

CMU UPWARD BOUND

INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

GRANT YEAR 2022-2023



CMU Upward Bound students & staff at Mesa Experience.

INTRODUCING, CMU UPWARD BOUND!

Upward Bound at Colorado Mesa University (CMU-UB) is a federally funded college preparatory program designed to support local first-generation, income-eligible students at Central High School and Grand Junction High School as they prepare to enter and succeed in college.

Since our inception in the fall of 2022, we have begun intentionally serving local students through after-school programming, weekend intensives, and one-on-one advising during the school day. This interim report seeks to update and inform the public about the work we are doing and the progress we are making in supporting local students!

THE OUTCOMES WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE

1. 63% of participants will have a GPA above 2.5 at the end of the school year
2. 48% of UB seniors will have proficient scores in math and ELA
3. 87% of participants will continue on to the next year or have graduated
4. 48% of all UB participants will complete a rigorous program of study
5. 62% of current and prior UB participants will enter college directly following high school graduation
6. 38% of UB participants will graduate with an associates or bachelor's degree within 6-years

UB QUESTIONS?

Contact Shelby Pryzgoda,
Director, Upward Bound:
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The United States Department of Education funds Colorado Mesa University's (CMU) TRIO Upward Bound at 92%, \$1,344,158. Non-federal funding from CMU at 8%, \$93,526.

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INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

STUDENTS WE ARE SERVING

In 1965, Upward Bound became one of the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers to education in America.

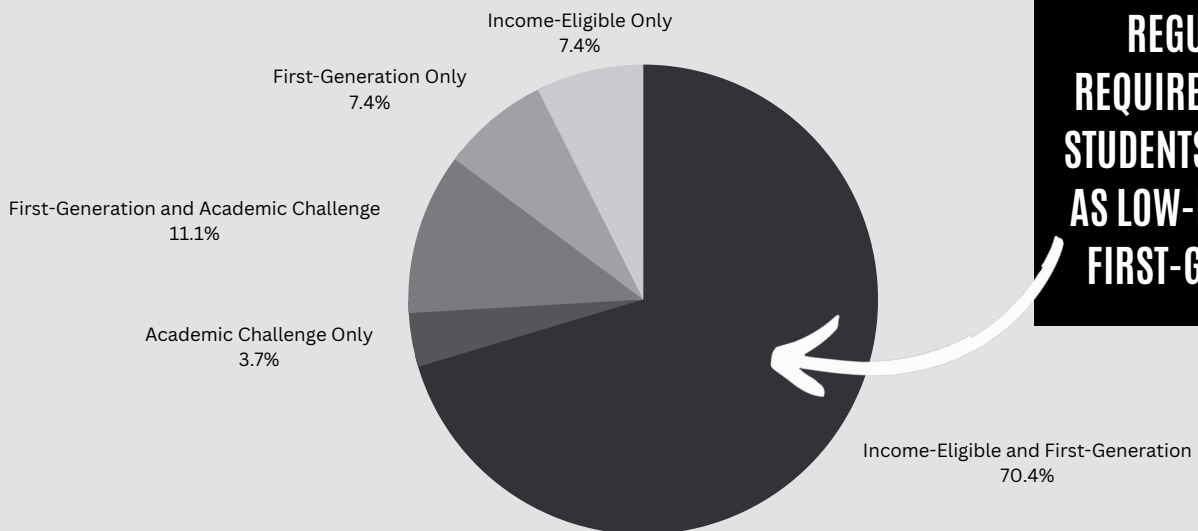


Photos courtesy of the Daily Sentinel and GJHS O&B News

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(based on Title 34 §645.3 of Code of Federal Regulations)

1. A U.S. Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident;
2. Identifies as any combination of:
 - a. A potential **first-generation** college student;
 - b. An **income-eligible** individual; or
 - c. An individual facing **academic challenges** with a GPA below 2.5
3. Has a need for academic and personalized support to successfully pursue post-secondary education
4. Has completed eighth grade or is at least 13 but not older than 19



FEDERAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE 2/3 OF OUR STUDENTS TO IDENTIFY AS LOW-INCOME AND FIRST-GENERATION

