The Office of P-20 Initiatives recently hosted two stimulating and informational events for the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) GEAR UP rising seniors and parents – Dream Runner Day on May 20th and the Overnight Summer Leadership Retreat on June 3rd–4th.

The Dream Runner Event gave students and parents insight into college life. The event included presentations from various campus offices and organizations, i.e., Admissions, Financial Aid, and S.A.V.E – Student Association for Volunteering Efforts. Topics included a presentation on family and transition services, scholarship needs and financial aid. The evening agenda concluded with a UTSA Roadrunner baseball game. Overall, we had 13 students and 14 parents participate in the annual GEAR UP Dream Runner Event.

The Overnight Retreat provided students and parents a chance to experience college life firsthand. Participants stayed overnight in a campus residence hall and took part in leadership activities. Aric Bostick, a motivational speaker, led the student activities. Students learned how to set goals by creating a college timeline and a senior plan that outlined the next five years of their education. Students also participated in a dance on Friday night and a talent show on Saturday morning; both events served to motivate the students and allow them to demonstrate their new leadership skills. Parent leaders met with Dr. Joseph Kulhanek and David Espiritu to discuss what were the necessary steps required for sustaining the Parent Leadership Program in future years. We wish the best to all of our GEAR UP Parent and Student Leadership teams as they pursue their higher education goals.