

As the academic year comes to a close, the University of Northern Iowa Classic Upward Bound program staff, scholars, and parents are working hard to end the 2012-2013 school year and ring in the 2013-2014 school year with their best foot forward. By being actively engaged in the Classic Upward Bound program, our students and parents are working together with program staff to understand the educational process and to propel their dreams of attaining a baccalaureate degree following high school.

One of the most active components of the University of Northern Iowa Classic Upward Bound program is the Classic Upward Bound Parent Organization. This organization is designed to keep our scholars' parents as actively involved in their child's education and the program. During meetings, the Classic Upward Bound Director focuses on critical thinking exercises and engages the community in the meetings as much as possible. For example, representatives from the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, John Deere and the Blue Zone Project presented to the organization. The Classic Upward Bound parents were charged with creating their own vision and mission statements for the group which helped keep the organization accountable for the success of program scholars, both inside and outside of the academic realm. The Classic Upward Bound Parent Organization created the following vision statement:

***Vision:** The Classic Upward Bound Parent Organization is an organization that promotes excellence in education*

The parent organization is in the process of formulating their mission statement. The parent organization will continue to function as a vital component to program participation.

Summer is just around the corner, and the Classic Upward Bound program is gearing up for another successful summer enrichment program on the University of Northern Iowa campus. The goal of the summer program is to keep our scholars' minds active in classroom content and to prepare them for the courses they will be taking at their respective high schools the following academic year. Scholars are engaged in classroom instruction for most of the day in their core classes: English, science, foreign language, mathematics, and social studies. If the students meet general University of Northern Iowa admission requirements and are recommended by the Classic Upward Bound administrative staff, they are afforded an opportunity to take a college level course in African American History and Culture for UNI credit. Students are also engaged in grade level specific courses designed to help them prepare and survive high school and college. Some student schedules also feature a supplemental instruction period for students to work on homework.

After classes have concluded for the day, students enjoy physical/recreational activities. These are designed to teach the scholars social skills and the importance of teamwork and friendly competition. Students then have time to receive academic help from tutor-mentors in the

dormitory. If students meet the graduated grading scale requirements, they will be invited on an end-of-the-year trip to Kansas City at the end of the summer residential program. We will see performances, museums, and tour a college campus. Our program services, both during the academic and summer programs, are absolutely free of charge monetarily but cost time and effort.

Seniors also have an exciting opportunity to take six college credits over the summer through our bridge program which is a product of our close collaboration with John Deere. Ten Classic Upward Bound graduating seniors who meet UNI admissions requirements will be able to live on campus and take the courses. These seniors have much more independence during the bridge program than their younger cohorts. They are treated like incoming freshmen and are required to go to class, have a car on campus, maintain a job, and do not have a curfew. Their main responsibility during the bridge program is to focus on their college education and pass their classes. We have full confidence in this year's graduating seniors and in their ability to work hard and make themselves and the program proud of their accomplishments. Good luck seniors!

Currently, the Classic Upward Bound program is in the process of hiring tutor-mentors for the summer program. These college aged students live in-residence with our scholars during the summer program and provide tutoring support, teacher support in the classroom, and academic and personal counseling to our scholars during the entirety of the summer enrichment program. They also monitor meal times and evening recreational activities. We are also looking for summer program teachers. These individuals may be certified teachers or graduate level students. Teachers design their own syllabus, assignments, and projects. Contact the UNI Classic Upward Bound offices at 319-433-1250 for further information regarding available positions.

This academic year has been another busy time in the lives of the Classic Upward Bound scholars and staff. Our tutorial programs are offered at three locations, twice weekly, and at two different times. Through our reputation for excellence and positive relationships with the Waterloo Community School District, we offer tutoring at Waterloo East and West High Schools and at the UNI Center for Urban Education. This year our scholars have been participating in these tutorials since October 2012 and continue to receive guidance and assistance in their classes through the tutorial program. Students have been able to visit several college campuses including: Kirkwood Community College, the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, Drake and Grand View Universities, Hawkeye Community College, Wartburg College, and Iowa State University. The Classic Upward Bound program collaborates effectively with the UNI Educational Talent Search TRiO Program to allow as many students to attend these college visits as possible.

First Tech Challenge robotics has enabled our students to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers in a unique way. Through FTC robotics, our students designed, built, and programmed a robot for competition. They named said robot "Bruce Wayne"

after the infamous Batman figure because he is indestructible. The team, 5445, competed in two qualifying tournaments: one in Cedar Falls and the other in Ottumwa. Following our initial competition in Cedar Falls, the Classic Upward Bound team was granted a bid for the state competition in Iowa City on February 22 and 23. However, team 5445 made some manipulations to the robot and the qualifying match in Ottumwa became the team's way to practice with the new improvements to the robot. Even with some glitches the team performed well and exemplified gracious professionalism. They came home with the Motivate Award for cheering on other teams and providing other teams support when asked. At the state competition held at the University of Iowa team 5445 learned the importance of listening, patience, and cooperation to accomplish an objective. It was a taxing two days with unexpected changes. Although the team did not advance to the world's competition in St. Louis, our new members gained valuable experience to take with them into competition next year. We are planning to send the team to the world competition in St. Louis in April to help with volunteering and to network with people from around the world. We would especially like to thank Rockwell Collins, John Deere, the University of Northern Iowa, the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa Center for Urban Education, and the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council for their continued support in helping TRiO students explore the STEM career fields.

With the academic year coming to a close and the summer program on its way, the UNI Classic Upward Bound program is seeking out new partnerships with local and state community organizations to help fund various programs within the Classic Upward Bound program. With recent events happening in Washington D.C. it is becoming more and more crucial to TRiO efforts for our constituents and partners to continue to communicate to their representatives in Congress about the importance of TRiO programs. Without our programs, and partners, low-income, first-generation potential college students may not receive the extra academic support and guidance they need to stay motivated, generate goals of going to college, and achieve those goals. Through our programs, we are seeking to level the playing field so every student has the opportunity to get a college education, regardless of how much money their parents make or their parents' prior educational attainment. We call on every citizen to email, send letters and call their representatives to continue to fight for TRiO programs everywhere.

Matthew Moore

Academic Coordinator

University of Northern Iowa Classic Upward Bound TRiO Program