



Heavyn Olea

TRIO Upward Bound

I first attended Upward Bound when I was a high school sophomore and didn't have a concrete plan of where I would be in the next five to eight years. I always imagined I wanted to attend college, but knew my parents were unable to help me with tuition costs. In Upward Bound I discovered there were options for students in my position, and my dream of attending college was kept alive. During my time in the program, I came to realize I actually enjoyed learning when I had designated study time and tutors available to answer my questions. After high school, I attended Peninsula College where I took general courses and decided I wanted to finish the Nursing Program prerequisites. After completing the prerequisites I applied to the Peninsula College Nursing Program and was accepted! I will graduate this Spring with my RN in Nursing.

I will always be thankful for my time in Upward Bound. Upward Bound helped me to realize there was a chance for me after all; that I could overcome the limitation of not being born into a prosperous 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.

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