

# CMU UPWARD BOUND

THIRD QUARTER UPDATE

MARCH 2024



Left: Liban Shongolo pictured with CMU President John Marshall after testifying at the Colorado Capitol; Right: Dailin Estrada gives back to first-gen students by tutoring and mentoring with GJHS Upward Bound

## ADVOCACY PAYS OFF: FIRST-GEN SERVING INSTITUTION BILL PASSES

The Colorado State Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 1082 to designate state institutions of higher education as first-generation-serving institutions.

This bill will create a formal designation for colleges in Colorado that serve a large number of students who are the first-gen. This designation is important, as it shows an institution's dedication to helping first-gen students succeed.

Central HS Upward Bound mentor and CMU TRIO participant Liban Shongolo testified at the Colorado State Capitol about the importance of this bill. In his testimony, he mentioned the importance of Upward Bound and programs that are committed to ensuring first-gen students are successful!

Upward Bound is thrilled about the passage of this bill and look forward to working with first-gen students as they decide which college is right for them.



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.

## SUMMER ON THE HORIZON

The Upward Bound Summer Academy will take place at Colorado Mesa University from June 10- July 17, 2024.

Students will participate in four-weeks of academic coursework, live on-campus at CMU for one week, and travel to the Front Range of Colorado for a week-long college trip.

This year, students will need to apply to participate in Summer! *More information regarding the application to come!*

## UB QUESTIONS?

Contact Shelby Pryzgoda, Director, Upward Bound:  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### APRIL SATURDAY SESSION

Family Recreation Day  
12-3 PM

*Location to be determined by weather!*



### END OF YEAR CELEBRATION & SENIOR SEND-OFF

Thursday, May 9  
6-8 PM

*CMU Escalante Hall, Third Floor*



### MAY SATURDAY SESSION

Community Service Saturday!  
10 AM - 2 PM

*Mesa County Discovery Garden  
443 N 6th Street*

*Grand Junction, CO 81501*



### SUMMER ORIENTATION

Thursday, June 6  
6 PM - 7 PM

Colorado Mesa University, Escalante Hall

*Mandatory for Summer Students!*

*More details to come!*

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## UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS HEAD TO DC

Colorado Mesa University and Mesa County Valley School District 51 celebrate the incredible achievements of Angelina Alejandre, a junior at Central High School, and Terrence Liu, a sophomore at Grand Junction High School, for being selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) in Washington, D.C. Alejandre and Liu, both first-generation students in the CMU TRIO Upward Bound program, are two of only 170 students across the nation to be chosen for this prestigious opportunity.

The National Student Leadership Congress is a 6-day program hosted in our nation's capital on the campus of American University. Students participate in a Mock Congress where they debate and explore solutions for the most pressing issues facing our society. Additionally, students meet one-on-one with senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to share their stories as soon-to-be first-generation college students.

"The National Student Leadership Congress will give me a platform to speak on issues I am passionate about such as higher education, homelessness and injustice," said Alejandre.

"As a first-generation student, I have never been to Washington D.C., and I probably won't get the opportunity to go before I start my career," said Liu.



Terrence Liu (GJHS Sophomore) and Angelina Alejandre (CHS Junior) earned a spot at the prestigious National Student Leadership Congress in Washington DC.

Terrence & Angelina will travel to DC and American University this June to participate in the week-long experience.

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## REFLECTING ON 2024 POLICY SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON DC

During D51's spring break, the Upward Bound staff traveled to Washington DC to take part in the annual Policy Seminar. This annual event gathers TRIO leaders, alumni, and current students from across the nation to advocate for TRIO programs. Staff had the opportunity to meet with Colorado Congressional Representatives and Senators and share the stories of our UB students.

TRIO leaders urged elected officials to continue funding TRIO and find solutions to the many issues caused by the new FAFSA release. In total, CMU Upward Bound met with Senator Hickenlooper's office, Senator Benet's office, Congresswoman Degette's office, Congresswoman Boebert's office, and Congresswoman Caraveo's office.

After returning to Grand Junction, the UB team is over the moon about continuing to provide high-quality services to our Upward Bound students!





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## THIRD QUARTER CELEBRATIONS



GJHS Upward Bound students, Sofia and Oswaldo, were honored as Alpine Bank Students of the Quarter.

### ETIQUETTE DINNER



CMU Professor of Psychology, Dr. Kelley, spoke to GJHS UB during advisory period.

### MESA EXPERIENCE



### AFTER-SCHOOL

