



University of Northern Iowa
Classic Upward Bound
TRIO Program

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2006





Director's Letter

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." -John F. Kennedy

Students who choose to become a part of the University of Northern Iowa Classic Upward Bound TRiO Program illustrate that they are proactive. They are in the driver's seat in their education and moving toward their future. This proactive approach to education is essential for success in high school and, certainly, in college. Therefore, students should take every opportunity to become fully engaged in their schoolwork as well as extra-curricular activities.

How do you do this? Find things that you enjoy and are passionate about and get involved! If French is one of your favorite classes, join your school's French Club. If you're already a member, take on a leadership role. These experiences will make you a more mature and well-rounded person, in addition to looking great on a college application.

The first thing that colleges look at is academics; academics should always be your first priority when it comes to school and your activities. However, schools also want to see a student who is involved, contributes, and has a variety of experiences to bring with him/her to their campus. As much as you're able, participate in sports, theatre, music, clubs, activities at your place of worship, community organizations, and volunteering.

As an Upward Bound student, you have many resources available to you to get involved in your school, community, and the program. Make the most of them now and reap the rewards in the future!



Words of Wisdom

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.” -Antoine de Saint-Exupery

“If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry.” -African Proverb

“You see things; and you say, ‘Why?’ But I dream things that never were; and I say, ‘Why not?’” -George Bernard Shaw

“Fall seven times, stand up eight.” -Japanese Proverb



Happy Birthday!

October

4 Felicia Scott
21 Tawny Walker
26 Zachery Clark
29 Ebony Walker

November

2 Elliott Petersen
3 Tiaira Wright
10 Azline Nelson
20 Mercedes Houston

24 Katelyn Jolly

24 Steve Shumaker

December

6 Taneaia Galloway
12 Yolanda Sanford
14 Michelle Abben
15 Elizabeth Collins
15 Patrice Mayo
20 Antone Wright
21 Ondrea Kearns



Where Do You Rank?

The Importance of Class Rank in College Acceptance

When most students receive their grades, they are most interested in looking at their GPA. While your GPA is very important and has a great affect on how colleges will evaluate you, there is another number on those grades students should pay attention to: class rank.

Class rank tells students where they fall among their peers as far as their GPA. For example, if there are 300 people in your grade and your class rank is 5, you have the fifth highest GPA in your class. If your class rank is 295, you are fifth from the bottom. Here, like in golf, a low score is best.

Colleges often use class rank as one of the criteria they judge prospective students on. In fact, at the Iowa Regent Institutions – The University of Northern Iowa, The University of Iowa, and Iowa State University – a student must be in the top half of his or her class in order to be considered for admission. This means that a student in that class of 300 would have to have a class rank of 149 or below to even be eligible for entrance to those schools.

Next time you get your grades, pay close attention to your class rank and work on improving your GPA, which in turn improves your class rank! If you have any questions, see an Upward Bound staff member.



The Importance of Writing Skills –

Now and in Your Future, Part Two

“The pen is mightier than the sword.” -Edward Bulwer-Lytton

In our last newsletter, we stated that writing skills are one of the most important abilities that students and employees need, but are often also one of the most lacking. With that in mind, what follows is information on a commonly misused element of writing – the apostrophe.

As you know, the two main uses of apostrophes are to show possession (Tim's jacket) and to contract two words into one word (it is = it's). Here some common errors with apostrophes and their correct use:

Rule: To show possession, add 's unless the word already ends in s. If the word is singular and ends in s, you can add 's or just '. If it's plural and end in s, add just '.

Common Mistake: The childrens' toys were everywhere.

Correction: The children's toys were everywhere.

Common Mistake: Three boy's lockers were vandalized.

Correction: Three boys' lockers were vandalized.

Rule: Do not use apostrophes with the possessive pronouns yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs.

Common Mistake: Is that opinion your's or theirs'?

Correction: Is that opinion yours or theirs?

Rule: An apostrophe is used to show where letters are missing in contractions.

Common Mistake: Its what I would do.

Correction: It's what I would do.

You can practice your knowledge of these rules by rewriting the following sentences using apostrophes correctly. The correct answers are also provided. Don't cheat!

1. I couldnt tell who's voice it was, your's or your brothers'.
2. The two girls laughter rose above the house's as they watched the squirrel chase it's tail.
3. On Sundays', she packed what was her's and walked to the roads end.
4. Deanas schools rules said she was'nt eligible to play sports.
5. A dogs goal is to gain it's owners friendship, while a cats' goal is to influence its owners action's.

Answers

1. I couldn't tell whose voice it was, yours or your brother's.
2. The two girls' laughter rose above the houses as they watched the squirrel chase its tail.
3. On Sundays, she packed what was hers and walked to the road's end.
4. Deana's school's rules said she wasn't eligible to play sports.
5. A dog's goal is to gain its owner's friendship, while a cat's goal is to influence its owner's actions.

"Getting Your Writing Right: Skills to Help You Avoid Common Writing Mistakes." South Deerfield, MA: Channing Bete Company, 2006.



Becoming a Better Reader

People who read well are more likely to do well academically. Reading is very large part of college coursework. Even people who feel they are good readers can improve using these techniques.

Eliminate habits that can slow you down.

- Don't move your lips, "say" words in your mind, or point your finger.
- Train your eyes to take in larger groups of words with each glance.
- Avoid backtracking.

Adjust your speed to your purpose.

- Skim material if you're looking for the answer to a specific question.
- Slow down when you're reading technical material.

Expand your vocabulary.

- Use a dictionary to learn definitions, synonyms and antonyms.
- Learn prefixes, suffixes and roots of words.
- Use new words that you learn.

Get help when you need it.

- If reading is difficult for you, let your teacher know and ask for assistance from them and Upward Bound staff.

"About Academic Survival Skills." South Deerfield, MA: Channing L. Bete Co., 1986.