

# S.U.B.S. Parent Newsletter 2011-2012



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## Supporters of Upward Bound Students

# Updates at Upward Bound

Greetings!

Although spring is here, the weather is proving to have a mind of it's own! At the Upward Bound office, spring has definitely reminded all of the central staff that summer is soon, and quickly, approaching! We are currently very busy planning for the upcoming summer session and our week long cultural trip to Denver and Colorado Springs.

There are many things going on right now for UB, that we wanted to update you on. SAC members have voted for Thursday night activities as well as our large group activities in Colorado. SAC members also recently conducted interviews for our Resident Assistant candidates for the summer. This was an experience for our students and they did a great job representing their peers. Following the interviews we hired six qualified Resident Assistants to join the summer staff team. Fortunately, we have three returning RAs from last year who will lead the way for the others. We all look forward to working with them and I know the students are eager to do the same.

With our entire summer staff in place, Kori has spent time selecting which courses will be offered. Students will have the opportunity to choose classes during the last Saturday Session on April 29th. If your student is struggling in a given subject, we strongly encourage them to select classes in that field.

If students are on supplemental tutoring, they *will* be placed in that area so they can be better prepared for what they will face next year in their high school classes. Our enrichment classes will continue to be a tough choice for all of our students as we are once again offering a variety of fun and creative opportunities for students to take part in.

Just as in summers past we will be holding parent orientation for our summer session in May. Please check out page three of this newsletter for more information as well as your mailbox, we have sent invitations to you this past week.

Lastly, the Upward Bound Central Staff wants to remind all student about completing their designated checklists in order to be eligible to attend the summer session. As a parent/guardian, please ask your student about their checklists status. We want to see every UB student this summer. Please let us know if you have any questions about the checklists, we would be happy to answer them as well as any other questions you may have.

I look forward to seeing you at Parent Orientation in May!

Best Regards,  
Jackie



## ACT Test Dates 2011-2012 The UB Code is :9713

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5-18, 2012

# Understanding Your Student Aid Report

If you've never set eyes on a Student Aid Report (SAR) before, it can be a dizzying experience. If you and your child have recently submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you can expect to receive a SAR in return.

If you filed your FAFSA electronically and chose to receive your SAR via email, you should receive your SAR within a few days. Keep an eye on our junk mail folders in case the email with your SAR gets routed there. If you filed a paper FAFSA, you should receive your SAR via postal mail in 3-4 weeks. Below are some of the items you will find on your SAR and will want to look for..

## **Expected Family Contribution (EFC).**

The EFC is not necessarily the amount the family will actually end up paying. Instead, the figure represents the amount the government believes the family is able to contribute, based on the family's income, assets, number of college-age students and other factors.

**Verification.** If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, it means that your student's SAR has been flagged for verification. You will also be informed of having been selected for verification in the SAR Acknowledgement letter, which will be included with your SAR documents. If you have been selected, it means that you may have to show additional financial documentation to your student's college in order to qualify for federal aid. Verification doesn't mean you have done anything wrong. It affects about 30 percent of all SARs and is a relatively routine request. You may have to fill out a Verification Worksheet, which will be given to you by the college's financial aid office. In all likelihood, you will have to provide supporting documentation (tax return, W-2, etc.). Because so much aid is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, it is very important that this step be completed in a timely manner.

**Pell Grant Eligibility.** You will be notified if your student is eligible for Pell Grant monies, funds that do not need to be paid back, within the SAR Acknowledgement

letter. Pell Grant is given to students who come from a low-income family. The federal government looks at the financial information from the FAFSA in order to see if students are eligible.

**FAFSA Changes.** It is important that you check over the information on the last few pages of the SAR to make sure it is correct. You and your student are able to make any necessary changes, but as soon as possible. The SAR allows you to change information on the form or online. Be sure to correct estimated information, if you are able to do so.

If you have any further questions about the SAR or if you don't receive it in a timely manner after your student has completed their FAFSA, contact the U.S. Department of Education Help Desk at: 1-800-433-3243 as well as Jackie at the Upward Bound office. She will help you contact your student's prospective college's financial aid office.

Information gathered from: Diehl, C. (2008) Understand your Student Aid Report. <http://www.fastweb.com/financial-aid/articles/701-understand-your-student-aid-report>.

## Financial Aid Award Package

One of the big factors in choosing a college institution for your student to attend is what type of financial aid s/he will be awarded. In order to find this information out you and your student will need to receive the college's financial aid award package that they have created specifically for your student. This package will contain the information needed to make a final decision on if attending that college is the best option academically and most importantly financially. Some of the terms you will need to pay close attention to are below.

**Cost of Attendance (COA).** This is the total direct cost (tuition, room and board, etc.) of one year's education. Your student's college may also include indirect costs (books, fees, transportation, personal expenses, etc.). Sit down with your student and make a list of all other indirect costs that are not given in the COA.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC).** Just as the above article, the EFC is the amount per year parents and students are

expected to pay, determined by the FAFSA results.

