

**Chad Larson**

TRIO Upward Bound

The Upward Bound program has changed my life in many incredible ways. With the help of this program I was able to get the assistance I needed to graduate. The awesome tutoring program helped me excel in the classes I had trouble with. The cultural activities helped me flourish into the person I am today. Not to mention, I learned how to apply to college, do my FAFSA, and ask for help. College was not easy to juggle on top of supporting myself, but the Upward Bound staff was always there with just one phone call. Upward Bound also helped me prepare for some of the life events they don't teach you in public school. I learned how to balance a check book, prepare taxes, cook, and budget finances.

Since high school graduation I have attended and graduated from Universal Technical Institute, the most prestigious technical school in the US. I recently move home from Utah where I serviced the over-the-road trucks that deliver all the goods we use today. Now that I have returned home I work at our local Ford dealership and am able to help my mom financially!

 <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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