



MCPS/MCEA Career Lattice Project: **Lead Teacher:** Dr. Gabriel Kengni

DARE TO DREAM @ Blair G. Ewing Center

The Dare to Dream Project is designed to guide Blair G. Ewing Center (BGEC) girls into self-realization, improve academic and social efficacy and promote emotional well-being among those exposed to community violence. Working with this population for a combined 42 years, The Dare to Dream Project staff recognize the challenges and difficulties these young ladies are faced with on a daily basis. These difficulties may interfere with forming and sustaining of close connections. Our goal is to empower the next generation of BGEC girls to be smart, resourceful and confident by building their self-esteem, encouraging them to make healthy and positive decisions, building healthy relationships and engaging them in their communities. All participants will be provided opportunities, experiences and knowledge to grow and develop into proactive, career and college prepared, professional young ladies.

The Dare to Dream Project seeks to reach multiethnic, high risk adolescent BGEC girls between the ages of 14 to 18 who have not been successful in a comprehensive school setting; many with disciplinary, special education and/ or behavioral challenges. The project will provide a safe nurturing place of supervision for girls where there are opportunities to reinforce learning, teach social skills and encourage good citizenship. The young ladies involved in this project will develop the life skills needed to resist unsafe situations and unhealthy behaviors including being home after school without supervision, experimentation with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, illicit sexual activity and illicit illegal activities such as shoplifting.

Project workshops will be located at the Blair G. Ewing Center, 14501 Avery Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850.