

TRIO UPWARD BOUND

JANUARY, 2019, ISSUE 1



Dear APU TRiO Upward Bound Friends and Partners,

On August 31st we successfully completed our first year as a program and as an Upward Bound Team. Today we launch our first newsletter that will serve as a medium to share Upward Bound's milestones, successes, partnerships, and outcomes with our community and partners.

As I reflect on the first year of the Upward Bound (UB) program, I am amazed at all that we have accomplished. None of this would be possible without the wonderful Upward Bound Team. Iliana Yopez and Katelyn Hernandez contribute to the success of UB through meaningful and selfless acts of service to our UB Scholars.

Looking forward to our second year, it is exciting to see how much more we will be offering UB Scholars. There are new initiatives for the 2018-2019 academic year that will bolster our student's experience in ways I hope will encourage and motivate them to pursue their biggest and wildest dreams.

Lastly, Upward Bound would not be as successful without our community and campus partners. Your support is invaluable and your commitment to Upward Bound is immeasurable. Thank you! I look forward to sharing all the wonderful things that the 2018 - 2019 year has in store.

Armando Bustos
Project Director, TRiO Upward Bound

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UB SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

KAREN CENICEROS

Ms. Karen Cenicerros is an exemplary junior at Azusa High School. As part of our new initiatives this year, we send out weekly communications about scholarships that all of our Scholars might be eligible for. We encourage all of our students to apply for multiple scholarships. Karen is one of our most committed UB Scholars. She was one of the first students to take advantage of this new information and get help to complete scholarships. In November, she received recognition for her dedication and hard work when she won a \$750 scholarship from the Latino College Expo. Junior and senior high school students were eligible to apply and interested students submitted an essay of 500 words or less about, "Why a College Education is Important to Me."

Karen wrote about her aspirations of showing her appreciation toward her parents who have sacrificed everything for her and her dream of developing her own cosmetic brand and business. She understands that post-secondary education will help her achieve these goals and demonstrated to the scholarship readers that she was the perfect recipient of this award. At the Latino College Expo on November 10th at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center, Karen, along with 9 other scholarship recipients, received her award. Karen is a model UB Scholar and has paved the way for many other UB students to believe in their abilities and motivation to succeed.



KAMY TA

As the founder and president of the Aztec Robotics Club, Ms. Kamy Ta is a cutting-edge junior at Azusa High School. Kamy is an honor roll scholar inside the classroom and her passion to encourage others' involvement in STEM-related activities truly set her apart from many in her community. Kamy values the STEM courses provided by her school but wanted to create a space for students to apply the lessons they learned in class towards hands-on engineering projects and designs. In addition, she wanted a space where STEM projects would be fun and socially engaging for all students, in order to strengthen the presence and interest of STEM on campus. Hence, the Aztecs Robotics club is for all Azusa High School students who demonstrate an interest in coding, working with robotics, and

the STEM field. In this club, students develop problem-solving and collaboration skills by receiving hands-on experience with VEX robots and programming in C++. The process of finding a club advisor, electing the committee, creating the club constitution, agreements, and bylaws was extensive, but this November 8th Kamy became a pioneer for STEM at her high school. Currently, the club meets twice a week after school to learn about the basics of assembling robots and the fundamentals of programming. This is all in preparation for the annual VEX Robotics competition. In the future, she hopes that her club will represent Azusa High School in multiple robotics competitions nationwide, but most importantly inspire students in her community to get involved in STEM.

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2017-2018 school year was a year of meaningful accomplishments for Upward Bound. It was our first year with the program and our 60 Scholars from Azusa High School. We were able to complete three parent meetings, 8 Saturday Academy workshops, and a multitude of individual counseling and tutoring hours with our students. These accomplishments were possible through the amazing collaborations and partnerships built throughout the community. Throughout the year we have worked to build a strength-based culture to encourage our Scholars to build self-advocacy and confidence in both their education and life. We want to highlight some of the events that were significant to the personal, career, and college development of our TRiO Upward Bound Scholars.

One collaboration that was instrumental in achieving our goal and our students' personal development was the partnership with Dr. David Zovak from Azusa Pacific University's Noel Academy for Strength-Based Leadership and Education. Dr. Zovak introduced strengths to UB Scholars during one of our Saturday Academies. Prior to this workshop, students took the StrengthsExplorer assessment which identified their top 3 talents. During Saturday Academy, Dr. Zovak led a workshop and discussion on each of the students' talents and how they can best utilize them to help improve their life as a student, their relationships, and their personal development. The analysis of their specific strengths and workshops on growth mindset and self-awareness have truly helped the students shift from a deficit to a positive perspective when they struggle or come across boundaries in their education or life.

