



Cat Dumler

TRIO Upward Bound

While in high school Peninsula College's Upward Bound program gave me a place to get my homework done, a place ONLY homework was allowed. To some students that wasn't what they were looking for but for me, it was exactly what I needed most. I can be a master procrastinator and always have been. That being said UB made sure that I actually did my assignments and got them turned in on time no matter how badly I wanted to do something else. When it came to college; it was always my plan to go but it also seemed like it was going to be impossible to do. There was so much happening at home and so many other siblings that had needs, I knew I was going to have to do this on my own. Through the program I realized how attainable college actually is and they really helped me achieve this goal.

Some of my best memories are the ones I made with my friends who were in the program with me, friends I will have for my lifetime. Currently I am a full time college student at Edmonds Community College in the construction management program as well as a part time checker at Safeway. I plan to transfer to Central Washington University after getting my two year degree. I am so grateful to the staff at Peninsula College's Upward Bound program as they have made a difference in my life and now are serving my sister and brother as well. They will have transformed the college going culture in our family.

 <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.

TRIO