



UPWARD BOUND

ANNUAL

REPORT

2023-2024

THEIR STORIES ARE OUR STRENGTH

The second year of Upward Bound at Colorado Mesa University and in Mesa County Valley School District 51 was a success by nearly every measure.

Students from all backgrounds, interests, and academic abilities participated in Upward Bound during the 2023-2024 year. While their differences presented unique challenges to overcome, students unified behind the goal of pursuing their dreams through post-secondary education.

Several of their stories include:

- Being the **first in their family** to earn a high school diploma and go on to pursue a college degree.
- Building trust with school administrators, teachers, and advisors after expulsion and **graduating on time**.
- Achieving the **Seal of Biliteracy**, further recognizing the unique gifts of our native speakers.
- Earning a **full-ride scholarship** in recognition of their academic and personal achievements.

This annual report celebrates the achievements of our Upward Bound participants and recognizes the incredible work that Upward Bound staff and community partners dedicate to ensuring students can achieve their wildest dreams.

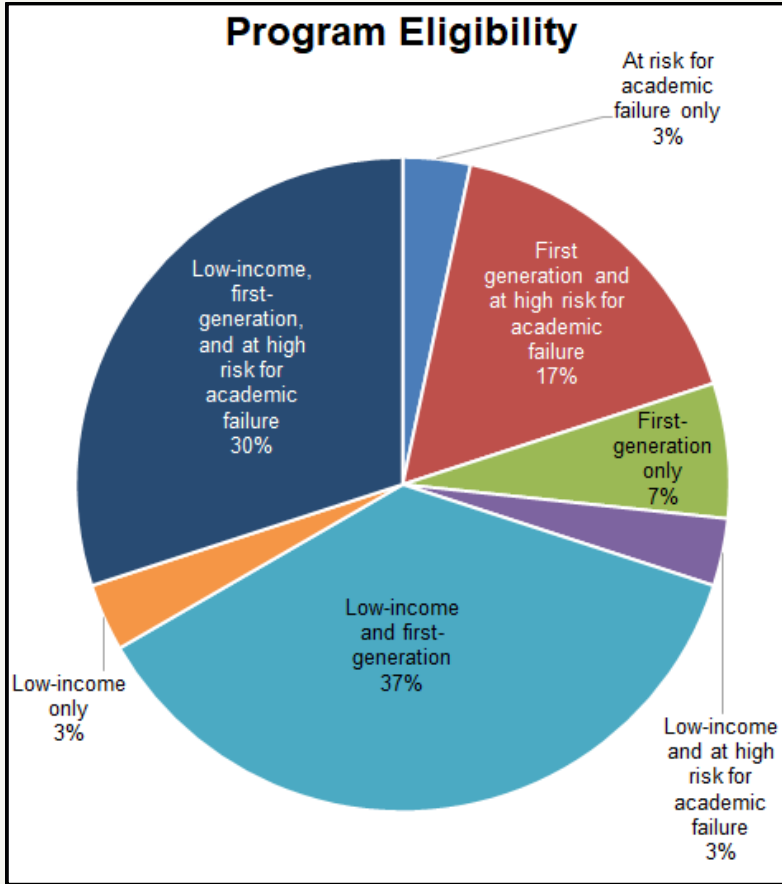
Sincerely,



Shelby Burroughs Pryzgoda, Director



FEARLESSLY FIRST-GEN



Upward Bound is federally mandated to serve students who are low-income and first-generation, requiring 66% of eligible students to identify as both.

33 students served at Grand Junction High School



- Rising Freshmen (Class of 2028) - 3
- Freshmen (Class of 2027) - 3
- Sophomores (Class of 2026) - 10
- Juniors (Class of 2025) - 7
- Seniors (Class of 2024) - 10

27 students served at Central High School



- Rising Freshmen (Class of 2028) - 0
- Freshmen (Class of 2027) - 5
- Sophomores (Class of 2026) - 8
- Juniors (Class of 2025) - 5
- Seniors (Class of 2024) - 9

90%
of Upward Bound participants are First-Generation.

78%
of Upward Bound participants identify as Female.

21
Upward Bound students graduated in the Class of 2024*

73%
of Upward Bound students meet low income requirements.

*two students graduated as juniors but were not listed as seniors for our reporting purposes

HIGH STANDARDS HIGH SUPPORT

1 63% participants will have a GPA above 2.5 at the end of the school year

Daily **after school tutoring**, weekly **grade monitoring**, and multiple opportunities for **supplemental instruction** help students achieve grade point averages at or above this standard.

3 87% of project students will continue on to the next grade or will have graduated from high school.

Consistent monitoring of **school attendance** and required **weekly check-ins** support students in making the necessary progress to advance on to the next year or earn their diploma.

5 62% of all current and prior Upward Bound participants will enroll in college the fall immediately following high school graduation.

Proactive **admissions, registration, and financial aid advisement** supports seniors throughout their final year of high school, preparing them for the next chapter in their educational lives.

