



Martimeano Villa

TRIO Upward Bound

I have had the fortunate experience of being part of the Upward Bound program at Yakima Valley College and the family it provides. Through its support and guidance during times of family trauma and adversity, I have become an independent, persistent and active individual. Joining Upward Bound has helped me become a stronger student who has learned to embrace the opportunities education provides, rather than let my struggles define me. Recently I began a Gay-Straight Alliance club at my rural, conservative high school where I hope to expand the message of acceptance and perseverance to younger students that have faced similar struggles as my own. The confidence and resiliency I have developed while participating in Upward Bound has inspired me to reach for college and scholarship opportunities that few students in my community pursue. I was recently awarded the Horatio Alger National Scholar Award, a \$25,000 scholarship only awarded to 106 students per year nationally. I plan to use this scholarship to advance my education and increase my opportunities to serve others.



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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