**Financial Aid Award.** The award is broken down into grants and loans. The three main types of grants and loans is the Federal Pell Grant (free money), Federal Stafford Loan (student repays) and the Federal PLUS loan (parent repays).

**Unmet Need.** Is the COA minus the EFC and total aid.

COA  
-EFC  
- Financial Aid  
Unmet Need

Note- If there is a positive number for the unmet need you and your student will need to discuss how to pay for that amount.

Remember, each college institution is different which means each college's award package will be different but organized similarly. So, it is very important that you and your student pay attention to the details.

If you or your student do have questions about a financial aid award package, contact that college's financial aid office. Jackie can also help you understand the wording and jargon used in the package, which sometimes is a little difficult to comprehend. She is also very willing to get you the college's contact information. Most colleges have instructions and more information about their financial aid award packages on their financial aid websites. It never hurts to do some research to better understand information and processes.

Remember, it is very important to look at as many colleges' financial aid award packages for your student in order to decide which institution will be the best choice to attend. Comparing colleges is okay to do and is critical.

# Summer Happenings

Just as we need information from you to plan our summer session, we understand you also need information from us so you can plan activities for you and your family.

Our summer dates have been set, and students will move in on Sunday, June 3rd. This summer we are will be staying in the same location as we were last year, Perrin Hall. Students will begin classes on Monday, June 4th (this is also when the Bridge students will begin their college classes through Northwest). The last day of the summer session will be Thursday, July 5th which will also be the date of our end of summer awards ceremony.

Following the 5 week session of classes, we will be taking our trip to Denver, Colorado from July 9th-12th. More information regarding the trip will be shared during our summer orientation in May. We have sent an invitation to you last week so please check your mail for information on that event.

Classes will not be in session July 4th (campus is

closed for Independence Day).

If you currently are aware of any summer camps, vacations or absences for your student, please let our office know as soon as possible or by the summer orientation night. Included in the summer orientation invitation, we included a calendar with important summer events. You may write your student's absences on this calendar and turn it in to the office. We are beginning to buy tickets for our Thursday night activities as well as our trip to Denver and need to plan accordingly.

We plan to send weekly email updates through email again this summer. During summer orientation please make sure that the UB office has your correct primary email address on file. Jackie will use this email to send the weekly updates, other important information to you, and most importantly what your student is doing throughout the weeks with Upward Bound.

# Working Through Transitions

As a parent, you have watched your child grow from a toddler into, or very soon, a young adult. Throughout the years you have guided, taught, and protected your child as they go through many developmental stages. Throughout these stages, your child has gone through transitions from starting their first day of kindergarten to their first day of high school. Very soon s/he will be going through another big life transition, graduating high school.

At Upward Bound one of our goals is to prepare your child for the transitions they will experience once they enter their postsecondary education. The summer component is a large aspect of this goal and it will give your student the opportunity to experience life away from home as well as the responsibilities of being a college student.

As a college student, your child will be expected to be independent and self-sufficient, but your child will continue to need your guidance and support (even though may act like they don't require it). As a parent or guardian you will still serve as a primary influence in your child's life as a mentor, advisor, and confidant but at a greater physical and figurative distance.

As your child's role changes to be more independent, your role as a parent changes. You and your child will develop a new adult relationship. This adult relationship will be based on mutual respect, shared interests, and the bonds of a family. Once your child becomes a college student, and even this summer with Upward Bound, communication will change slightly from what it is now.

For instance, when your child is living at home, you probably talk every day about what is happening, what they are doing for the night and where they are going. However, once your child transitions to their new role as a college student your communication will probably become less frequent. Because of this, it is very important to keep in touch and to keep the lines of communication open.

A great tool to keep in touch with your student is to arrange a specific time to call each other. Since college students seem to always be "in the middle of something" it may be best to let your child call you when s/he has time to talk. Email is another popular way to communicate with college students. In an email you may talk about what's happening at home. Some students go home often, others return only for holidays. While you want your child to always feel welcome at home, encourage him/ her to stay on campus as much as possible during the first few months of college. These months are when colleges arrange activities to help students meet new people and get accustomed to their new college environment. Having your student be successful in college is very important and developing friendships and becoming involved in campus activities contributes greatly to this success.

It may be hard to let your child leave for the summer component, but just remember these experiences will only help you and your child transition more smoothly when college is in the horizon.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



### UB Summer Session 2012

June 3rd - July 5th

### Summer Trip 2012

July 9th-13th

### Summer Parent Orientation

Tues, May 15th  
@ 6:30pm  
or  
Thurs, May 17th  
@ 6:30pm

Must attend one,  
look in your mail for  
an invitation!

### Last Saturday Session is April 28th

Students will choose  
their summer classes  
on this day!

# Supporters of Upward Bound Students

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- Do you have a student who has recently been recognized for great accomplishments either academically or in their extracurricular activities? A lot of schools are beginning to have award banquets and we want to know about our Upward Bound students. Please let us know and we'll include them in the monthly student newsletter.

We love bragging about all of the awesome achievements and successes our students have!

- Do you have a topic that you would like covered in a SUBS article? Let us know! We are always looking for ideas from our parents and guardians!