RACE & ETHNICITY

Hispanic: 56.85%

Asian: 7.41%

Black: 3.70%

White: 59.26%

Pacific Islander: 3.70%

Students may identify as multiple races or ethnicities

GENDER IDENTITY

Female: 62.96%

Male: 37.04%

GRADE & SCHOOL

12th Grade: 14.81%

11th Grade: 22.22%

10th Grade: 29.63%

9th Grade: 33.33%

GJHS: 50%

CHS: 50%

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GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

PLAN TO INFORM, IDENTIFY, RECRUIT, AND SELECT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

PARTICIPANTS AS OF SPRING BREAK 2023: 27/60

UPDATE: As of 3/1/2023, student applicants no longer need to provide parental tax forms in addition to their completed application.

- Target school principals, teachers, and counseling teams have been critical in helping identify eligible students. To date, we have received over 50 referral forms from CHS and GJHS staff!
- Project staff communicate daily to review and evaluate completed application packets. Grading rubrics were established to evaluate the student's eligibility and need for the program, their desire to actively participate in the program, and measure their parental support.
- Upon review, students receive an acceptance letter and the student's UB Advisor schedules a time to meet with the student and family to learn more about the student's college and career goals
- To date, Advisors are actively working to help students complete the robust application requirements including recommendation forms and essays.



**KNOW A STUDENT WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
HAVE THEM APPLY TODAY!**

UPWARD BOUND APPLICATION & ORIENTATION PROCESS

1

Student is given application or downloads it online

2

Student completes app with family and gathers required docs

3

Student returns application to UB Advisor at their high school

4

UB Staff review application and make decision

5

Student is notified of admission and entrance interview is scheduled with their family

6

UB Advisor completes entrance interview and student enters program

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GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

UB programs provide students instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, science, and foreign language during the school year and the summer. Students receive mentoring and support as they prepare for college entrance exams and tackle admission applications, financial aid, and scholarship forms.



Upward Bound After-School programs have been up and running at GJHS and CHS since February 1, 2023. From 3:30-5:00 Monday-Thursday, students work on homework with CMU tutors, review PSAT and SAT practice exams, and work with advisors and mentors to set academic and personal goals for the semester.



Upward Bound students can also choose to meet with their UB advisor during the school day. These one-on-one meetings typically center on college and high school advisement, support with college financial aid and scholarship applications, or simply catching up on life.



UB Students are required to attend monthly Saturday sessions that take place at CMU.

In February, students learned about financial literacy and the importance of money in college by working in groups through a simulated college finance experience.

This month (March), students attended Mesa Experience at CMU to learn about college life from student ambassadors, club leaders, and academic faculty.



UB Students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with CMU students studying Math, English, Biology, Political Science, Psychology, Engineering, Nursing, and more! These college mentors and tutors encourage UB students to take pride in their education while also making after-school a fun and welcoming space for students.

CMU UPWARD BOUND

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GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

CHALLENGES & RESOLUTIONS

As a young program, it is our desire to navigate challenges with open minds and seek resolutions that reduce barriers to ultimately benefit students.



Challenge: Due to the four-month delay in working with students and accepting participants, there have been significant savings within the program budget related to student stipends and supplies for project services.

Resolution: These savings will be directed toward student activities for the remainder of the academic year and expand services during our summer academy.

Challenge: As a largely rural area, public transportation is not widely available to students within the program. This poses challenges when asking students to stay after-school or attend sessions outside of their school week.

Resolution: We have partnered with Grand Valley Transit to educate students on public bus routes and utilizing the service. While not a permanent solution, UB staff are eager to find reliable transportation and are flexible in providing alternative opportunities for students to participate.

Challenge: Initially, we were required to obtain parental tax forms to verify familial income eligibility for our participants. This was a major barrier for many of our families.

Resolution: After many conversations within our team, it was ultimately determined by our program officer that the signed financial statement included in the application packet would sufficiently meet this reporting standard.



