Parents, Guardians, Students, and more,

It is hard to believe but it has been almost an entire year since we have had any consistent in-person contact with some of you! The announcement of the pandemic, the lockdowns, quarantines, etc. have dictated that we keep our distance from one another. Of course, seeing all of the smiling faces on a computer screen is nice in many ways I would still prefer to have you all here or to visit your schools. “They” say that all wounds heal in time. I’m quite positive that this pandemic will begin to fade away sometime in the near future. Until then let’s all stay hopeful and safe.

I want you to know that your Upward Bound family misses you and that we are doing everything possible to prepare for your immediate return. Personally, I can hardly wait until we can hop on a bus and spend the day together learning new things and exploring all that this world has to offer! I am very hopeful that our institution will allow us to return to campus this summer but that is contingent upon a few factors outside of our control. In the meantime, I would love for all of you to reach out to us if you need anything. We are still offering tutoring and academic advising, ACT/SAT waivers and study helps, and of course all of the love and support that we can for any of life’s other issues.

Parents and Guardians, you are also free to contact us at any time that you see fit a. I am trying to put a session (probably Zoom) together where all parents, guardians, and counselors can discuss some of the changes that we are making and what the future of the Concord University Upward Bound Program looks like. Please let us know if you are interested in sitting in. Your concerns and opinions matter!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Craighead

Michael J. Craighead
Director- CU Upward Bound Program
In general, Valentine’s Day is a special day to celebrate **romance and love**. It is usually celebrated by giving significant others flowers and gifts to demonstrate affection. It is celebrated in honor of St. Valentine, a third century Roman saint associated with love and marriage.
• VALENTINES DAY
• TRIVIA FACTS

• Valentine is not a public holiday all over the world.
• 15% of women send roses to themselves on Valentine’s Day.
• A heart was carved in a wooden spoon in old Ireland.
• Approximately 1 billion cards people send to each other on Valentine’s Day.
• 1330 Valentine’s Day cards Hallmark produces each year for Valentine’s Day.
• California produces the majority of the roses.
• Cards with romantic poetry are the bestsellers of all cards.
• Denmark DOES NOT celebrate Valentine’s Day.
• 3% of pet owners give Valentine cards to their pets.
• In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.
• Only 27% of people who buy flowers are women and the rest of 73% are men who buy flowers for Valentine’s Day.
• An actress Thelma Ritter who was nominated for an astounding six Academy Awards was born on 14th Feb 1902.
• The State of California produces 60% of American roses.
• Red symbolizes love, beauty, respect, and deep romantic love.
• White roses symbolize purity, innocence, reverence, humility, and charm.
• Valentine’s Day is the second-largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, after Christmas.
• One-third of all Valentine’s Day cards are accompanied by some expensive gifts.

Concord Upward Bound will be participating in the WV TRIO 20th Annual Student Leadership Conference entitled: Beyond all Limits, on March 12-13, 2021. This year, however, it will be 100% virtual, due to the COVID 19 restrictions, at present. They will have Dr. Tommy Campbell as the guest speaker for the opening night on Friday and Paradigm Shift will be conducting leadership activities on Saturday. We will have a lot of fun and virtual interaction while learning some valuable leadership information and skills. UB wants to commend the following students for signing up to participate in this virtual conference: Tori Basham, Joniyah Burroughs, Victoria Gentry, Kiara Portefield, Hannah Smith, and Aliyah Taylor from Princeton High School; Emily Curry and Aletra Peavy from PikeView High School; Emma Ames, Savannah Goins, Madison Harper, and Caroline McMillion from Greenbrier West; Kendra Goeddert, AnneMarie Telano, and Caroline Telano from Greenbrier East; and Hunter Rutter from RiverView High School. This is an excellent opportunity for students to build leadership skills, social networking (you will get to meet TRIO students from all over West Virginia and Virginia), and have a chance at some scholarship opportunities.
Big shout out & job well done to two of our students, Destiny McAlpine and Rikki Huffman. What a great effort! Keep up the awesome work!

Destiny has 18 credit hours at WVU Tech to go, 4 credit hours at Concord University and 6 more at WVU Tech! Awesomness!

February 27 is National TRIO Day of Service. We are going to sponsor a canned food drive here at Concord University and Athens. We are going to encourage you to donate just one can of food to a local church, food bank or Giving box in your area., and snap a picture and send it to your counselor, or myself or Melissa. If you have any questions please reach out to one of us anytime.