Upward Bound Program Concludes Another Successful Year

The planning and establishment of Hagerstown Community College’s TRiO: Upward Bound Program began in September 2012 and was led by staff from the HCC Academic Affairs Office. In collaboration with the Washington County Public School System, Upward Bound has helped numerous students with college readiness and exploration, as well as provided students with guidance, additional resources, and the support to be successful. Students have shown dedication and commitment to the program by continuously attending program activities, such as tutoring sessions, Saturday sessions, field trips, etc.

Upward Bound provided services to a total of 70 students from Hancock Middle Senior High School, North Hagerstown High School, South Hagerstown High School, and Williamsport High School for the 2013-2014 project year. Through various services offered by the program, students were provided an opportunity to get a head start on college planning and preparation beginning as early as ninth grade.

Examples of Upward Bound services include: after-school tutoring, personalized advising, college and career planning assistance, pre-college workshops, information on financial literacy and financial aid, cultural field trips and college tours, guest speaker presentations, specialized academic enrichment curricula, and opportunities to earn college credit free of tuition and fees. All services are free to the Upward Bound students and are supported by grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education. Many of the students accepted into the HCC Upward Bound Program have hopes of being the first in their families to complete a college degree.

Throughout the second project year, Upward Bound experienced a slight transition in staffing. Mylynh Nguyen, former coordinator, resigned from her position in May after accepting a position at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Mylynh will continue to support the HCC UpwardBound Program and will happily assist any student interested in attending GU in the future. Kimberly Toms, the former South Hagerstown High School Upward Bound coach and lead teacher, was hired to replace Mylynh as coordinator. Kimberly brings enthusiasm and years of teaching experience to the program and plans to help Upward Bound reach its full potential.
2014 Summer Academy Offers Students Opportunity to Advance on Coursework

The Upward Bound Program offered its second Summer Academy where students committed six weeks of their summer break to enhancing their academic skills. From June 20 through August 1, 50 students participated in the Summer Academy five days a week for a minimum of five hours each day. Washington County Public School teachers were hired to develop and implement activity-based learning curricula in the subject areas of math, science, English, and Spanish. Hagerstown Community College faculty taught college coursework for Math 099, Math 101, and English 101. Students attended class Monday through Thursday and utilized several resources available to them on campus, such as the library and Learning Support Center for tutoring. After successful completion of the Summer Academy, students could earn up to two high school elective credits and/or three to nine college credits. The academy was free for students — tuition and fees were funded by the U.S. Department of Education and Hagerstown Community College.

Summer Bridge students: The Upward Bound Summer Bridge Program is specifically designed to help students who recently graduated high school transition to college. Students can earn up to 12 college credits over the summer before starting their first official semester as a college student.

Christina Aviles Johnson and Wales University in Florida
O’Shea Taft Albright College in Pennsylvania
Keeva Curry Hagerstown Community College
Alysa Conomos Hagerstown Community College
Ashleigh Godisch Hagerstown Community College
Kierstan Gorsuch Hagerstown Community College
Juwan Jamison-Williams University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Santana Stevens Hagerstown Community College

For most students, classes ended at 11:30 a.m. and lunch was provided in the Athletic, Recreation and Community Center on campus. Students could also utilize other buildings on campus for homework or studying, participate in an organized volleyball/basketball game, use the HCC Fitness Center, or attend a yoga class. Upward Bound collaborated with Open Minds from Hagerstown this past summer to conduct a mindfulness class that incorporated journaling and yoga. Students who regularly participated in the yoga session were given their own yoga mat at the end of the academy to continue practicing the skills they learned in class.

Jan Hummer and her business partner, Amanda, conducted a mindfulness class with Upward Bound students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays as part of the Summer Academy.

For the first day of Summer Academy, Cedar Ridge Adventures came to campus for a day of interactive team-building activities. In the picture below, students create a solution to move the entire bucket of tennis balls using only the ropes provided.

Alyssa Conomos
Jane Johnson
Keeva Curry
Christina Aviles
O’Shea Taft
Keeva Curry
Alysa Conomos
Ashleigh Godisch
Kierstan Gorsuch
Juwan Jamison-Williams
Santana Stevens

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Students Receive Awards at 2014 Recognition Ceremony

Students dedicated several hours outside of their regular school day to Upward Bound activities in order to prepare for college enrollment. In honor of their hard work, students were awarded certificates based on their performances in the program. Approximately 150 people attended the ceremony, including WCPS and HCC faculty and staff. Jeremy Buckson, an admissions counselor from Shepherd University, and Sydne Arnold, Upward Bound alumni and student at UMBC, provided motivational speeches to the audience. Students who received the Academic Excellence Award were among the top three highest grade point averages in their high school:

- Kylah Barnes - 4.04
- North Hagerstown High School
- Sarah Napoleon - 4.0
- South Hagerstown High School
- Stephanie Leisinger - 4.0
- Williamsport High School
- Tara Buskirk - 3.87
- Hancock Middle-Senior High School
- Lili Flowers - 3.84
- Hancock Middle-Senior High School
- Sheniesha Lake - 3.80
- South Hagerstown High School

Students who received the SSL Hours from Community Service award participated in community service and earned Student Service Learning hours that count towards their high school graduation.

