



Jessa Marshall

TRIO Upward Bound

In middle school, I heard of a new program called MDC Scholars. My older sister joined the program her freshman year, where she had the opportunity to attend major college tours, attend a summer program, get access to extra school help, as well as participate in many different community service activities. It would be only a few years before I would follow in my sister's footsteps. The summer after my sophomore year, I attended the summer program at Pacific Lutheran University where I gained many different tools that would help prepare me for my senior year in high school. That summer a handful of MDC scholars were chosen for a college tour in California.

We were able to see many different campuses and talk face-to-face with admissions counselors. MDC Scholars has held me at high standards from grades to community involvement. These standards helped make me a four time Elizabeth Wesley award winner, as well as a Merle Palmer award recipient. MDC scholars helped define me as a strong leader in my community as well. I was chosen to be a student ambassador with the Next Move Internship program, and I was able to share my success story at the Tacoma Reaches Higher Conference.

I even started my own club called Random Acts of Kindness. As my senior year is coming to an end, I can confidently say that MDC Scholars has paved a pathway to my success, which I couldn't have imagined five years ago. My next steps are to take these values and experiences and apply them in my college career and future.

 <http://mdc-hope.org/education/mdc-trio-college-bound>



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.

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