2 48% of Upward Bound seniors will have proficient scores in math and English Language Arts.

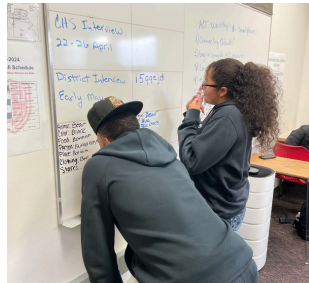
Intentional programming around **PSAT and SAT preparation**, in addition to accessing alternative paths toward **demonstrating proficiency** ensure all students have the ability to succeed.

4 48% of all current and prior Upward Bound participants who graduated from high school will complete a rigorous program of study.

Embedded Upward Bound advisors at Central and Grand Junction High School challenge students to **enroll in difficult courses** that provide a strong foundation for future college coursework.

6 38% of all participants who enrolled in college following high school graduation will graduate with an associates or bachelor's degree within six years.

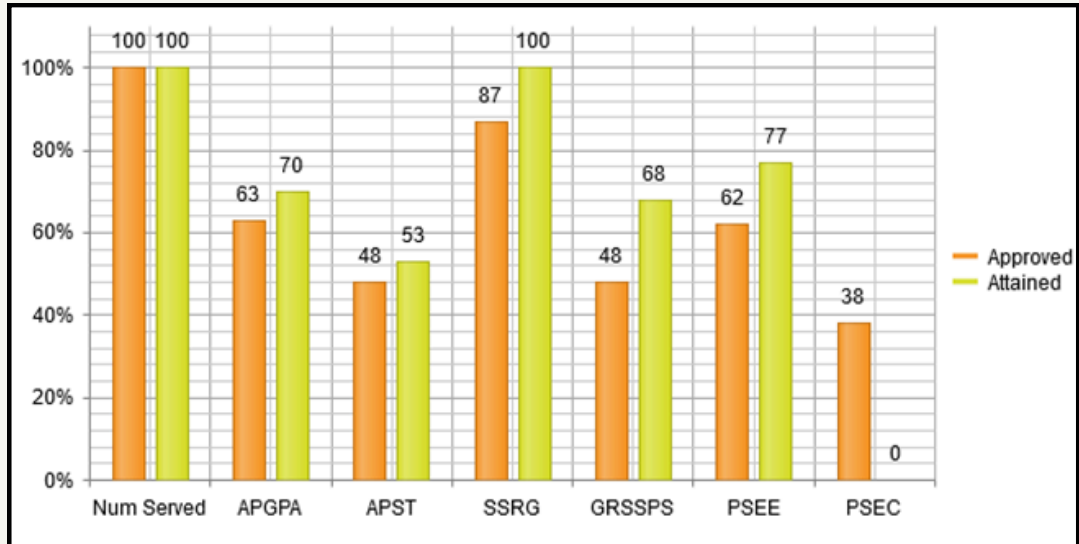
Connecting graduates with campus resources like TRIO Student Support Services, faculty and staff advisors, and peer-led organizations develops the necessary support to succeed in college.



PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

As a Department of Education grant, CMU Upward Bound is eligible to receive “Prior Experience Points” in years 2, 3, and 4 of the 5-year grant cycle. These points are awarded when a program exceeds their goals and benefit the program when re-applying at the end of the grant cycle in 2027.

CMU Upward Bound earned all possible prior experience points in 2023-2024.



Program Year	Year 2 (2023-24)		
	Project Goal*	23-24 Outcomes	Prior Experience Points
Total Number Served	60	60	3
Academic Performance - GPA above 2.5	63%	70%	1.5
Academic Performance - Senior Proficiency in Math & ELA	48%	53%	1.5
Retention and/or Graduation of Participants	87%	100%	3
Seniors - Graduation with a Rigorous Program of Study	48%	68%	1.5
Enrollment in Post-Secondary Education	62%	77%	3
Postsecondary Completion in 6-years	38%	0%	0
Total Prior Experience Points			13.5
Prior Experience Points as Defined by: 34 CFR 645.32			

*Project goals determined by the 2022-2027 Upward Bound Grant Proposal

6000+ HOURS

Time Students Dedicated to Upward Bound in 2023-2024.

\$299,038.00

Upward Bound funding dedicated to supporting student success in the 2023-2024 year.



\$195,030.36

Total scholarship dollars earned by the Upward Bound graduating class of 2024.

100%

of Upward Bound students graduated high school or continued on to the next academic grade.

The academic year, running August to May, is full of opportunities for students to shine both in and out of the classroom.

Students dedicated a combined total of **3,315 hours** to Upward Bound programming and activities during the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

ACADEMIC YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Class of 2024 Financial Aid Pay Day

The Class of 2024 raked in \$195,030.36 in scholarship awards and \$158,792.00 in grant aid, totaling **\$353,822.36!**



Alpine Bank Students of the Quarter

4 Upward Bound students were recognized as Students of the Quarter in the 2023-2024 year. Students earned a \$500 scholarship to CMU.



