

# UPWARD BOUND NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events!

### UPWARD BOUND AWARD AND RECOGNITION BANQUET

Our 8th Annual Upward Bound Award and Recognition Banquet is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 21, 2015. We are excited to host this event in a new location – the La-Z-Boy Center Atrium and Meyer Theater, located on the beautiful campus of Monroe County Community College. We hope you will join us. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Beth Lekity if your Upward Bound student has not received his/her invitation.



### AIRPORT & MONROE HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES



We are excited to have over 20 graduating seniors between both of our Upward Bound programs! Both Airport and Monroe High Schools have scheduled their commencement ceremonies for graduating seniors on Friday, May 29, 2015. AHS will hold its ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on the Airport High School Football Field. MHS will hold its ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on the Monroe High School Football Field. Locations may change in inclement weather.

### UPWARD BOUND SUMMER PROGRAM

Our six-week summer program will begin on Monday, June 22, 2015 and end on Friday, July 31, 2015. As in previous years, students will receive transportation to and from the college campus, breakfast in the morning, and lunch in the early afternoon. Field Trip Fridays are in the planning process and more information will be available at a later date. Please remember that all student excusals must be approved by Dr. Anthony Quinn. You are welcome to contact him directly or work with Beth Lekity, UB Administrative Assistant, to coordinate your excusals from the summer program.

PLEASE REVIEW, COMPLETE, AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM IMMEDIATELY!

### UPWARD BOUND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT TRIP

We have planned a wonderful Cultural Enrichment Trip for all eligible students to the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This trip will take place from Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5, 2015. Some of the highlights include a chocolate tasting at Hershey's Chocolate World, a tour and mock trial at the National Constitution Center, a fun and exciting team Scavenger Hunt in the historic district of the city, dining aboard a 110-year old, 4-masted sailing ship, and a campus tour of Temple University. Students must QUALIFY for this trip! In order to be eligible for the trip, a student MUST:

- Carry a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better for the previous academic year.
- Commit to attend the summer program (with no more than 4 excused & ZERO unexcused absences).
- Display Excellent Behavior both in and out of the classroom.
- Have a Positive Attitude, Be Kind, and Demonstrate Respect and Responsibility.



## ADMINISTRATIVE

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## HAVE YOU MOVED???

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Education requires our staff to contact every student that receives services from Upward Bound on an ANNUAL basis for SIX (yes, SIX) years following your high school graduation. Not to mention, we are interested in keeping in contact with our students as we care about their educational success! Please remember to call or email any of our staff should ANY of your contact information ever change.

## From the Director's Desk: Finish the School Year Strong!



As the school year comes to a close, we are asking that you remember to stay diligent and motivated to finish the academic year strong! We are so proud of the accomplishments that so many of you have earned this year! No matter what the accomplishment was - whether that be a college acceptance, passing a class that you never thought you could, or finding a group of friends that have helped to motivate you and want you to be a better student – we ask that you keep that positive momentum in place and end the year on an upswing.



### Here are a few ideas how to keep yourself grounded over the next few months:

1. Stick to your routine! It is certainly tempting to let the warm weather, longer days, and spring air change our routine but don't stray too far away from what has been working for you so far this year.
2. Keep your study habits! Attend Upward Bound tutorial sessions AT LEAST two times each week. Dedicate these hours to staying focused and finishing assignments so that you free up your evenings to take advantage of the nicer weather.
3. Eat and sleep well! Your brain and body need the proper nutrients to function at their highest levels!
4. Stay involved! Continue to use your resources to check on grades, make sure assignments are turned in and recorded, and update any discrepancies. Reassess previous assignments in order to understand what went wrong and to prepare for future quizzes and tests. **DON'T MISS SCHOOL!**
5. Ask for help! Ask your teachers what you can do to get your grades where you want them to be and use your Upward Bound time wisely! Your academic counselor, the UB Staff, and tutors are there to help and want you to **SUCCEED!**

Please remember that the Upward Bound staff is here to help you!

*Anthony Quinn*

## 2015 MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit



On March 20, 2015, 16 MCCC Upward Bound students traveled to the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City to participate in the 2015 MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit. TRIO staff and students from all over Michigan gathered to participate in the Summit's theme of "Building Leaders Today for Tomorrow". The Summit featured topics and activities that were designed to grow each student as a leader. The students experienced insightful speakers, engaging workshops, and fun networking opportunities. Some of the workshops that were offered to the students were: "Understanding Financial Aid", "Building Blocks to a Bachelor's Degree", and "Leadership Keys to Success".



