



Aminata Drammeh

TRIO Upward Bound

I am a first generation student; my parents never attend any formal education in the United States. I already knew that my parents wanted my sisters and I to graduate and go to college, however they had no clue even today how the college system works. And it's a struggle to being a first generation student, because not only with minimal knowledge of high school and beyond, but I lack the support that I need especially with school, and I had to go through my education on my own and get the help I need. College was always in my family's and in my own mind is just I did not know how to approach it or even ask the right question. The first time I heard about TRIO is during 8th grade and through out my freshman and sophomore year. I heard it as a support system for students with disadvantaged backgrounds, and thought to myself that if I'm facing similar issues as other students, then not only I can get the right support that I need but also they could help me succeed during and after high school.

I decided to apply and got into Upward bound at the end of my sophomore year. And applying was the best decision. Upward Bound not only help me become better prepare student by doing summer classes for the following academic year, but also help me get ready for college. Doing SAT/ACT preparation, financial literacy, and understanding the process of applying and attending college, was a tremendous help. And even the time of my senior year and applying for colleges and scholarship, I had a better understanding and huge confidence in my ability to become successful in college. I don't think, I would be in the position that I am in without the help of Upward Bound especially without the support of my advisor. She supported and encouraged me every step of the way to help me realize my goal and my aspiration to obtain my degree and exceed the expectation of my parents and others as well. So not only I did the Upward Bound program during high school, I also joined the TRIO program at Highline College as well. Since TRIO has already help me create a bridge to earn my bachelor's degree, and understand my situation and the background I come from, it was a program that I will never forget and continue to have my involvement in the program. TRIO currently help me with the transfer processes and also help me keep up support with my academics.

The program also offered campus visit, one on one tutoring services and even success classes such as the transfer foundation course that I am currently participating in these programs that was offered through my academic years in both high school and college, were the programs that I exactly need to be successful. And knowing that there is these services that are available for me to help me succeed it incredible. As of right now, I currently attend Highline College and I am earning my Associates of Arts in Business Degree this spring 2016. I plan to transfer to a university this fall 2016 to earn my Bachelor's degree in Business and major in information systems and financing. I also plan in the future to earn my Masters in business degree as well. TRIO and Upward Bound is the program that had change my life and change my perception and how I approach my educational goals and the challenges that I face as I go through college.



Upward Bound

Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Upward Bound projects provide academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, and foreign languages. Tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment, work-study programs, education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students; and programs and activities previously mentioned that are specially designed for students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of foster care system or other disconnected students.

TRIO