Center for Diversity and Enrichment

TRIO Upward Bound

Volume 1, Issue 1

Celebrate National TRIO Day!

National TRIO Day is a day of celebration, reflection, and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students. Federal TRIO Programs help low-income and first generation students enter college and earn a college degree.

Every year, on the last Saturday of February, high school and college students, teachers, Members of Congress, local officials, TRIO Program staff, participants and alumni, and many others:

**Celebrate** the positive impact of federal TRIO Programs in our communities throughout the nation.

**Reflect** on the importance of educational opportunity programs in creating a fairer society for all Americans.

**Act** to protect and further access to higher education for low-income and first generation students.

The University of Iowa Upward Bound program invites you to recognize National TRIO Day, and help us celebrate the efforts of students, families, staff, and school/community partners who work together to increase educational access in southeast Iowa and across the nation.

These TRIO Upward Bound alumni chose the University of Iowa for their higher education studies, and are now enrolled in the University’s TRIO Student Support Services program. Seven national TRIO programs are designed to provide a pipeline of support to students ages twelve through adulthood.

Pictured above are, (left to right): Jorge Rodriguez, 2nd year student from West Liberty; Luz Martinez, 2nd year student from West Liberty; Miguel Jacobo, 2nd year student from West Liberty; Carlos Yaque, 2nd year student from Muscatine. Individual photo: Jenci Muniz-Mendoza, 3rd year student from Muscatine.
Two nursing homes and a homeless shelter recently benefitted from a day of service designed and implemented by Upward Bound students in Columbus Junction, Muscatine, and West Liberty.

The assignment was to work as a group, in each school, to analyze the needs of their community and to come up with a service project that would help fill those needs and benefit others.

Students at Columbus Community, under the leadership of senior Gloria Montiel, decided to brighten the lives of Colonial Manor nursing home residents by baking treats and making blankets.

At Muscatine High School, senior Jeremiah Daniels lead the group effort to make blankets and holiday cards for participants in the Muscatine Center for Social Action MCSA homeless shelter and domestic violence shelter.

The elderly at Simpson Memorial Home enjoyed time with students from West Liberty High School. Under the leadership of seniors Abilene Jacobo, Ivania Palma, and Yessenia Rodriguez Lopez, Upward Bound students interacted and played games with residents, and then made decorations to give the facility a cheerful holiday look.

Upward Bound students know that being a good citizen is an important part of becoming a young adult, and it was important for students at each school to take ownership of their projects. Students who participated in the Upward Bound Service Day represented themselves, their families, our program, their schools, and their communities very well.

School activities such as sports, speech and debate, drama, student government, band and choir, etc., play important roles in the lives of teenagers. Participation in school activities promote improved health, leadership development, social interaction... and they may help students get into college and receive scholarship money! Some studies suggest that participation in high school extracurricular activities even leads to increased academic success and persistence in college.

Participation in school activities can present a challenge, however, when practices/meetings require students to be in two (or more!) places at once.

*Upward Bound understands this dilemma, and wants to be flexible.*

Here is what Upward Bound would like students to do if they have a conflict between UB events, such as After School Meetings, and school activity-related practices and meetings:

1. Communicate your situation in advance to Upward Bound staff.
2. Make arrangements to meet with Upward Bound staff at another time, perhaps during a school study hall with permission from their teacher. Checking in by phone and e-mail are other possibilities.
3. Go to their school activity practice/meeting.
4. Attend all other Upward Bound activities - Saturday Academies, college tours, etc.

*COMMUNICATION IS KEY!*
Federal STEM Grant Money Awarded to Upward Bound

Upward Bound is pleased to announce it has been awarded a supplemental grant in the amount of $40,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) services.

The funds will be used to pay the tuition for Upward Bound students from Columbus Community High School who would like to take college courses that will count for credit for both high school and college (dual enrollment).

The grant will also fund STEM learning activities such as the Upward Bound STEM Exploration Day hosted by the University of Iowa Latham Fellows, and a trip to Iowa State University for its “Taking the Road Less Traveled” STEM conference for 9th and 10th grade girls.

Free College Courses for CCHS Students Funded by UB STEM Grant

Now through August 31, 2019, students at Columbus Community High School who are members in good standing of the University of Iowa Upward Bound Program may take up to two community college courses for free, thanks to the $40,000 TRIO STEM Supplemental Grant awarded to Upward Bound this year.

The courses are considered dual credit, as the grades earned become part of a student’s permanent high school AND permanent college transcripts.

The courses must be in the STEM field - science, technology, engineering, math. For help choosing and enrolling in a spring or summer course, contact Upward Bound staff.

Eligible students are in good standing at Columbus Community High School and have achieved a 2.5 grade point average. They also attend at least 80% of Upward Bound meetings and events.

CCHS students, take advantage of this incredible opportunity to get started with your college courses at no cost to you, and while you still have the support and resources of your school and Upward Bound staff!

Upward Bound Exceeds Federal Performance Objectives

Congratulations to Upward Bound students and staff on exceeding the required federal objectives during the 2017-2018 year!

As a federally funded program of the United States Department of Education, Upward Bound has multiple outcome goals, or objectives, that it meets in order to measure program effectiveness and secure continued funding.

In December, Upward Bound submitted its annual performance report to the government, and is proud to report the following:

- Upward Bound served 128 students.
- 84% of UB students had a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or above.
- 77% of UB students scored proficient on language arts and/or math standardized tests.
- 99% of UB students advanced to the next grade level.
- 75% of 2018 UB graduates completed a rigorous secondary school program of study.
- 81% of 2018 UB graduates enrolled in college last fall.
- 45% of UB graduates who enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation completed a college degree within six years.

Upward Bound students, let’s aim even higher next year as we make those dreams of higher education a reality!
Calender of Great Things!

- **Saturday, February 23**  **NATIONAL TRIO DAY!**
- **Saturday, February 23**  Saturday Academy  10:00-2:00  Theme: Financial Literacy/Paying for College **featuring former UB summer staff member Lupe Hernandez from the Iowa College Access Network**
- **Saturday, March 2**  Saturday Academy (make up from January) 10:00 am-2:00 pm  Theme: Career/Major Exploration
- **Saturday, March 30**  Cultural Showcase: Multicultural Dance Experience 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **Thursday, April 11**  “Taking the Road Less Traveled” girls’ STEM conference in Ames. Hosted by Iowa State University Program for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) (UB overnight trip for 9th-10th grade girls)
- **Saturday, April 20**  Upward Bound STEM Exploration Day  10:00 am - 2:00 pm  Hosted by the University of Iowa Latham Science Fellows
- **Wednesday, April 24**  “Leading & Excelling, Academically & Professionally (LEAP)” student leadership conference in Des Moines  Hosted by The Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling  (UB overnight trip for 9th-11th graders)
- **Friday, May 10**  Upward Bound Senior Day  10:00 am - 2:30 pm

**After School Meetings:**
- Columbus Community Administrative Center  Wednesdays 2:15-3:15 pm
- Muscatine High School  Thursdays 3:30-4:30 pm
- West Liberty High School  Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 pm

**Tutoring:**
- Columbus Community Admin. Center Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 pm, Columbus Junction Public Library Fridays 3:30-5:00 pm
- Muscatine High School  Mondays 3:30-5:00 pm **NEW!** and Thursdays 4:30-6:00 pm
- West Liberty High School  Mondays 3:30-5:30 pm and Tuesdays 4:30-6:00 pm