



The Upside



A Newsletter for Upward Bound Participants and Their Families

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Upward Bound Director's Report

As many of you may know, the Upward Bound (UB) program is funded by a federal TRIO grant. UB staff advise students in college planning, provide tutoring, provide supplemental instruction in core subjects, and assist with financial aid and college applications. These services are all in effort to reach the following objectives determined by our federal funders:

Academic improvement on standardized test:

75% of all Upward Bound graduates will have achieved at proficient level during high school on state assessments (STAR tests) in reading/language arts and math.

Project retention:

80% of 9th, 10th, and 11th grade participants served during each school year will continue to participate in the UB project during the next school year.

Postsecondary enrollment:

70% of all UB seniors will enroll in postsecondary education by fall term immediately following high school graduation.

Postsecondary persistence:

65% of all UB participants who enrolled in postsecondary education during the fall term immediately following high school graduation will be enrolled for the fall term of the second academic year.

We report our progress in reaching these objectives to our federal funders every fall. Compared to the general student population in the schools served, Upward Bound students excel significantly! The table below shows the stats regarding Upward Bound performance for 2010/2011 year and how they compare to the general student populations at the four PUSD high schools and Westwood High School.

We are currently in the last year of the 5-year cycle of Upward Bound funding and have been working diligently to prepare a proposal for another 5 years of funding that would enable us to continue to serve UB students. The objectives for the next round of funding (Fall 2012-Summer 2017) were changed to include:

- UB Students earning a GPA of >2.5
- Scoring proficient on STAR tests
- Graduating from H.S. in 4 years
- Completing of A-G courses
- Attending college the fall after graduation from high school
- Completing an associate's or bachelor's degree within 6 years after graduation

We submitted the UB proposal this week and expect to find out in summer whether FRC UB is funded to continue to serve students.



Audrey Peters
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Advisor



Michelle Petroelje
Advisor



Tanya Meyer
Project Assistant

Objective	UB Goal	UB 2010-2011	PUSD Schools	Westwood
Proficient on STAR Tests	75%	63%	33% ¹	Unavailable
Project Retention	80%	85%	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Postsecondary Enrollment	70%	72%	36% ²	45% ³
Postsecondary Persistence	65%	76%	Unavailable	Unavailable

¹California Dept. of Education STAR Test Results, 2011

²CA Postsecondary Ed. Commission, 2009

³Target School Surveys, 2010

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Senior Checklist

- Apply to college programs such as Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Program, and Extended Opportunity Programs & Services when you complete your college applications.
- Check with each Financial Aid office for institutional grants and scholarships, applications and deadlines.
- Get your financial papers in order, attend a Cash 4 College night, and submit the FAFSA before **March 2**.
- Update your FAFSA after you have completed your tax returns. Check your e-mail often and send in requested documentation on time.
- Use the worksheet on page 15 of *Fund your Future* magazine to compare financial Aid offers.

Financial Aid for Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshman

Not all scholarships allow you to apply as early as junior year, but many do. The earlier you begin your scholarship search the better. Two great places to start are www.fastweb.com and www.studentaid.ed.gov. Follow the link to the student aid and scholarship wizard under My FSA.

You will find that many of the universities that you are interested in offer scholarships for incoming freshman. While most college scholarships are based on merit, there are others available for ethnicity, religion, and students with unique circumstances or special talents. Many essay and sweepstakes scholarships allow students to apply before their senior year, so you may want to make these types of scholarships your first priority. Below are some links to sites with scholarships for high school students in grades 9-11.

You can also prepare yourself by getting an early estimate of your eligibility for *federal aid* with the FAFSA4caster. Another great website for research is www.finaid.org. You will find more information on scholarships, loans, commonly asked questions and answers, calculator tools and much, much more. This site has a section **especially for parents**. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Parents button. There you will find all sorts of tips for maximizing your eligibility for student aid, budgeting and saving for college.



Scholarship Web Resources:

<http://highscholarships.com/index.html>

www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-grade-level/high-school-scholarships/

www.fastweb.com/

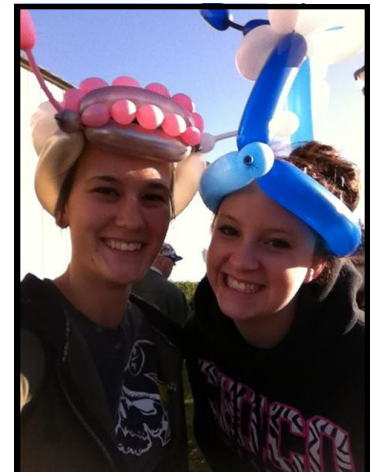
www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.finaid.org



17 students attended a tour of Chico State University during the December academy. Students also visited a photography exhibit in the University Art Gallery and a Holiday Faire at the fairgrounds.

