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# Upward Bound Update

The Official Tigard-Tualatin Upward Bound Program Newsletter

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## TTSD Upward Bound – Helping Students Make College Dreams a Reality

Upward Bound is a federally funded grant program designed to help low-income, first generation college students graduate high school, gain entrance to and successfully complete college. The program has funding to serve 62 TTSD high school students. It assists eligible participants in developing the skills and motivation necessary for success in education beyond high school. The school year features weekly tutoring sessions, college campus visits, standardized test preparation, college counseling (including help completing the FAFSA, submitting applications and financial aid, etc.) and exposure to other educational and cultural opportunities. Additionally, in a normal year, students spend six weeks attending an intensive summer program, which includes college-prep classes for high school credit, unique field trips, an overnight college stay and a multitude of other opportunities to increase self-esteem, build leadership skills, expand social networks, and improve college readiness.

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## TTSD UB Graduates Make Fall College Plans

We are thrilled by the number of our graduates heading off to college this year! The 2020 UB Senior Class included 13 students all of whom have been admitted and plan to enroll in college this fall.

**Mauro Alvarez** (THS) – Western Oregon University  
**Jacky Arroyo** (TuHS) – Portland Community College  
**Salome Fuapau** (THS) – Portland State University  
**Liz Gonzalez-Ruiz** (TuHS) – Central Oregon Community College  
**Ceirra Gordon** (THS) – Portland State University  
**Madison Hotchkiss** (THS) – Portland State University  
**Valeria Marquez Murga** (THS) – Oregon State University  
**Melissa Ontiveros** (THS) – Western Oregon University  
**Mia Ramirez Lopez** (TuHS) – Portland State University  
**Kara Rivera Ramirez** (TuHS) – Portland Community College  
**Monse Roque Villalobos** (THS) – Portland Community College  
**Alondra Ruiz Navarrete** (TuHS) – Portland Community College  
**Xavier Walker** (THS) – Portland Community College



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## TTSD UB Enjoys Successful Summer Program

While most TTSD students and staff were enjoying not being on their computers every day, TTSD Upward Bound's six-week Online Summer Program was full-speed ahead from June 15-July 24. While 100% of the UB staff and students agreed that a "normal" in-person summer program is better than

being online, we had some great outcomes. We had 45 students commit to participating during the summer program, which was a pleasant surprise considering the difficult circumstances and alternative learning platform. Each morning, students logged into Google Classroom and were greeted with an episode of “UB in 3” – which provided daily announcements and inspiration in about three minutes. UB courses began at 11am and ended at 3:30pm. Students had in-class instruction on Mondays and Wednesdays, while Tuesdays and Thursdays were work days with teacher office hours. Fridays were reserved for special presentations and group activities. Students enjoyed the unique and challenging college-prep classes, earning .25 credits for each course they successfully completed, with most earning 1.0 elective credits for their efforts.

## TTSD UB Summer Offers Unique and Varied Academic Course Offerings

Students were able to choose from a wide-array of course offerings from across the academic spectrum. Classes were taught by some of TTSD’s finest educators, with diverse educational backgrounds and specialties. The teachers went all-in on creativity and the students responded positively.

**Andrew Bonica** – Psychology (TuHS): You, Me, Us; Crowdsourced Creativity; World Travelers

**Catherine Cox** – Spanish (Metzger): Spanish – Study Abroad; Book Club: “Esperanza renace”; Spanish Pop Culture: “Gran Hotel”

**Emily Gitt & Jennifer Pavelich** – Language Arts (Metzger): Book Club: “Just Mercy”; Future Careers; Short Stories

**Justin Humble** – Math (TuHS): Foundations of Algebra; Solidifying HS Math; Financial Literacy

**Chris Lieuallen** – College Prep (TuHS): Senior Bridge Class; Freshman Success Class

**Kaleb Reese** – Science (THS): Science Sampler; Science Sampler Pro



Making pico de gallo together in Catherine Cox’s Spanish class.

Chris Lieuallen’s Freshman Success class in action.

