VIOLA DAVIS, FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO WIN EMMY IN LEAD CATEGORY

Viola Davis, Upward Bound Alumna (not from WSU), became the first Black woman to win the "Lead Actress in a Drama Series" Emmy. This was Ms. Davis' first Emmy. In her powerful acceptance speech, Viola referenced Harriet Tubman when she said, "In my dreams, I see a line. Over that line, I see green fields and lovely flowers and beautiful white women with their arms stretched out to me over that line, but I can't seem to get there no how, I can't seem to get over that line."

Emphasizing the importance of opportunity, Davis continued, "The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity," Indicating to Taraji P. Henson and Kerry Washington, who were tearing up in the audience she said, "You cannot win an Emmy for roles that simply are not there."

(September 22, 2015)

TRIO ACHIEVERS HONORED AT COE’S 34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY DINNER

The Council for Opportunity in Education's 34th Annual Conference, held in Atlanta, welcomed seventeen hundred people to this year's three-day gathering and honored the accomplishments of five TRIO Achievers at the 11th Annual Educational Opportunity Dinner and National TRIO Achievers Awards. The dinner was chaired by Keith Sherin, Vice Chairman of GE, and Chairman and CEO, GE Capital; as well as Dimitri Stockton, President and CEO of GE Asset Management.

(Continued on page 6)
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

STAFF CHANGES IN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services (SSS) has had an eventful summer. Donalyn Sessions, the Educational Advisor, retired after ten years with SSS, and staff and friends enjoyed sharing cake and stories while wishing her a happy future. Sharadee Allred, another SSS advisor, will also be leaving SSS in order to spend more time at home with her young family. Both of them will be severely missed, and SSS has been very engaged in the hiring process this summer as a result.

Knowing that this transition was coming, SSS staff became engaged in repeated discussions of how the three advisor positions could be modified in order to better meet the needs of students. After much consideration, the advisor positions were changed to focus on the areas of retention, financial literacy, and study skills, and duties of each position were reallocated and modified to fit those specialty areas.

SSS hopes to have both vacant positions filled as soon as possible. On the bright side, the program recently received news that its grant has been refunded for another 5-year period! The SSS staff appreciates all those who provided helpful input throughout the grant writing process, and look forward to being around for several more years. This has also eased anxiety, as SSS continues working to build its 2015-2016 cohort of students. Going into the Fall, the program is heavily engaged in the recruitment and advising of new students, meeting book loan requests, and preparing the tutoring program for another busy semester.

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TALENT SEARCH

NEW TRIO TALENT SEARCH NEWS

The TRIO Talent Search Director, Rebecca Tierney, was placed into an active role as the new Utah State ASPIRE President in October. This was due to the current state President being elected as the new Regional President for the ASPIRE organization. This will add to her responsibilities and she would like to say thank you to a supportive team who helps keep things running smoothly!

The TRIO Talent Search Program would like to welcome our new Advisor, Chad Saunders. Chad is working at Ogden High School where he is already getting to know his Talent Search students. Chad comes to us with a Masters of Second Language Teaching, Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, and he is bi-lingual in Spanish. He comes to us with previous experience in organizing youth leadership conferences and some experience as a student in CCEL. We are happy to have him here!

For last program year (2014-2015) the Talent Search Program had some amazing outcomes. For the first time we met our Rigor objective at 34% (30% is the standard objective). We would like to recognize Ben Lomond High School (our Advisor Marisol Velasco and the School Counselors) as that school surpassed 50%! We also had a very high post-secondary enrollment rate of 85% (75% is the standard objective) which is 7% higher than the previous program year.

Last year’s demographics for the students we served were:

512 Students, grades 8-12 in the Ogden School District
54% Hispanic
36% Caucasian
5% African American
5% Other (Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander)

73% Low Income AND First Generation
22% Low Income OR First Generation
5% Other

On February 18, 19, & 20, 2016, Weber State TRIO programs (Talent Search and Upward Bound) will host the annual TRIO Youth Leadership Conference. Students from across the state will be coming to the Davis campus to learn about becoming an effective leader in their communities. The President of WSU, Chuck Wight, will be the initial keynote speaker on the first evening and will be demonstrating some fun science experiments for the students. We look forward to making it a positive experience for all those who attend!
UPWARD BOUND

UPWARD BOUND WELCOMES A NEW TEAM MEMBER

With the departure of Adam Bachison at the end of the summer, Upward Bound has been on the lookout for a new staff member. After months of searching, we are pleased to announce that an excellent candidate has accepted the position. Samantha Hill is joining the Upward Bound team as our new Math/Science Specialist. Samantha grew up in Layton, Utah, and attended Layton High School. She received her master's degree in Atmospheric Sciences in 2012 from the University of Utah after receiving her bachelor's degree in physics from Weber State University in 2008. She worked with Upward Bound as a student tutor while she was an undergraduate student at Weber State. Samantha loves meteorology (studying and predicting the weather), physics, traveling, Irish culture, crocheting, photography, and living in Ogden. She is excited to be back working with Weber State Upward Bound!

