati on Saturday, September 26. Designed to promote the importance and value of a college education, this event provided students with the opportunity to meet with representatives and admissions staff from over 20 regional colleges. Additionally, active members of college fraternities and sororities spoke with students about the importance of education and professional careers.

GEARUP is an early college awareness and readiness program and this field trip supported GEARUP’s primary objective of promoting a college education as a realistic and viable goal. Students were expected to engage each college representative or admissions officer in a formal conversation related to college admission, selection, financial aid/scholarships, and required coursework. This enabled the students to develop communication, relationship, and presentation skills. It also helped students to view college students, alumni, admissions officers, and other professionals as “real people” who could help them with the college application, acceptance, and enrollment process. By learning to network and build personal relationships with college professionals, these GEARUP students have taken an important first step toward college enrollment.

Academic Specialist Leslie Lyles, College Access Specialists T.J. Bates and Erik Thomas, and Dropout Prevention Specialist Mariella Richardson planned, organized, and chaperoned this college exploration experience for their students.