## Speakers Bring Expertise to TTSD UB Virtual Classrooms

While there were downsides to having to move the summer program online, there were also upsides. One of the most significant benefits was that many speakers who might not have been willing or able to physically travel to Tualatin High School, were happy to pop into a Google Meet from their office or home. Our teachers took advantage of this opportunity to augment classroom learning by inviting presenters to share their knowledge and skills with students. We had an amazing line-up of classroom speakers this summer:

**Ann-Marie Carlson, Corporate Executive**  
**Chris Edison, Attorney**

**Jeff Campbell, Firefighter**  
**Kyle Hart, Author**

Erin Mills, Entrepreneur  
Jaime Pedraza, Corrections Officer  
Tricia Thompson, Entrepreneur

Ben Pedraza, Business Owner  
Stephen Randall, Emergency Room Nurse  
Meher Vasdev, Actuarial Analyst

## Enrichment Presentations Open New Horizons for TTSD UB Students

TTSD UB always strives to expose our students to opportunities that they might not otherwise have. Visiting unique locations and educational destinations is always the goal, but with field trips off the table this summer, we had to get creative. During our Friday “enrichment” time, we were able to expose the students – through the magic of the internet – to some unforgettable presentations.

**Mental Health and Self-Care Presentation – Dr. Amy Stoeber** gave students all sorts of food for thought regarding self-care and future-casting during this difficult time. She gave helpful advice on how to deal with anxiety and how to stay connected with key support systems.

**Virtual Campus Tour – Oregon State University** has a state-of-the-art virtual campus tour and the students were able to travel the sidewalks and hallways of the Corvallis school from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Students were able to learn about class offerings, campus highlights and interesting aspects of OSU.

**Financial Literacy Seminar – TuHS teacher Justin Humble** taught an informative financial literacy seminar. He covered everything from credit card debt to establishing savings accounts to investing.

**Upward Bound College Panel Discussion – TTSD UB Graduates** shared how they navigated the road to college as low-income, first-generation students. The UB grads presented their thoughts and answered a myriad of questions. The panel members consisted of:

**Sheyla Dorantes** (THS class of 2018) – Lewis & Clark College

**Vicki Fuentes** (TuHS class of 2017) – George Fox University

**Jazmine Rios** (THS class of 2018) – Western Oregon University

**Alfredo Texta** (TuHS class of 2015) – Portland State University (graduate)

**Kevin Figueroa** (TuHS class of 2017) – Western Oregon University

**Art of the Brick Presentation and Workshop – LEGO Artist Nathan Sawaya** discussed his winding path from rural Oregon to New York City attorney to world renowned LEGO artist. He also gave the students a virtual tour of his LA studio packed full of millions of LEGO bricks and countless amazing sculptures. To wrap his time up he led the students in the building of their own LEGO “UB Dream Machines,” on which they could write their dream and drive it down the road to academic success.



Dr. Amy Stoeber, Psychologist

Nathan Sawaya, LEGO Artist

Justin Humble, Financial Literacy

## Students Participate in the Brooks Sports Sponsored TTSD UB PC

Being forced to limit activity due to COVID-19 restrictions coupled with staring at a screen for hours during summer classes does not do much for a person's physical and mental health, so UB students were challenged to head outdoors and get active. The mission of the TTSD Upward Bound Physical Challenge was for students to get outside and safely exercise for 30 minutes or more at least five days per week for the duration of the summer program. Thanks to a generous grant from Brooks Sports, students who accomplished this task received \$150 to spend on Brooks running shoes and apparel. Special shout out to Brooks for helping our UB students "Run Happy!"

## TTSD UB Students Partake in Real Olive Garden, Virtual Awards Dinner

At the end of the summer program, students are usually rewarded with class accolades and program awards during a catered formal dinner. Obviously, this summer wasn't usual. Instead, UB worked with the Lake Oswego Olive Garden to provide a "special delivery" dinner. Olive Garden staff boxed up individual student meals which were then delivered by UB teachers to student homes. Students were able to login online and enjoy eating their meals with their classmates and watching the UB End of Summer Award Video. No one would argue that it was as enjoyable as an in-person awards event, but at least the breadsticks were tasty!



## Special Thanks

We want to recognize the behind-the-scenes work of Susan Salkield and Ray Grosenbach at the District office, without whom the operation of the UB grant would simply not be possible. Much thanks!

## TTSD Upward Bound Program Staff

Greg Mitchell, Director  
Genara Solis, Program Coordinator

For more information about Tigard-Tualatin Upward Bound, follow us on Instagram @ttsdubfam and check out our website [ttsdupwardbound.weebly.com](http://ttsdupwardbound.weebly.com)

\*Upward Bound is one of eight programs that fall under the TRIO umbrella of the US Department of Education. TTSD Upward Bound costs are 100% financed by federal money. Annually the funding amount differs, but year specific data is available to the public upon request. For 2019-20 the project received \$287,537 in federal funds.