

Congratulations to the Classic Upward Bound Summer Program Graduates

Robert Abben
Marquia Austin-Tennant
Rocio Ayard
Rodney Berry
Jennifer Bertram
Jessica Bertram
Shavina Caston
Aysha Davis
Kashonna Drain
Mandy Fauser
Da'Onna Gordon
Lacoia Green
Chalonda Hackett
Saturno Hechavarria
Aunamesha Henley
Leevented Henley
Jarren Horton
Charles King
Lisa Kuo
Cole Kurtenbach

Keyah Levy
Brittany Mabry
William Martin
Patrice Mayo
Nickole McConeghey
Leana Montgomery
Andrea Morgan
Samantha Pickard
Laura Quam
Jessica Reed
Ashley Samington
Gabrielle Shirley
Steven Shumaker
Dominique Starks
Habie Timbo
Anthony Weekley
Leundre' Williams
Elvert "Andy" Wise
Reginald Woods

Director's Letter

Congressman Jim Nussle, Republican representative of Eastern Iowa's First District, spoke with Upward Bound students at a town meeting held on Thursday, July 3. In the thirteen years Nussle has served as representative, he has focused his efforts on balancing the budget, limiting federal spending, controlling taxes, and reducing the national debt. Nussle has also made education a priority since his induction into the House of Representatives in 1990. He co-sponsored the No Child Left Behind Act, which became law in January of 2002. The act "provides comprehensive education reform efforts targeted at narrowing the achievement gap and providing local schools with more flexibility and control of their individual education goals" (www.nussle.house.gov).

Nussle's willingness to hold this town meeting was in no way surprising. Nussle has said, "I believe the most important part of my job as your Representative is being here in Iowa listening. That is why I hold more public forums and town meetings, with more Iowans, than any other Iowa Representative and I listen...listen to you."

Nussle did indeed listen to Upward Bound students just as much as he talked to them at this town meeting, and a myriad of issues were touched upon. The congressman broached some issues, while others were brought up by students, most of whom seemed excited to be a part of this event.

To begin their discussion, Nussle asked the students what their definition of a politician was. The students contributed their ideas enthusiastically, calling out responses that ranged from, "Someone who works hard to improve our government," to "a liar," "a hypocrite," and "greedy."

Nussle acknowledged the negative politician connotations with good humor and understanding while also stressing the good intentions of himself and his fellow congresspeople.

In order to make it clear what his job as congressman entails, Nussle next posed a scenario to the students, asking them to order one enormous pizza for the entire room. This was not an easy task, as students' pizza preferences differed dramatically and personal opinions were strong. As the pizza discussion intensified, it became clear that Nussle's job as an Iowa Representative involved making similarly difficult decisions in an attempt to meet the needs and demands of all Iowans. "My job as a representative," Nussle said, "is to try to figure this out. I've got to figure out how to make all of you happy."

This discussion of public demand allowed Congressman Nussle to bridge into the topic of civil participation. Nussle asked students to list some ways in which they can participate in the legislative process. The students covered all of their bases, mentioning voting, petitioning, debating, writing to congresspeople, and lobbying. Nussle then stressed the importance of such activities, declaring, "If you're not here in this room when decisions are made, or if you have not clearly communicated what you want to your congressman, you will not get what you want."

The final twenty minutes of Nussle's visit consisted of an open forum for students to ask the congressman about any particular issues they wished to discuss. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to address the questions of every interested student, but several important issues were brought up. When asked about his views on ethanol, Nussle responded by saying, "I think we are too dependent on the Middle East for our fuel, but ethanol is not the answer alone." Nussle also pointed out that he supported the use of soy diesel and wind energy in Iowa.

Next, Nussle was asked about his feelings toward the negative humor that often occurs in late night talk show monologues (that Republicans are racist, for instance). Nussle made it clear that such humor was protected under freedom of speech, and rightly so. Such freedoms, Nussle said, are in place to give the public control over their government and prevent government abuse of power.

Lastly, a student asked Nussle about some ways in which young people could become involved in politics. Nussle stressed the importance of young people actively seeking out information about the issues that affect their lives, as well as information about the representatives who make the voices of Iowans heard in Washington.

Recent HS Graduates End on a Productive Note with Bridge Program

Starting college is typically an experience filled with intense anticipation and excitement. It can also, however, be a time of extreme stress and difficult challenges. The Classic Upward Bound Summer Bridge Program is an opportunity for recent high school graduates to make a smooth transition from high school to college. During the four-week program, students live in the UNI dormitories and take actual classes for college credit. They divide their time among attending classes, completing their homework assignments, and socializing with friends. The students learned critical lessons during their four week experience, all of which will serve them well this coming fall.

Because the program is rather short and intense, several students became well aware of the importance of time management. Among attending their two concentrated classes (College Survival Skills and College Reading and Writing), enduring long study sessions and lengthy homework assignments, and finding time to have fun with their friends, students found that their time was valuable and had to be managed with care. The freedom they experienced was liberating, enjoyable, and challenging and they found with freedom comes responsibility. They will enter college more prepared as a result of their participation in the bridge program.

Words of Wisdom

My Comfort Zone

I used to have a comfort zone where I knew I wouldn't fail.
The same four walls and busywork were really more like jail.
I longed so much to do the things I'd never done before,
But stayed inside my comfort zone and paced the same old floor.

I said it didn't matter that I wasn't doing much.
I said I didn't care for things like commission checks and such.

I claimed to be so busy with the things inside the zone,
But deep inside I longed for something special of my own.
I couldn't let my life go by just watching others win.

I held my breath; I stepped outside and let the change begin.
I took a step and with new strength I'd never felt before,
I kissed my comfort zone goodbye and closed and locked the door.

If you're in a comfort zone, afraid to venture out,
Remember that all winners were at one time filled with doubt.
A step or two and words of praise can make your dreams come true.
Reach for your future with a smile; success is there for you!

Author Unknown

Your dreams are worth more than money
Jarren Horton, Incoming 9th grader, Classic Upward Bound
Participant
14 Teaya Minks
23 Rachel Kopf
28 Andrew Nielsen

Happy Birthday

October

6 Tavia Clark
7 Da'Onna Gordon
11 Branayla Tate

November

- 3 Charnesha Phillips
- 5 Lisa Kuo
- 7 Deanna Culpepper
- 10 Chalonda Hackett
- 19 Marketia Moore-Hill
- 20 Finesse Scott
- 24 Steven Shumaker
- 28 Nickole McConeghey
- 30 Janeece Hodge

December

- 4 Rodney Berry
- 4 Zachariah Henninger
- 15 Patrice Mayo
- 23 Leevented Henley