



Bethany Bond

TRIO Upward Bound

I was selected to participate in the Upward Bound program at Peninsula College my freshman year of high school. Initially, I wanted to join because my sister was in it, but later found Upward Bound to be a place that accepted me for all my uniqueness and quirky nature. My time in Upward Bound gave me a real sense of my purpose. Each summer I took a Creative Writing course, which is what sparked my interest as a write and my path to becoming an English teacher.

In 2013 I completed my AA degree at Peninsula College while working for the very Upward Bound program that prepared me to be a college student. I always knew I would go to college even though I knew it would be a struggle financially for my parent's to contribute. I took a year off between degrees to work in the Port Angeles Schools as a para educator to confirm this was the direction I would take under advice of my Upward Bound advisor. I am now attending Western Washington University working on my Bachelor's in Elementary Education.

 <http://www.pencol.edu/upward-bound>



Upward Bound

In 2007 Peninsula College was awarded its first TRIO Upward Bound grant to serve 50 first-generation and low income yearly. Peninsula College is the only postsecondary institution based in the 3,553 square miles known as the Olympic Peninsula. Within such vast geographic reach the PC Upward Bound program serves high school students from small towns and rural communities in Clallam County including students from 5 distinct Native American Tribes. The program, now in its 9th year, serves students from five target high schools of the Port Angeles, Quillayute Valley, and, Quileute Tribal School Districts. The area population income levels are very low, especially for students who live on tribal reservations. In an area where only 8.34% of residents have attained a Baccalaureate degree or higher, it is imperative to prepare first generation, low income students for postsecondary education. Upward Bound sees to the academic, social, and emotional needs of its students by tutoring, mentoring, and encouraging students to become lifelong learners, remove barriers to success and discover their passions and hidden strengths. PC Upward Bound students have consistently exceeded the program's objectives for secondary school retention and graduation as well as postsecondary enrollment rates. With a small but powerful, caring and dedicated staff, all who were also first generation students including 2 UB alumni, they work hard to build relationships with students and make an impactful difference in each student's postsecondary preparation and persistence.

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