



Anthony Sanders

TRIO Upward Bound

Upward Bound played a big role in my life during high school and through my graduation both in high school and in college. I looked forward to going to Upward Bound every day. I created strong, lasting friendships, expanded my knowledge and creativity, and I was more motivated to pursue my dreams and begin working towards a career over my peers which didn't participate in Upward Bound. The program had me engaged with more of my peers and helped me become more social. There was a time when I was involved in some things that weren't conducive to the path I had laid out for myself. I was involved in an accident where I was fighting for my life instead of fighting to accomplish my degree. This really put some things in perspective for me.

Upward Bound and the staff was the reason for my decision to immediately pursue my bachelor's degree at Peninsula College after my simultaneous graduation with my high school diploma and my AA degree. As for my career path, the program helped give me a sense of direction towards what I want to do with my life. Recently, I was married and we are now moving to Tukwila, WA where I will begin work at a consulting firm that handles face to face sales for a handful of larger companies. I will wear a suit to work every day. Not to mention, making a move away from my hometown for the first time in my life. I can't wait to see where this next step takes me. I don't know if I would have the confidence I have today to have made some pretty risky decisions if it weren't for TRIO Upward Bound at Peninsula College.

 <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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