Upward Bound Students earn SSL Hours from Community Service

In addition to academic activities, students are expected to participate in community service. Each year, Upward Bound collaborates with other organizations within the surrounding community to develop service tasks for students to complete. Students who participate in community service also receive Student Service Learning hours that count towards their high school graduation.

- Students volunteered to help staff run the annual MUDD Volleyball Tournament to benefit the Community Free Clinic.
- Students cleaned up the Washington Monument State Park in Middletown, MD.
- Students who cleaned up the park then climbed to the top of the Washington Monument after learning about the detailed history.
Active Upward Bound Participants

Erin McKee, Upward Bound science teacher for the 2014 Summer Academy, instructs students on how to test and measure water quality at Devil’s Backbone Park in Boonsboro. Students then analyzed and compared water quality readings using results gathered from two different days.

Kassandra Almonte, SHHS
Elizabeth Anderson, WHS
Nicholas Andreacci, WHS
Victoria Auper, WHS
Joshua Atta, WHS
Stephanie Atta, WHS
Kyle Barnes, NHHS
Cody Barharc, SHHS
Cole Barnhart, SHHS
Darius Bowie, SHHS
Kyra Boyd, SHHS
Shabree’ Brown, SHHS
Tara Buskirk, HHS
Alexa Butler, NHHS

Shannon Butts, WHS
Edward Chapait, NHHS
Jonathan Crawford, SHHS
Thomas Eovonla, SHHS
Jarlin Farrell, SHHS
Lili Flowers, HMPHS
Nathan Francis, PHPMS
Faith Hargrett, HMPMS
Hope Hargrett, HMPMS
Iain Holman, SHHS
Patricia Howard, WHS
Felicia Jamison, SHHS
Malaysha Kay, SHHS
Sheniesha Lake, SHHS

Amanda Lamont, NHHS
Jessica Lamont, NHHS
Jessica Lamont, NHHS
Chad Leather, WHS
Briana Legent, SHHS
Amber Lesinger, WHS
Stephanie Lesinger, WHS
Marcus Manes, SHHS
Hunter McBee, HMPMS
Alyssa Miller, SHHS
Nazaya Miller, WHS
Carlie Monninger, NHHS
Kobi Morgan, NHHS
Jennifer Morris, NHHS
Sarah Napoleon, SHHS
Mariah Orc, SHHS
Sarah Osborne, WHS
Dusty Pine, WHS
Bethany Pruchniwski, SHHS
Rebecca Rooney, SHHS
Amanda Sauders, NHHS
Brooke Stotler, HMPHS
Harmony Stotler, HMPMS
Devon Scottlenyer, SHHS
Taylor Swisson, NHHS
Gordon Young, SHHS

Do you know someone who would be a good fit for Upward Bound? Here’s how you can apply:

• Complete the Upward Bound application and submit to Upward Bound staff. The application can be found at your high school guidance office, or online.

• After your application has been reviewed, you will be interviewed by Upward Bound staff.

Spring 2014 Saturday Sessions: Students attend a maximum of 10 Saturday Sessions during the academic year on the campus of HCC. Upward Bound staff work with students to review informational topics including, but not limited to: the financial aid process and applying for scholarships, the college application process, preparing for college entrance exams (i.e., SAT and ACT), and career research. Students are provided bus transportation to and from the activity, as well as breakfast and lunch.

Upward Bound Staff

Kimberly Toms
Coordinator
Danielle Donovan
Advising and Assessment Specialist
Tracy Rider
Hancock Middle Senior High School
Upward Bound Coach
Beth Hoffman
North Hagerstown High School
Upward Bound Coach
Stephanie Poling
South Hagerstown High School
Upward Bound Coach
Robert Rubeck
Williamsport High School
Upward Bound Coach

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Hagerstown Community College Upward Bound News

July Field Trip: Students visited the University of Virginia (UVa) during the 2014 Summer Academy. UVa is the only university in the United States that is a World Heritage Site, as designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Students were surprised to hear that it was of extreme privilege to live in the original rooms on campus as a senior because the rooms still do not have plumbing. For some students living in the original dormitories (pictured directly behind the group below), it is a mile to the nearest bathroom.

Special Thanks

Dr. David Warner
Vice President of Academic Affairs, HCC, and division chairs
Anne Shepard
Director of Grants and Special Projects, HCC
Jennifer Felice
Assistant Director, Finance, HCC
Brad Shepard
Director of Research and Assessment, HCC
Sandy Harrison & staff
Food Services, HCC
Beth Moore
College Readiness Specialist, WCPS
Jessica Reinhard
Supervisor of Special Programs, WCPS
Barbara Scotto & staff
Supervisor of Transportation, WCPS
Michael Embly & staff
WCPS Food and Nutrition Service

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June Field Trip: Students and staff pose in front of the John Carroll Statue at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., during an Upward Bound college tour. Georgetown University has the largest student-run business and largest student-run banking program in the country.

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