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- ◆ **KY CAN Grant Award**—The Kentucky College Access Network in collaboration with the Prichard Committee and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, recently awarded the Signature Partnership Initiative a \$10,000 grant to address college access and attainment for students in our partnership schools. The money will be used to expand on and enhance the current mentoring program where UofL students are mentoring students at Western Middle School.
- ◆ **Social Justice and Engaged Scholarship Symposium**—The Office of External Affairs was a co-sponsor of the Social Justice and Engaged Scholarship Symposium held in April. The symposium was held to celebrate the first year of the opening of the Anne Braden Institute which focuses on social justice research. Faculty from across the university presented on topics of community engagement. Keynote speakers included Dr. Steven Rosenstone, from the University of Minnesota and Dr. Peniel E. Joseph, from Brandeis University.
- ◆ **The GEAR UP Program** at the University of Louisville has been assigned to the Office of External Affairs. GEAR UP KY (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is designed to help 200,000 disadvantaged children prepare for and gain a pathway to undergraduate collegiate programs. The move is a welcome one as many of the students served by GEAR UP are residents of West Louisville. It will help the Signature Partnership Initiative address educational attainment of residents of the community. GEAR UP has a phenomenal success rate and will bring more synergy to the work of the Signature Partnership Initiative.