Thank you to all those students who participated in the National TRiO Day Folder Games Community Service Project. Trio Day was February 24, 2007 but our students spent 10 hours over the course of two Saturdays in February putting together 20 Folder Games for use by pre-school children. These folder games focused on counting, color association, and learning the alphabet. On April 2, 2007 six Upward Bound students, Lam Nguyen, Savannah Murphy, Cassandra Martinez, Amanda Roberts, and Jo Anne Arcalas traveled with Math/Science Specialist Tiffany Gearhart to deliver the folder games. These students then spent the morning “playing” with the Head Start students, and had a typical early childhood lunch. Later this month, other students will repeat this process and deliver the rest of the folder games to the Washington High Young Mothers program, the Ogden High School Pre-school program and the Ogden City Head Start Program. This community service activity was mentioned in the State TRiO newsletter and congratulations sent to all who participated. The Weber State Upward Bound students who participated represented our program very well and we are proud of them.

Welcome to New Upward Bounders  
Upward Bound now has 71 students participating in our program. Our newest “bounder” is Bobby Gallegos. Bobby comes to us from Ogden High School and yes, he is Eddie and Lita’s little brother. We now have a total of 25 new students (those who have never spent a summer with us). With all this new talent, our summer program will be the best ever.
University of Utah College Day

Upward Bound juniors gave up a day of spring break to visit the University of Utah. Leaving at 8 am, these students were treated to a recruitment presentation by Mateo of the U of U. He gave out a ton of information and convinced many of our students that the U was the college they wanted to attend. Other students said that they had a greater understanding of why they wanted to go to college and were more at ease about the future. After the time spent with Mateo, students were allowed to attend a real college class or take a walking tour of the U. “It’s a lot like high school without all the rules,” was a major comment. “The professor doesn’t care if you come in late, wear headphones, or leave early. He just keeps lecturing,” was another. Simone Fritz, of the Student Association, enlisted several university students of diverse backgrounds to speak with our students.

Upward Bound students got to meet people who had faced the same challenges they face and have overcome them. The University students gave out good advice, shared experiences and encouraged Bounders to stay in school and go to the college of their choice. Of course, they were a little biased toward the U.

ACT National College Entrance Exam

Good luck to all juniors as they take the ACT this Saturday. This is the first time most of our juniors have taken the national college entrance exam and we expect great things from them. This exam allows students to place in accelerated University math and English classes and is beneficial in obtaining scholarships and tuition waivers. Students are allowed to re-take the ACT as many times as they would like with the university of choice using the best score. During the summer program, these students will take the Weber State University residual ACT test. And it is recommended that students take either the October or December test during their senior year.

Snow College

On April 14, 2007, juniors will visit Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. This is a two-year college and students must transfer to receive their BA degree. This experience will allow our students to compare size, coursework and location of various institutions of higher learning. Snow has many advantages that larger universities do not. It is always wise to match your personality, your major and your individualized needs to the university you plan to attend.

After touring the campus and meeting with Snow advisors and staff, UB students will attend the annual Polynesian Festival. They will be treated to Polynesian food, traditions and dance. Maybe we can get Dave up on stage again.
Enrichment Activities

Ott Planetarium

Do you understand how a star is born? What happens when one dies? Are we the center of the universe? What is a galaxy? These are questions that Upward Bound students were asked when they attended the Ott Planetarium on Weber State’s campus on March 29 as part of their Super Saturday. Students were taken on a journey from our sun through the planets (no Pluto is no longer considered a planet) and into space. They saw the vastness of space, the empty places, the new stars being born and various nebuli. Our guide showed us how different gases emit light at different color spectrums and how to tell what a space formations was made of by the colors. Following their journey through space, Upward Bound students were treated to a light show on the Aurora Borealis or Northern lights. This scientifically based relaxation series exposed students to one of earth’s natural phenomena, one rarely seen in the Utah skies.

Utah Symphony Ballet

Utah Symphony Ballet performed an interesting version of Sleeping Beauty on February 23, 2007. Although not a favorite activity, students were impressed by the costuming, the pure physical strength and the artistic talents of the performance. A well known fairy tale, this performance was easy to follow and understand. Depicting a story without words can be challenging, but the choreography filled the images with emotion giving complete understanding. All of this made for a remarkable performance enjoyed by Upward Bound students.

Food Drive

The community service food drive held in March during College Prep was a huge success. The third year students easily surpassed all other years by bringing a total of over 100 items of food. For the Bridge Class, we congratulate Marta Huerta, who single-handedly brought in their entire offering. It is easy to remember to help out at holidays but our students showed that they are willing to step up and pitch in whenever needed. The food will be taken to different food banks in both Davis and Weber counties to help fill their shelves. As has often been stated, “People are not just hungry during the holidays, but need food every day and in every season.” Upward Bound is very proud of its students and their generosity in collecting over 300 food items.
Congratulations

The Energy Solutions Scholarship which is only open to Sophomores was won this year by Lam Nguyen. It is never to early to start applying for scholarships. Lam is now $2000 closer to paying for his first year of college. Way to Go Lam!!!!!

Factors that Affect Access to College

There are a number of factors that negatively affect the college-going chances of students whose parents did not complete any education beyond high school, including:

- Lower levels of academic preparation.
- Lower educational aspirations.
- Less encouragement and support to attend college, particularly from parents
- Parents have HS diploma or less
- Parents have BA or higher

Sources: Calculated using data from Berkner & Chavez (1997) and Chen (2005).

Involvement with a pre-college programs helped increase student’s college-going aspirations by:

- Raising awareness about their educational and career interests, postsecondary choices, and options for financing college.
- Helping them improve their academic achievement as well as increase their academic self-confidence, thereby allowing them to see themselves as “college material.”
- Demonstrating the potential to improve their lives and the lives of others through the attainment of a college