



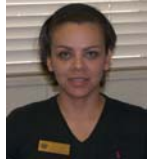
# Upward Bound

@ College of the Desert

# TRiO

Upward Bound Program

Volume 14, Fall Issue



## Director's Corner

Hello, everyone! My name is Olga Castro and I'm honored to be given the opportunity to work with Upward Bound for a few months as an Interim Director. I am proud to say that I worked with UB as a student worker ten years ago and the program continues to be a success at motivating and guiding high school students to further their education.

Our new year has kicked off and we are ready and excited for a year filled with events that promote personal growth and academic awareness. One of our many goals for this year is to keep parents informed on what's going on in their son's or daughter's road to college. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual **Open House** where over eighty guests were able to hear about what students are learning on Saturdays Sessions and the academic help that students are receiving at our high school tutoring centers. We also discussed the benefits to the **PSAT prep** that our 11<sup>th</sup> graders are getting during Saturday sessions.

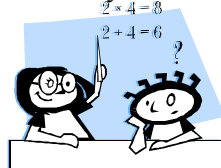
I feel that parent support is essential for the success of our program and for that reason I want to establish good communication with our UB parents. Starting this month, I am having once a month **parent information meetings** on different important **topics such as financial aid, university and college admissions, career decision-making, and how to motivate our teens.**

## OLGA CASTRO

### Tutoring Session Changes

A new requirement has been implemented this year: students carrying a GPA below a 2.0 are required to attend tutoring for at least two hours per week. Students with a GPA above a 2.0 are required to attend at least one hour per week. Our tutoring staff is trained and ready to assist our students in different subjects.

Tutoring attendance is recorded on a weekly basis and parents can request their student's tutoring session attendance record by calling 862-1336. Or by email at [jcastillo@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:jcastillo@collegeofthedesert.edu)



## UCLA residential Trip



During the week of July 24-28, 15 students participated in the Upward Bound/UCLA Summer Residential Program. A fun time was had by all, just see the faces of the students in the picture taken after an adventurous bus ride to the Santa Monica Pier. Students learned about African American Art History during their college lecture style course, took a tour of the University of Southern California campus, visited the California African American Museum, and explored the back lots of Universal Studios Hollywood. As if that wasn't enough, during free-time, students hit the gym, played Frisbee, swam in the Olympic sized pool, and some even went for early morning runs.

## A Special Thank You

The Upward Bound program likes to recognize the hard work of the staff at our participating schools especially the people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We would like to thank principal Chavez of Cathedral City High School, principal Arredondo and Vice-principal Tafoya of Coachella Valley high school and Lisa Morand of Desert Hot Springs high school for their help in securing locations for our tutoring sessions.

For their help during our search for UB peer tutors we give a special thank you to Coachella Valley high school (CVHS) Career Center counselor Lynette Wohlmut, CVHS counselor Larry Salas, Indio high school (IHS) counselor Rosa di Bello, IHS Counseling secretary Patricia Mills and Last but not least Desert Hot Springs counselor, Lisa Morand.

Thank you again for all your help and support.



## Upcoming Events



### Volunteer Day Update

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>** is National Make a Difference Day! Upward Bound is pleased to collaborate with the United Farm Workers for a very special project. Our plan is to help distribute food and household supplies to migrant farm workers in the Mecca area. We are hopeful that students have a positive and meaningful experience leading to increased interest in volunteering in their community.

Progress reports are due October 28 and parent conferences will begin early November. Our main purpose for the progress reports is to become aware of which academic areas our students are in need of assistance. Our tutoring staff is trained and ready to assist our students in different subjects. Students carrying a GPA below a 2.0 are required to attend tutoring for at least two hours per week. Students with a GPA above a 2.0 are required to attend at least one hour per week.

### PLAN/EXPLORE Assessments

**On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, Freshmen will spend part of the day taking EXPLORE and Sophomores will take PLAN. Both assessments are designed as preparation tools for admission to college by doing the following:

- helping students know if they're on track for college
- highlighting academic strengths and suggesting areas and strategies for improvement

helping students prepare for the ACT

Subjects on both EXPLORE and PLAN include English, math, science and reading. During the Spring semester, a parent meeting will be arranged to interpret the results for both assessments.

### End of the year party



**On December 9<sup>th</sup>**, Yes, can you believe 2006 is almost on the way out? Well, we got some fun and exciting plans for our end of year UB party. This year we will be having a baseball tournament! Yes, students will be placed in teams to play against each other and at the end the winning team will play against the UB staff. Good luck students because we are practicing starting today! A lot of other fun things will be happening at our UB end of year party, but we can't spoil the fun!



## Counselor's Corner



Hello! It's me, your friendly neighborhood counselor, Stephanie Paramore. I'd like to first start by welcoming our incoming students and parents. We are so glad that you are participating in Upward Bound and want to make sure you know that we are here to help! For those students and parents that have been with UB for a while, please keep in mind that maintaining motivation and discipline is critical for successful admission to college. Let's keep up the great work!

I thought this would be a good time to share a few updates from last Spring. First, the Summer Internship Program was a huge success. By implementing a Supervisor Evaluation Form, we were able to obtain written feedback about how UB students were performing. I'm pleased to say that nearly every employer had positive things to say. Thanks to the professional behavior of our placed students, it will be easier for find even more work study opportunities for summer 2007. Good job, UB Interns!

Looking ahead, there are lots of good things in store. With spring comes College Tours, a possible field trip, and preparation for our next Summer Residential Program. I look forward to the coming months as UB Staff, students and parents continue to work together making college not just a dream but a reality. As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me anytime.

### STEPHANIE PARAMORE



### Saturday Academy Schedule

November 4th

November 18th

December 2nd

December 9th



### Words for Thought

*Vision without action is a daydream.  
Action without vision is a nightmare.*

*- Japanese Proverb*