Seal of Biliteracy Awardees

4 Upward Bound students were awarded the D51 Seal of Biliteracy for demonstrating proficiency in a language other than English.



Academic Letter Winners

12 Upward Bound students earned Academic Letter honors for achieving a 3.5 GPA or above, with 4 students earning a 4.0 or above.

41%

of Upward Bound participants **enrolled in Advanced Placement and/or Concurrent Enrollment** coursework in the 2023-2024 Academic Year, with 4 students earning an Industry Credential.

86%

of Upward Bound seniors **completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, significantly higher than the national average of 46% for the Class of 2024*.

53%

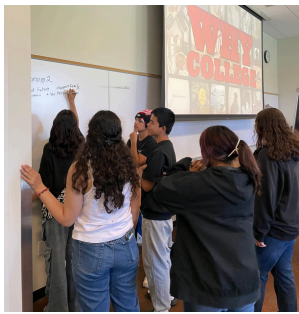
of Upward Bound students **worked a part-time job** (more than 10 hours per week) in addition to their academic, athletic, and extracurricular commitments.

*National FAFSA Completion Rates for High School Seniors and Graduates. National College Attainment Network. <https://www.ncan.org/page/NationalFAFSACompletionRatesforHighSchoolSeniorsandGraduates>

SUMMER ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

17 students dedicated six weeks of their summer vacation to participating in the Upward Bound Summer Academy.

The first four weeks were spent at CMU where students engaged in daily coursework in core subjects. Students then moved into campus dorms for a week prior to departing on a week-long college road trip across Colorado!



Groups collaborate during the "Why College" workshop



Students shared their "why" during the open mic night.



River Leadership trip with Colorado Canyons Association



Outdoor adventures at Garden of the Gods



visited **5 colleges and universities** in Colorado during the annual Scholar's Trip, including Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, Colorado College, and Western Colorado University.



daily **social emotional learning** workshops, activities, and lessons to encourage healthy relationships, personal goal setting, and using their skills to give back to their local community.



collaboration with community partners and experts to learn about topics including: Watershed Science, Physical Fitness, Skin and Sun Safety, and Youth Advocacy and Leadership.



practical activities like cooking competitions, grocery shopping, and creating local service projects allowed students to **learn lifelong skills** necessary to become healthy adults and engaged citizens in their communities.



Students with their beloved ASL instructor, Billy Allen (far left).



Teams worked together to plan activities and practice delegating.



Learning important cooking skills in Iron Chef competition.



Volunteering with local animal shelter in Grand Junction.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

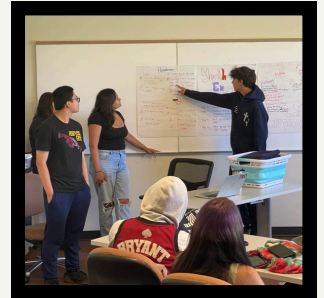
The **second year of Upward Bound** at Colorado Mesa University and Mesa County School District 51 provided new opportunities for students and staff to **grow**.

Accomplishments Include:

- In March 2024, two staff members attended the annual **Council for Opportunity in Education Policy Seminar** in Washington D.C. where they shared our student's stories and successes with elected officials from Colorado.
- In April 2024, an Upward Bound student from Central High School presented at the annual Colorado ASPIRE Conference, hosted at Colorado Mesa University. This student was the **only high school student in the state selected as a conference presenter**.
- In June 2024, two students--one from Grand Junction High School and one from Central High School--were selected to attend the annual **National Student Leadership Congress hosted at American University in Washington, D.C.** Here, students learned about the legislative process, created their own mock legislation, and met with elected officials at the U.S. Capitol.

Challenges Include:

- Our federal grant award covers 100% of Upward Bound's operating budget. Though Upward Bound has strong bipartisan support from national legislators, **federal budgets seldom keep up with the challenges of high inflation**. Inflation has increased everything from the monthly cost of staff benefits to the food we provide students during summer programming. With budgets remaining "flat funded", meaning a 0% increase between grant years, we **got savvy, seeking out free or low-cost options for student-based services** in order to navigate rising costs.
- We **welcomed two new advisors** to the Upward Bound team in the 2023-2024 grant year as previous staff new opportunities within the local school district and at CMU. Our new team members brought great energy and valuable skills to our program, but the hiring process is difficult, especially for students who built strong, trusting relationships with previous advisors. By **including students in the interview and hiring process**, we helped ensure that our new team members not only aligned with our program's values, but the process gave students insight into interviewing skills and the steps of applying for a job!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ongoing partnerships with the following community organizations allow Upward Bound to better serve and support students:

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mesa County Valley School District #51

Kids Aid

Riverside Education Centers

Mesa County Workforce Center

Colorado Canyons Association

Western Slope Empowerment

Resources, Education, and Advocacy for Children who are Homeless (REACH)

Colorado State University Extension

Center for Independence

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF UPWARD BOUND