CSU Chico Field Trip December 2011



Hayley and Seda at the Holiday Faire in Chico.

Oregon College Tour

The Upward Bound program has been planning a trip to view a few colleges in the northern part of California and southern Oregon. Along with the site visits, we have included a visit to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to see a showing of Romeo and Juliet. Possible colleges that we may tour are:

- Southern Oregon University
- Rogue Community College
- Lassen Community College
- College of the Siskiyou's



Space is limited to 22 students on this trip, so students with a 2.5 GPA will be given priority on a first come first served basis. **Return the enclosed trip packet as soon as possible to reserve a space on this trip! Because we will be purchasing tickets for Romeo and Juliet in advance, no last minute additions or cancellations will be accepted. In the case that a student cancels, the price of their ticket will be deducted from their monthly stipend check.**

*See enclosed parent packet for complete trip itinerary. **Completed parent packet must be *received* in our office by Thursday, February 16th in order to participate.**

FAFSA

What is the FAFSA and what do you need to know about it?

The FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. High school seniors that are planning on attending college must complete it in order to receive any financial help from the government to go to school. Examples of aid you may qualify for after filling out the FAFSA include the Pell Grant, Cal Grants, Student Loans, and many more. The FAFSA can be filled out at any time, but in order to qualify for the most amount of aid it is important that students complete it between January 1st and March 2nd of their senior year. Students will need to renew their FAFSA each year they are attending college. The FAFSA is always free to fill out and should be submitted online at fafsa.ed.gov.

It is important to understand that your taxes do not need to be finished before filling out the FAFSA. When asked questions about your income and taxes you paid, enter estimates based on taxes that were filed during the previous year. Once your taxes are completed, you can then go back and revise the sections that were estimated. Many students lose out on financial aid opportunities by waiting until April to file their FAFSA rather than filling it out before the March 2nd deadline using estimates.



New Upward Bound Student Policies

Cell Phone Use during meetings/tutoring

Cell phone use during lunch meetings and tutoring sessions has the potential to distract students from complete their work. In return for the stipend paid for lunch meetings and tutoring, we feel that respect for this time is essential. Cell phones will be placed in a basket and turned to "silent" for all lunch meetings and tutoring sessions and will be given back to the student at the end of this period. Should parents need to reach their student during the regularly scheduled Upward Bound lunch meeting, they can call the TRiO room at each school and an advisor will respond. The phone numbers for each school are listed on our website and on the quarterly newsletter.

Grade Point Average

Anyone below a 2.5 GPA for the semester will be ineligible to receive stipends for at least one month. If the student takes the initiative to improve their grade(s) and submits a progress report that reflects the improvement to their advisor by the end of the month, they will be eligible to receive stipends for the following months. If a student is below the 2.5 GPA at the end of the academic year, they will still receive stipends for the summer program based on attendance/participation but will not be eligible to participate in the paid internship program.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.frc.edu/upwardbound/aboutub.htm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! - Upcoming UB Events/Deadlines

Upward Bound Events:

See bus schedule at the bottom of this page!

- **February 4** Saturday Academy 10-3 @FRC
- **February 16** Oregon Trip Permission Slip Deadline
- **March 17** Saturday Academy 10-3 @ FRC
- **March 30-April 1** Northern California/Oregon Trip
- **May 19th** Saturday Academy/SAT & STAR Test Prep

Other Events/Deadlines:

- **March 2** Priority FAFSA submission deadline (can submit later, but will not be considered for as much \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$)
- **March 10th** SAT test-Lassen High School test site (**Feb 10** Reg. Deadline)
- **April 14th** ACT test-Quincy High School test site (**March 9** Reg. Deadline)
- **June 2** SAT test-Quincy High School test site (**May 8** Reg. Deadline)

Weekly Lunch Meetings & FREE After School Tutoring at High Schools

- **Mondays**—Westwood High School
- **Tuesdays**—Portola & Chester High Schools
- **Thursdays**—Quincy & Greenville High

Saturday Academy Bus Schedule		
Location	Pick-up	Drop-off
Westwood HS	8:15 am	4:40 pm
Chester HS	8:35 am	4:20 pm
Canyon Dam	9:00 am	3:55 pm
Greenville HS	9:15 am	3:40 pm
Portola Subway	8:55 am	4:00 pm
Blairsdan	9:20 am	3:15 pm
Greenhorn Ranch	9:35 am	3:00 pm

TRiO
UPWARD BOUND