Student Reading Achievement, and Leadership:
A Pathway to Postsecondary Preparedness

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The Student Reading, Achievement and Leadership Program at Samford University (SRALP)

SRALP is a collaborative partnership between GEAR UP Birmingham, Birmingham City high school students and Samford University’s Orlean Beeson School of Education
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The overall objectives are to create a literacy, science, math, technology and leadership development programs for students which will:

- Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education
- Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education
Activities

- Two-week summer enrichment and leadership program
- Opportunities for students to attend a science academy
- College awareness activities
- Leadership programs for students to attend a leadership modules
- NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference
Began as a three-week program in the Summer of 2015 with 20 students. Monday through Thursday (9 am-1 pm).

Designed to help improve the students’ reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and independent reading skills in the first two weeks. Leadership development was provided during the third week.

The summer program has continued to expand over the past three years. Program is now two weeks in June with year-round programming for the SRALP students.

SRALP now includes ACT Preparation and a College Awareness Program for students and parents.
Leadership Modules

- Colleges and universities looking for academic performance and also well-rounded leaders.
- GEAR UP/SRALP principles – prepare students to meet the expectations for higher education.
- Leadership development modules were developed to provide the SRALP students with relevant activities and experiences in their pursuit of higher education.
Leadership Modules

- College admissions requirement sessions
- Career goals and pathways
- Financial aid and scholarship information
- Communication/public speaking
- STEM career information sessions
Leadership Modules

• Samford University campus tours
• College classroom experiences
• Scholar/athlete information sessions
• Conversations with academic deans and university administrators
• Field trips to support career interests
• Students in the SRALP Program are selected to participate in the Samford University Annual Minority Youth Science Academy.

• This Academy is a three day-residential program for outstanding high school students interested in STEM fields.

• Faculty led activities in biology, chemistry, physics and computer science.

• This partnership works in collaboration to increase student interests in postsecondary education and the STEM fields.
ACT Preparation

• In the Spring of 2018, we began our ACT preparation program for our students.
• The preparation classes were held on five (5) Saturdays from 8-12:30pm.
• The program was tailor-made for the SRALP students by an ACT testing and consulting group.
• Guided mock-testing, skill-building and test-taking strategies were emphasized.
• Pre-test and post-test data was provided to the SRALP Directors and the parents.
Measures of Success

- Program results for the SRALP program were measured for each student through the use of assessments.
- ACT scores (pre-test and post-test data).
- Student surveys, journal writing and performance on the leadership development modules were collected.
- Additional data collected - attendance and participation.
SRALP desires to continue to increase academic achievement and the graduation rate by addressing reading, math and science content and promoting college exposure and readiness for our students.

Students are able to articulate their summer experiences and plans for success in post-secondary education.

Students and Parents will continue to become familiar with college entrance requirements, campus life and understand the expectations for post-secondary academic achievement.

We look forward to continued expansion of the program through support from Samford University Administration and the Office of Admissions. Even stronger outcomes are anticipated with the support, enrichment, acceleration and leadership activities.
NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference Student Panel

• To further our leadership development, select students were identified to attend the 2018 NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference.

• Three SRALP scholars have been selected to attend the conference, discuss their academic plans and share their experiences in the SRALP program.