The Keynote Speaker for the event was Aaron A. Payment, MPA. Chairperson Payment is serving in the third year of his second term as Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His tribe is the largest east of the Mississippi. Among other professional accomplishments, Aaron has provided annual training for over twenty years on Tribal Sovereignty & Government-to-Government relations to future Michigan legislators through the Michigan Political Leadership Program which is housed out of MSU and has served as a summer camp counselor for sixteen summers for the Lake Superior State University Upward Bound Program. Aaron believes in giving back and affording other disadvantaged people a hand up to overcome adversity, the impacts of social injustices, and the lack of opportunity.



### Monroe High School Student Representatives

Dedra Brown  
 Jonathon Brown (2015 MI-CAPP Scholarship Award Recipient)  
 Avery Haynes  
 Arthur McCray  
 Samantha Peters  
 Alana Shannon  
 Xavier Turnage  
 Aurea Williams

### Airport High School Student Representatives

Eryn Brooks  
 Kamesha Calloway  
 Maryah Cheatham  
 Gaige Frederick  
 Emilio Ruiz  
 Samantha Stanchik  
 Michael Tovar  
 Connor Wynne

## STIPENDS: HOW ARE THEY CALCULATED?

As you all know, we have changed the way that our stipends are distributed. We are now distributing stipends every three months (roughly). This change was made due to the high occurrence of lost and uncashed checks by program participants and to create financial efficiency within our business processes. The estimated delivery dates for stipend check disbursement within the academic school year are mid-December, early March, and mid-June. While they are distributed every three months, the amounts still reflect each student's monthly participation. In every 4-week (month) period, there are 24 hours available. In order to receive a stipend check for each 4-week period, the student must:

- **Attend AT LEAST four (4) hours of Upward Bound tutorials each week (or attend qualifying extra credit events when available)**
- **Carry a GPA of 2.0 for the most recent marking period**

Consideration is given and accommodations are made when the number of available hours in each 4-week period are affected by something outside of the student's control, such as school-wide weather cancellations, scheduled school closings, and Upward Bound tutoring cancellations. The maximum amount that each student can earn in each month is \$25 (AHS Students only) or \$28 (MHS students only). As an added incentive, students who attend at least 15 hours (can be changed in the event of aforementioned events) in each month will receive a \$5 bonus added to the maximum amount. Each student's time in Upward Bound is tracked by using a sign-in sheet that each student is required to sign upon arrival and departure at Upward Bound. PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU/YOUR STUDENT(S) KNOW TO SIGN IN AND OUT OF UPWARD BOUND TUTORING. This information is used in the calculation of stipend checks! As you can imagine, stipend checks are just one of the reasons why it is important to keep your address and contact information up-to-date. Please be sure to contact Beth Lekity with any contact information updates!

If you have any questions related to the stipend checks, please call or email Beth Lekity, UB Administrative Assistant.

## TRIO SPOTLIGHT: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (SSS)

### What is SSS?

Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.



### Types of Projects

All SSS projects must provide: academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects; advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assist student with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications. Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy and assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs; and assist students enrolled in two-year institutions and applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for enrollment in four-year programs. The SSS projects may also provide individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available; mentoring programs, securing temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless youths and students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system.

### Who Can Participate

To qualify for SSS, participants must meet a combination of the following Federal regulations. Students must be:

- **First Generation in College:** If neither parent/legal guardian has earned a four-year baccalaureate degree.
- **Limited Family Income:** A student whose family income falls within limits set by the U.S. Department of Education and verified by the host college.
- **Documented Disability:** This includes a physical and/or mental impairment which substantially limits any major life activities or you are regarded as having such an impairment.

### Where can you find SSS programs?

There are 1027 SSS programs nationally, with 24 of those being in Michigan and 22 in Ohio. Some of the local colleges that have been awarded SSS programs are: Madonna University (Livonia, MI), Siena Heights University (Adrian, MI), Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI), Lourdes University (Sylvania, OH), University of Toledo (Toledo, OH), and Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH).

Interested? Let us know and we'll be happy to help you get the information you need to stay in the TRIO family as an SSS participant!

Monroe County Community College  
1555 S. Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161



Monroe County Community College  
1555 S. Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161



Monroe High School  
901 Herr Road  
Monroe, MI 48161



### What is Upward Bound?

Upward Bound is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that prepares high school students for post-secondary education. Established in 2007, Monroe County Community College Upward Bound serves 110 students, grades 9-12. Students are enrolled from our target high school, Monroe High School, located in Monroe, Michigan and Airport High School located in Carleton, Michigan. Upward Bound is a challenging, preparatory program for students who demonstrate the ability or desire to attend college.

All program services are free for participants.

### Mission

The mission of the Monroe County Community College Upward Bound program is to assist students in grades nine through twelve in the successful completion of high school and to prepare them for post-secondary education by providing academic support, college preparation, social, cultural and career exploration.