



Central Michigan University

Upward Bound September

"WHERE PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY"

IN THIS ISSUE

The Latest News

by Whitney Bondy

Welcome back students! Upward Bound staff members are happy to have students back into our offices. It's been a busy summer and we have exciting plans for the fall. We're happy to kick-off this new school year with you!

New Director

We are pleased to announce that we have inaugurated a new director: Ms. Primavera Jimenez (check out her letter on page 2!). Ms. Primavera comes to us from SER-Metro Detroit (located in Southwest Detroit). She brings plenty of experience and has some great new ideas for our program. She will be leading us through several new ventures this year.

New Programming

Upon beginning work with Upward Bound, one of Ms. Primavera's first initiatives was to recruit students to play a crucial role in planning our program for the fall. Throughout the month of August, staff members worked with students to create a mission statement and vision for Upward Bound. Together, we've reviewed past practices, taken the best of an already great

program, and come up with some new ideas to put in place over the course of the fall.

Sneak peeks...

You may be wondering what all of these great new ideas are... Details are still being finalized, but some key components include the following:

Workshops: Upward Bound has done workshops in the past, and now we are working hard to revitalize this practice with topics that are meaningful and relevant to our students.

Sharpening skills: Tutoring and College Goal Saturday have long been UB institutions, but we are looking for ways to enhance these components so that students are more prepared than ever to take the ACT and get into their college of choice.

Expanding resources: With the help of our new director, and a little networking, we'll be working hard to make sure students have more tools and connections than ever.



Happy Graduation, Class of 2014!

Upward Bound is thrilled to wish nine of our students the best of luck after graduating in June. Students are continuing their education in a myriad of ways. Grad Eboni Thomas is pictured.



What a Summer!

While others slept away their summer vacation, Upward Bound students attended Oakland Community College, lived like college students at Central Michigan University, and traveled across the country. Check it out!

Letter from the Director

by Primavera Jimenez

Dear Upward Bound Students and Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the new Director of the Upward Bound Program. I am very grateful to have been afforded this opportunity and will do my best to lead the team in following the mission/goals of the program.

I graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in Interpersonal Communications and then went on to receive my Master of Arts in Education from the College of Santa Fe. I have over 10 years of experience working with youth and have spent the last eight years working in Detroit with students in DPS/charter schools.

Throughout my career, I have served and advocated for youth by promoting education and developing programs that make a difference in the lives of our young people. I am committed and passionate about working with young people, empowering them to succeed and watching them flourish into leaders.



I am excited to build upon the amazing foundation set forth by Ms. Montisa Watkins, the outgoing Director, and enhancing the program offerings. The CMU Upward Bound Program has an incredible representation among our schools, students, and staff because of the emphasis on success and college access for all students. I will continue to promote a college-going culture among our students.

I look forward to working with you (parents/students) and having a successful school year. I hope to meet you all soon at the **Meet and Greet** on September 25, 2014!

All the best,

Primavera Jimenez



After much hard work and perseverance, nine Upward Bound students have successfully completed high school.

Hats Off to the Class of 2014!

by Whitney Bondy

Every year, Upward Bound works extensively with our senior class to make sure they are academically and financially prepared for college. While we strive to reach this goal, it's always with a tiny bit of sadness that we wave goodbye to another graduating class. This past June, we saw nine of our seniors go on to bigger and better things:

- Teyjzhaniq Jordan-Parker
- Shermaya Lorainey
- Christopher Mayfield
- Tamira Mitchel
- Deonjanay Peterson
- Eboni Thomas
- Jazmin Thomas
- Nfeftrica Turrentine
- Imani Wilson

Before our seniors left, we asked some of them to reflect on their time with Upward Bound and on what they would like to see for future graduating classes. They unanimously expressed gratitude to the program for helping them cross the bridge from high school to college. The graduates hope future generations of Upward Bound students will take advantage of all of the resources Upward Bound provides, knowing from experience that college dreams CAN be achieved when you work for them.

Members of this graduating class will be attending Eastern Michigan University, Oakland Community College, and Oakland University, among others. We wish them the best of luck!

A True Upward Bound Summer!

While high school students across the nation spent their summer just playing games in virtual video worlds, UB students got to explore new worlds firsthand—whether that meant attending a real live college course, living it up college-student style at Central Michigan University (CMU), or traveling across the country to discover brand new places.

The summer kicked-off with our annual two-week ACT preparation courses at Detroit International Academy (DIA). All Upward Bound students were invited to participate. CMU college students majoring in education met with students each day to refresh old academic skills and teach new ones.

The Bridge Program

After the first week at DIA, UB's rising seniors departed to begin their first college course at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak. Students taking the course, entitled "College Success Skills" (what could be more appropriate for an UB student?) spent two evenings a week at OCC right alongside real college students. According to senior Ashlee Rivera, "college isn't anything like high school, so it was really hard at first, but I feel more prepared to for college now."

The Summer Academy at CMU

Meanwhile, after the rising sophomores and juniors wrapped up their ACT prep sessions at DIA, they packed up their belongings and shipped off for Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI. These got to live, eat, and breathe like college students nonetheless as they moved into CMU residence halls and proceeded to live on campus for the next three weeks.