End of 1st Term

The end of the first term brought a lot of excitement to the Upward Bound program. The students at all three high schools served (Ben Lomond, Ogden, Clearfield) were able to see the fruits of the hard work they had been putting in all quarter long when their report cards came out. The cumulative GPA for the program in term one was 3.22. That is 62 students working hard and giving up their Saturdays in order to become college-ready, and clearly that work is paying off! While all of our kids worked hard and the majority of them had great report cards, we are especially proud of Monique Otterstrom, Demitrius Sanders, Christian Pratt, and Tania Cervantes who all earned perfect 4.0 GPAs in term one! Let’s keep it going!

Community Service

Upward Bound students are not only committed to excellence in the classroom. They are also committed to excellence in their communities. As such, they volunteer for local events and charities, putting in long hours and hard work to help wherever they are needed. The year in community service began with a cold and early morning at the annual XTERRA race put on by the GOAL Foundation. We also had volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club Scarecrow fundraiser, and the Anti-Tobacco and Thanksgiving Dinner, both put on by Project Success.
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

VUB PARTICIPANTS TO BE INCLUDED IN U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Good afternoon Mr. Randal Wilson,

The Student Service team at the U.S. Department of Education wanted to announce that three of your participants’ success stories were selected to be published. These individuals included Mr. Don Parks, Mr. Yandriel Rodriguez and Mr. Jeff Henry. While Mr. Henry will be featured in our Special Electronic Publication on VUB, Mr. Parks’ and Mr. Rodriguez’s success stories were selected to be displayed in another public source for all of our federal TRIO programs. The purpose of this public source is to combine many different success stories that we receive, and inform the outside community of how TRIO programs differ in purposes, activities, eligibility and success stories etc. Check This Link

Best,
Luxie Vang, Higher Education Programs

WELCOME TO BUCK KOLZ: BASIC SKILLS-ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR AND TUTOR FOR VUB

Buck Kolz spent his early years moving from one cow camp to another in western Colorado. When he reached an age appropriate for schooling, his parents settled outside the small town of Fruita.

Buck started his higher education journey at what was called Mesa State College, now Colorado Mesa University. While he was there, he met his wife, Jennifer, and they were married in December of 1998 before moving to Utah. Once in Utah, Buck worked in the building materials industry while attending Weber State University where he earned double major in English and History in December of 2007.

Buck entered the Master of Arts in English program at Weber State. While in the program, he worked in the Writing Center as a tutor helping students of many experience levels improve their writing. In 2010, he co-taught the literature and composition course for Upward Bound’s summer program and continued on with them as a tutor and instructor through 2013.

Buck secured adjunct instructor positions for Learning English for Academic Purposes (LEAP) and for Developmental English before he graduated with his MA in 2011. Since then, he has taught English 0955, 1010, and 2010. In November of 2015, he began his adventure as Veteran Upward Bound’s Basic Skills Specialist in English where he will continue to do something he loves even more than fast cars: help students improve their writing.
The awards dinner honored business leader Brian Black of Wichita, Kansas; lawyer Molly Clough from Potsdam, New York; Chippewa Tribal Chairman Aaron Payment of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; actor Rene Rosado of Los Angeles, and Sarah Silvafierro, Executive Director of the New Mexico Communities in Action in Faith. All honorees attribute their current success to their enrollment in TRIO programs.

TRIO Achiever Brian Black is currently Senior Manager, for Global Diversity and Corporate Administration for Spirit AeroSystems. He was the first in his family to go to college and attended University of South Carolina-Columbia where he received a Bachelor of Science degree as well as a Master’s Degree. His high school guidance counselor told him that he wasn’t “college material”. However his Talent Search counselor told him otherwise. “I will never forget the moment when she literally placed hope back into my life.”

Sarah Silvafierro was an Upward Bound student in the New Mexico State University Program as well as the Upward Bond Math/Science, Trinidad State Junior College and received her B.A. at the University of San Francisco. She credits Upward Bound with changing the trajectory of her life. “I truly believe that if it were not for my participation in the TRIO Programs... I would not be leading the life that I am blessed to have today.” Sarah is currently the Executive Director of the New Mexico Communities in Action and Faith.

The third TRIO award recipient, Aaron Payment is an Upward Bound alumnus of Lake Superior State University. Aaron received his B.S. from Northern Michigan University as well as Master’s Degrees in Education and in Public Administration. Aaron is the Tribal Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Vice-President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes. He was recently appointed by President Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Aaron grew up in self-described “abject poverty.” He said, “I am so grateful for Upward Bound and those guardian angels that came into my life to show me the way.”

Molly Clough is now a Law Partner at Carrothers and Clough PLLC. As a freshman at Potsdam State University, New York, she described herself as “a scared girl entering an unknown world.” She credits Student Support Services with putting her on the right path and engaging her in “learning to learn”. After earning her B.A from Potsdam, Molly graduated from Syracuse University College of Law. She said, “Sometimes the best lessons are the ones you learn from when you are in the darkest hour. For that I will be forever grateful (to SSS).”

Rene Rosado is an actor, now living in Los Angeles. He has had roles in Asher, Dysfunktion and Star Trek Into Darkness; and garnered television roles on Conviction, Criminal Minds and Major Crimes. He used these words to describe what TRIO means to him — “Perseverance, love ambition, determination, sacrifice and faith.” Following the steps of his older sister, Rene became a member of Wesleyan University’s Upward Bound Program. He went on to the University of Connecticut where Student Support Services, “stepped in and guided me both academically and personally.” Rene thanks TRIO — “I thank God for the TRIO Programs and the mentors it has provided me, because without them I wouldn’t be where I am today.”