

WHAT'S UP?

UAPB UPWARD BOUND NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 1 Qtr. 2



The Upward Bound Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff received notice on May 24, 2017 that the program would receive funding for the next grant cycle of five years beginning September 1, 2017!

Thank you to all those who helped to make this possible.



Congratulations to the Class of 2017

The Best is Yet to Come!



DIRECTOR RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

On March 31, 2017, we celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Verna H. Cottonham. Mrs. Cottonham had served as the Director of the Upward Bound Program at UAPB for the past 21 years.

Over the last 21 years there have been many changes to the program but, with the tireless leadership of Mrs. Cottonham the program has provided countless high school student with the tools and skill-sets needed to successfully complete high school and obtain a Bachelor's Degree.



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

UAPB TRIO HALL OF FAMER SELECTED-UPWARD BOUND



This Year's Upward Bound Hall of Fame selection was Miss Sadagicous Owens. Sadagicous Owens is the daughter of Mrs. Diana Bailey. As a student at Pine Bluff High School she is ranked number one (#1) in the 2017 graduating class and was selected Valedictorian. She is a member of various clubs and organizations

some of which include: Band, Student Council and Superintendents Council. Some of her favorite things are gardening, dancing and singing, and most importantly inspiring others.

After graduation, Sadagicous plans to participate in the Upward Bound Bridge Program as a way of jumpstarting her college career. Her passionate personality and giving spirit along with the desire to always see people in a better place has led her to the pursuit of a career in Nursing, Anesthesiology.



Tenita Shannon-Gragg
Interim Director

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ACT PREP OFFERED TO SRC STUDENTS

During the first week of the SRC students received 12 clock hours of ACT prep along with test taking strategies from Princeton Certified Instructors.

Prior to the prep class the students were pre-tested using the Princeton Review. The students' scores were retained for a post-test comparison. The course focus was on English, math, and reading- these are the courses students currently need to score a 19 or above to negate taking remediation courses once they enter college.

The students were post-tested after the ACT Prep instruction and a significant increase was noted. Upward bound will be compiling this data to meet one of the objectives in the grant, which is to increase the ACT scores of students in the program.



SHANNON-GRAGG APPOINTED AS INTERIM DIRECTOR

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has selected Tenita Shannon-Gragg to serve as Interim Director of the Upward Bound Program upon the retirement of Mrs. Verna H. Cottonham.

Mrs. Shannon-Gragg has worked with the Upward Bound Program for the past three years as Academic Advisor. Prior to her employment with the University she was employed with Southeast Arkansas College in several capacities including Computer Training Specialist, Instructor, and Director of Recruitment.

Mrs. Shannon-Gragg is a 1981 graduate of Newport High School, Newport, AR, a 1985 Graduate of UAPB and a 1996 recipient of a Masters Degree from UAPB. She is the wife of Kelvin B. Gragg, Superintendent of the Dumas School District, and the mother of two sons Christopher Le'Edward (Buffalo Bills TE) and Shannon "Will"iams (UA Tight End).

Graduates Receive Recognition

The 2017 Upward Bound graduating class received honors and recognition from the program. The students of Dollarway and Watson Chapel were presented with Certificates of Completion and a TRIO – Upward Bound Membership pin during each school district Senior Recognition assembly.

During the Senior Recognition Saturday the seniors from Pine Bluff High received their certificates and pins. In addition to the recognition certificate and pen, members of the 2017 Upward Bound class received Sr. T-shirts.



Summer Residential Component 2017

The 2017 Summer Residential Component of the UAPB Upward Bound Program has begun. This year's program will host 36 high school students from the Dollarway, Pine Bluff, and Watson Chapel School Districts in Jefferson County.

This year's curriculum contains two new courses Physical Education and the seniors have a Personal Development/Awareness class.

In addition to the 36 high school students the program has 5 Tutor/Counselors and the new addition of 4 tutors that stay on campus and work with the instructors and students.

Attention Applications for 2017-2018 Ready!

Parents and Students of the Dollarway, Pine Bluff and Watson Chapel School Districts

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Upward Bound will be seeking rising 9th and 10th graders to fill upcoming vacancies in the program for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded TRiO program. The goal of the Upward Bound program is to increase the rate students complete high school and enroll in and graduate from college.

The program will be seeking applicants that meet the following qualifications:

- Students that will be in the 9th or 10 grade in the fall of 2017
- Students with a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Students from low income households- based on the Federal low-income levels
- Students that are potential first-generation college students (parent(s) do not hold a 4-year degree)
- Students that have scores Close, Ready, or Exceeding on the standardized test in Literacy and Math
- Students MUST be carried on the applying parent/guardian's tax filing or other document that proves guardianship

Additional recommendations from English, Math, Science teachers and the Counselor are included in the application packet and must be submitted along with the student's Social Security Card and the complete application.

Parents would like your child/children to participate in a program that provides academic, career and personal counseling, leadership training, ACT Prep, financial aid and scholarship assistance? The program also includes cultural, educational, and social enrichment along with a monthly monetary stipend after a probationary period. Download the application from the web:

http://www.uapb.edu/academics/school_of_education/upward_bound.aspx or come by our office located in Corbin Hall room #223 on the Campus of UAPB. Parents can visit your child's counselor's office to pick up an application.

For additional information or questions contact the Office of Upward Bound at (870) 575-8517.

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