Aside from individual growth, we focus strongly on career awareness. This summer during our first Summer Academy, we introduced a career speaker series, where every week we had professionals from different careers speak to our students about their vocational journey. With the help of the Azusa Pacific University, Office of Alumni Engagement and Brandon Ramirez from Hyundai Motor America, we were able to offer 8 different career speakers to our Scholars. The speakers engaged our students and contributed to our Scholars' understanding of the different pathways to multiple career options.

Lastly, we provided the students with a true college experience during our Summer Academy Program Networking Week. Through collaboration with several APU offices: GEN1 Scholars, Center for Career and Calling, University Counseling Center, One Stop, and TRiO Student Support Services, the students found and visited each office, learned about their resources, and asked them at least three questions. Students remember this activity as a memorable and rewarding experience of the summer because they learned about the power of networking and taking advantage of resources, while also improving their social skills.

This year was a year of many firsts, but we hope to continue highlighting the amazing work of our Upward Bound Team, partnerships, and Scholars.



"The speakers engaged our students and contributed to our Scholars' understanding of the different pathways to multiple career options."

"Upward Bound was extremely fortunate to participate in this exclusive event because it truly gave the students a new perspective into the world of professional careers that they would otherwise have not received as high school students."



FALL 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with Brandon Ramirez, Senior Group Manager of Product Public Relations at Hyundai Motor America, 10 of our Upward Bound seniors attended Hyundai Motor America's Career Experience Program on October 4th in Fountain Valley. The purpose of this program was to prepare youth for their future by learning and experiencing the different career pathways in the automotive industry at Hyundai Motor America's Corporate Headquarters. The programming began with remarks from the CEO, Mr. Kenny Lee and an inspirational speech about persistence and perseverance by Amanda Sales, Entertainment Host at FOX LA. The students were then led to workshops that provided hands-on projects from each department at

Hyundai: product planning, marketing, human resources, social media marketing, legal, sales, purchasing, engineering, and technology. This was a powerful experience for our students because they were able to encounter tasks that each department completes on a daily basis, while also networking with different employers. Upward Bound was extremely fortunate to participate in this exclusive event because it truly gave the students a new perspective into the world of professional careers that they would otherwise have not received as high school students.

We look forward to our continued partnership with Hyundai and the exciting opportunities for our students.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2019

In September, Upward Bound received a supplemental award of \$20,665 from the Department of Education to increase STEM activities and programming for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The program will use the funding to support UB Scholars' performance in high school STEM-related courses and introduce them to new fields of study, experiences, and careers.

As a result of the increased funding, UB launched an online tutoring platform in October to provide UB Scholars with alternative options for tutoring in science and math. Students have the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one session with tutors. In addition, the supplemental award will fund a partnership with Barnabas Robotics to offer a curriculum that will introduce UB

Scholars to product design, coding, and hardware engineering. Upward Bound also happily announces its first partnership with APU's Center for Research in Science (CRIS). CRIS will provide two STEM demonstrations and student panels for our UB Scholars. These hands-on demonstrations in science along with the opportunity to hear from current APU students studying in the STEM field will expose students to unfamiliar fields in science. This will be a great opportunity for our Scholars to engage with undergraduate students and learn about their motivation, challenges, and successes. Lastly, we are planning our summer field trips and are hoping to visit industry partners and explore career opportunities in STEM.

UPWARD BOUND BY THE NUMBERS

2017 - 2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

88%

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
participants served during the project year will have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a four-point scale at the end of the school year.

100%

SECONDARY SCHOOL RETENTION AND GRADUATION
of participants continued in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level, or will have graduated from secondary school with a regular secondary school diploma.

3.33

AVERAGE CUMMULATIVE GPA

2018 - 2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

\$750

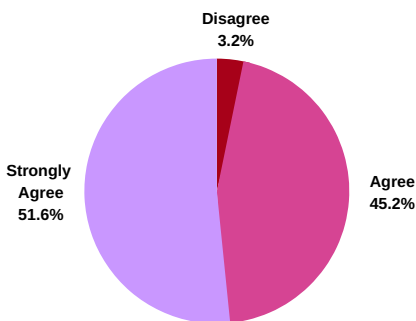
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS EARNED

34

SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSIONS

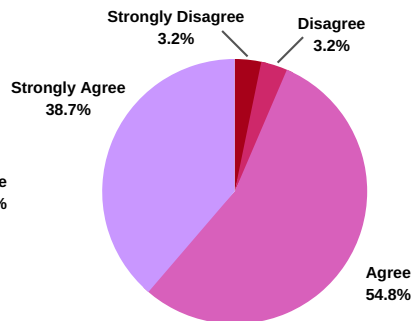
MID-YEAR EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday Academy has equipped me to be a better student



"I love all the lessons and the information that we have learned in Saturday Academy, it makes me so proud when I go to a college information meeting and all of the information presented is stuff I already know because of Saturday Academy."