While at CMU, students attended intensive ACT courses during the day. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students took field trips to places like Papa's Pumpkin Patch (a local farm complete with fresh cider and donuts) and CMU's own rock museum in Rowe Hall. They even had opportunity to volunteer in Mt. Pleasant's Art Reach (see student Carmelia Smith in the top of the next column), an annual art show downtown.

Between the hours of 7 p.m.-9 p.m. while in Mt. Pleasant, students could be found in combat on a part of campus-turned-

battlefield with foam swords and handcrafted shields Hunger Games style, shooting out of waterslides at top speeds in the local indoor waterpark, or trying to keep it together during Upward Bound's own version of MTV's "Silent Library."



Out of Class Learning Experience

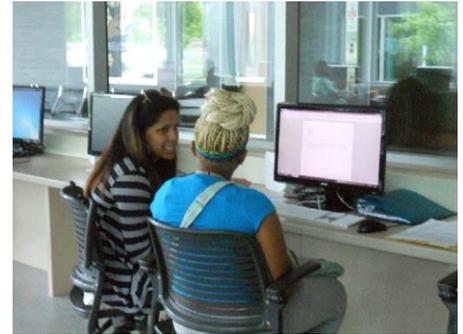
After three weeks at CMU, sophomores and juniors had one week to recuperate before jetting off on UB's annual multi-state college tour. This year students traversed through Ohio and Kentucky, visiting six schools including Kentucky State University, Wilberforce University (pictured below), and Ohio State University. The tours are



designed to field a variety of collegiate interests so that students understand that their future college can be as unique as they are. Students enjoyed the tour tremendously, and have added some new colleges to their list this year, which means the summer was truly a success.

As junior student Victoria Spencer sums it up, "The best part of the summer was the adventure of learning things you didn't know before and getting to know other people in the program." Upward Bound hopes the adventure will continue for future students!

AROUND CMU



Working Together

Amanda Johnson (left) and Samira Hyter (right) are pictured above working on Samira's paper. Ms. Johnson was one of UB's summer teachers.



Down on the Farm

Students Asisa Hawkins (left) and LeAnna Turner (right) pet a young horse at Papa's Pumpkin Patch. While visiting the farm, students also picked their own fruit and took a tractor tour of the produce grown there.



The Hunger Games!

Mentor Whitney Thomas (right) goes to make the final strike against student Monterrio Jackson during the epic foam sword battle that took place one evening. Any limb touched with the sword could no longer be used to fight. Here, Monterrio had lost the use of his legs and Miss Whitney the use of her left arm.

PROGRAM GLIMPSE



Prepare for the ACT

Getting a great ACT score is one of the first steps into getting into college. We prepare our students with tutoring sessions, prep classes, and summer program to help students succeed.



Learn Outside of the Classroom

Student Victoria Spencer meets a Holocaust survivor at the Holocaust Museum in Dearborn, MI during a college tour in February 2014.

FAST FACTS

85%

Of current jobs require a college degree or postsecondary education (according to scasd.org).

25%

Of high school student graduate college-ready in the four core subjects of math, English, reading, and science (according to usnews.com)

STAY IN THE LOOP!

Follow us on Twitter @CMUpwardbound

Our website:
www.cmich.edu/office_provost/OID/
upward_bound



Amanda Johnson (left), Whitney Thomas (center), and Fatima Sylvertooth (right) are all Upward Bound alumni that served as staff members at this year's summer academy.

Now Recruiting Students!

by Whitney Bondy

Do you know a student that would be a great addition to the Upward Bound family? We would love to hear from you!

Who We Are

Upward Bound is a federally funded TRiO program, affiliated with Central Michigan University. Our program serves students at Detroit Collegiate Prep at Northwestern High. We believe that education is a game changer, so we aim to help students that are worried about affording college or that might be from families that have never had a college graduate succeed in high school and get into college. Upward Bound can open doors, share resources, and mentor students through their high school years into a successful collegiate career.

What We Do

The first step in being college-ready is making it through high school. We work with students to improve grade point averages by offering tutoring and individual meetings with students to track progress and set goals. UB students also attend ACT prep sessions and workshops so that, when the time comes, they are prepared for success.

The second part of our program exposes students to every aspect of college so that they can confidently pick the right school. We talk about college frequently in the classroom, but we prefer to go beyond that with our students. We take two-day college tours throughout the school year, and one major weeklong one each summer. This enables students to see a variety of schools in different parts of the country, thus helping them to find the one that's right for them.

How to Become a Part of Upward Bound

Interested students can visit the Upward Bound office in room #305 at Detroit Collegiate Prep at Northwestern High for more information. Even if students are unsure about joining the program, we would love to answer questions and tell them more about what we do.

To keep up with Upward Bound activities, follow us on Twitter @CMUpwardbound!

Important Upcoming UB Dates:

September 16—Afterschool programming begins Tuesdays and Thursdays at DCP, on Wednesdays at DIA

September 19- ACT Registration deadline

September 25- Meet and Greet Student & Parent Meeting

Staff Information

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Student Spotlight

Coming Soon! Students: we will be featuring one of you each month in future editions of the newsletter, so if you're doing something awesome, make sure you let us know!