María Marín García

GJHS UB Advisor
BA, Secondary Spanish
Education
Upward Bound Alumna



Aaron Reed

CHS UB Advisor
BA, Mass Communication
21-22 CMU Student Trustee



Shelby Pryzgoda

UB Director
MA, Education: Rhetoric and
Literary Studies

CMU UPWARD BOUND

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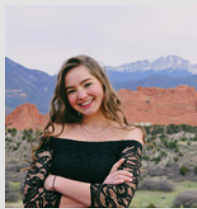
GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

MEET THE TUTORING TEAM

Our after-school programs function largely thanks to the support and dedication of our tutor teams. Tutors are CMU students who have excelled as students and leaders and have a passion for supporting and serving students. Tutors provide supplemental instruction in math, ELA, science, foreign language, social studies, and standardized test prep while acting as college mentors for students.



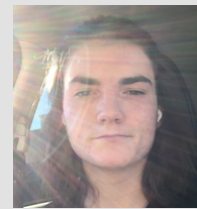
Dailin Estrada
GJHS Tutor & UB Alumna
Nursing
Alamosa, Colorado



Indie Ross
CHS Tutor & Psychology
Practicum Student
Colorado Springs, Colorado



Garrett Marken
GJHS Tutor
Mechanical Engineering
Montrose, Colorado



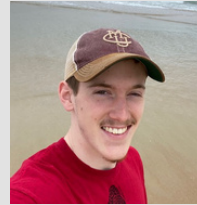
Brett Marlowe
CHS Tutor
Math & Philosophy
Denver, Colorado



Maria Martinez Jaramillo
GJHS Tutor
Secondary English Education
Montrose, Colorado



Liban Shongolo
CHS Tutor
Criminal Justice & Political
Science
Commerce City, Colorado



Lucas Moore
CHS Tutor
Cellular & Molecular
Biology
Colorado Springs, Colorado

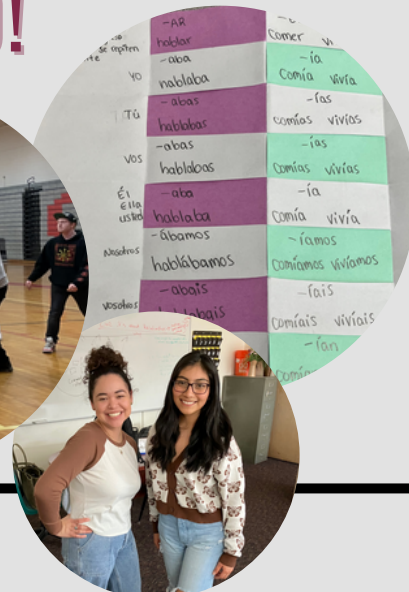


Siya Salunke
GJHS Tutor
Cellular & Molecular
Biology
Montrose, Colorado



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

- SAT and PSAT Practice Tests
- Personal Goal Setting
- Public Speaking Practice
- College Major Exploration
- Math, math, and more math
- Catching up on late assignments
- Chess Battles & Card Games
- Essay Editing & Writing
- Time Management
- After School Fun & Games

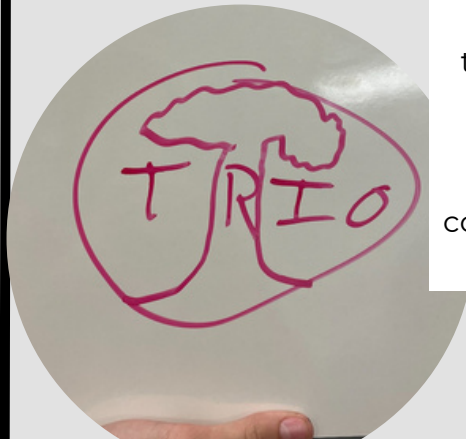


CMU UPWARD BOUND

INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

GRANT YEAR 2022-2023

VICTORIES & CELEBRATIONS



The CMU-UB and TRIO-SSS team traveled to Denver for TRIO Day at the Capitol on February 24. State Representatives recognized TRIO programs across the state for their commitment to serving first-generation, low-income students.



A TRIO tree, an original drawing by a CHS freshman during the after-school program. *Upward Bound is one of the initial three Department of Education grant programs, hence "TRIO".*



On February 15th, the Grand Junction City Council formally proclaimed February 27 as National TRIO Day. CMU's TRIO-SSS, TRIO-STEM, and TRIO Upward Bound were recognized.



MESA EXPERIENCE