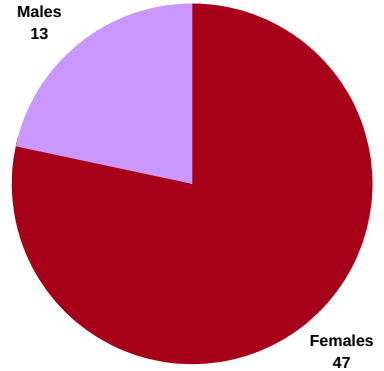
Individual counseling helped me pick my classes for next year.



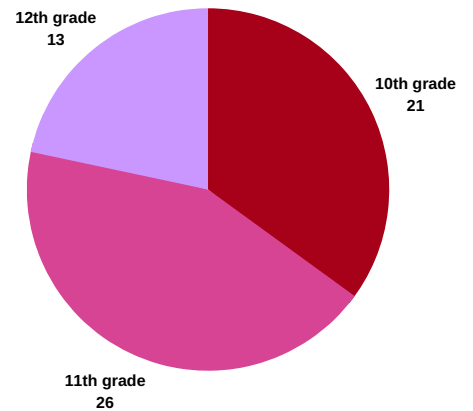
"Upward Bound has made me accept the parts of myself I was stubborn to, I have made friends, I have been more outgoing, I am cracking out of my shell slowly but surely"

DEMOGRAPHICS

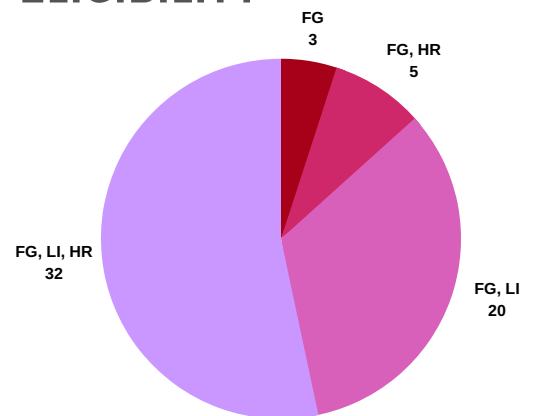
GENDER



GRADE LEVEL



ELIGIBILITY



FG: First-generation to college
HR: High-risk for academic failure
LI: Low-income

*as defined by the U.S. Department of Education

SPRING 2019 EVENTS

January 12 - Saturday Academy

Financial Aid
College Entrance Exam Preparation
Senior Workshops
Barnabas Robotics

January 26 - Saturday Academy

Financial Literacy
College Entrance Exam Preparation
Senior Workshops
Barnabas Robotics

February 9 - Saturday Academy

Career Exploration
College Entrance Exam Preparation
Senior Workshops

February 23 - Saturday Academy

Career Exploration
College Entrance Exam Preparation
Senior Workshops
Barnabas Robotics

March 9 - Saturday Academy

Strengths
SBAC Preparation
Senior Workshops
Barnabas Robotics

March 23 - Cultural Field Trip

Getty Museum

April 3 - College Tour

Long Beach City College
Cal State University, Long Beach

April 6 - Saturday Academy

Mental Health
SBAC Preparation
Senior Workshop
APU CRIS Demonstration

April 9 - Parent Meeting

Interpreting your Financial Aid
Making your Final College Selection

April 13 - Saturday Academy

End of Year Reflection
SBAC Preparation
Senior Workshop
APU CRIS Demonstration

May 30 - Parent Meeting

Summer Academy Orientation



UPWARD BOUND CHAMPIONS

Azusa Unified School District

Arturo Ortega, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services
Dayna Mitchell, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Azusa High School

Dr. Martin Gomez, Principal
Karina Hernandez, College and Career Center Technician

Community Partners

Hyundai Motor America

Brandon Ramirez, Senior Group Manager, Product Public Relations

Neighborhood Homework House

Jennifer Hicks, Executive Director
Stephanie D'Avirro, Director of Programs

Azusa Pacific University

Dr. Vicky Bowden, Vice Provost
Dr. Theodore Szeto, Executive Director, Undergraduate Academic Success Center
Dr. Keith Hall, Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer
Dr. David Zovak, Director, Noel Academy Strengths-Based Leadership and Education
Jennie Godoy, Director, TRiO Student Support Services
Cassandra Gonzalez, First-Generation Coordinator, GEN1 Scholars Program
Sally Mansour, Executive Director, Community Counseling Center
Center for Career and Calling
Office of Alumni Engagement

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<https://www.apu.edu/academic-success/upward-bound/>