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4-5-2012

UMass Boston Upward Bound

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Recommended Citation

Pernell, Erica, "UMass Boston Upward Bound" (2012). *Office of Community Partnerships Posters*. 3. https://scholarworks.umb.edu/ocp_posters/3

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UMass Boston Upward Bound

Partners: Boston Public Schools, Dorchester Academy, Burke High School, Excel High School, Madison Park High School, Appalachian Mountain Club, Long Way Home, Columbia Point Community Garden

Summary/Abstract

Upward Bound is an intensive, year-round college-prep program. Our mission is to assist low-income, first-generation college bound high school students in the successful completion of secondary education and prepare them academically and socially for enrollment and completion of higher education. Upward Bound offers services to students through an after-school program at UMass Boston during the school year and a six-week residential program, currently at Regis College, during the summer.

Goals and Objectives

To prepare students academically and socially for enrollment and completion of higher education.

Approaches and Methods

- 6- week Residential program: Simulated College Experience
- Rigorous, relevant, & nurturing academic courses
- Individual and small-group tutoring services
- College-preparatory workshops
- Personal, college, & financial aid advising
- Career exploration
- Leadership development & community service
- Cultural enrichment



Project-Based Learning



Above: Students working on a laboratory project.
L: A student tending to the basil plant he grew as part of a gardening project.

Upward Bound curriculum emphasizes learning through hands-on projects.

The projects have real-world applications so students make connections between the world around them & the content.

Far R: Students on a college tour to Wheelock College.
R: A senior meeting with the Senior Counselor.

Comprehensive College Prep Services



R: Completing service at the Food Project's farm in Dorchester.
Far R: Working to build a school in Guatemala with Long Way Home.

Service-Learning



Above: Maintaining Columbia Point Community Garden.

Results/Impacts

- Over the past 5 years, 98% of program graduates have enrolled in college.
- Over the past 5 years, students have completed two intensive service-learning projects and accumulated 700 service hours.
- 79% of the graduating class of 2011 received a score of proficient or higher on the English MCAS, compared to 64% for the Boston Public School district.
- 72% of the graduating class of 2011 received a score of proficient or higher on the Math MCAS, compared to 62% for the BPS district.

Outdoor Leadership



L & C: UB students on a camping/hiking trip to Camp Ponkapoag.
Below: A group on the trail in New Hampshire

Through outdoor leadership trainings, students learn about environmental stewardship & leadership. Appalachian Mountain Club partners to provide training and gear.



Contact

For more information, contact upward.bound@umb.edu or 617-287-5845.