Hope everyone likes the new format for our newsletter....starting with this newsletter we will let each employee write a little something about themselves in this spot.

**JASMINE HALL**

Hey y’all, I’m Jasmine. I’ve been an educational outreach counselor with Concord University -Upward Bound for a little over 2 years now. I primarily work with students from Greenbrier (East & West), Pikeview & Princeton; however, please feel free to drop me a message whenever needed. I’m always happy to help any student on their path to higher education.

A little bit about myself…. I grew up living life in a suitcase and bounced around from home to home until the age of 8, when my great grandmother took me into her home. I spent most of my life in Pineville, West Virginia. I currently reside in Athens, WV (GO Mountain Lions). I grew up being first-generation and low-income. Though the adversity did not phase me or my big dreams. I obtained my bachelor’s degree from Concord University; master’s degree from Penn State University; and currently working on my PhD in psychology through The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. As you may note, education is very important to me.

The biggest lesson I learned in life: **don’t let your past be the excuse of your future.**

Much love,
Jasmine N. Hall

**BARBARA RUSH—MEADOR**

Hi, this is Barb Rush Meador. I serve as the Assistant Director/Lead Outreach Counselor for Upward Bound. I wanted to tell you a little about my educational journey. I grew up in Clintowville in Greenbrier County and graduated from Greenbrier East High School in 1982 as their Salutatorian. Yes, I have been around for a while.

I was a very shy individual and although I excelled in all of my classes, I did not have the motivation and confidence to attend college, even though my twin sister, Betty, immediately went to college out of high school to become a Nurse. I went to work in a local grocery store for a couple of years, and then went to work as a Library Clerk at WVSOM in Lewisburg.

Co-workers and students at WVSOM were always encouraging me that I should go to college. I finally listened, decided that I could do it and wanted a better career and more opportunities, resigned from my job, moved away from home, and started attending Concord University in the Fall of 1987. Even though I had been out of high school for five years, Concord offered me a lot of scholarships because I had such good grades in high school. It always pays to work hard and get good grades. I graduated in the summer of 1990 with a Bachelors in Business Administration.

While at Concord, I was a member of the Student Support Services Program, which is a sister program of Upward Bound. They offered me a lot of support with my classes, especially my math, and helped keep me encouraged that I could successfully obtain my college degree.

I was offered the position of Resident Director of Wilson Hall here at Concord University the summer after I graduated, and worked at that position until I come to work for Upward Bound as their Program Assistant in 1994. I began working on my Masters in Business Administration and finished it in 1996, and was offered the position of Educational Counselor, and then was promoted to Assistant Director. I have enjoyed my time at Upward Bound over the past 25 years and have enjoyed working with all of you students.

It took me a little longer to get there, but I regard attending and graduating from college as one of the best decisions in my life. It is never too late. If you work hard and strive to do your best, you can accomplish whatever you set out to do. You can do it!
Our winners from our Saturday Session/Summer Orientation were:
* Austin White
* Breanna Holt
* Nathan Tickle
* Savannah Goins
* Larissa Carter

* Cheyenne Smith
* Hailley Dailey
* Andrew Davis
* Katlyn Jackson

Dates to Remember

Summer Orientation
May 1

Summer Session 1
June 13–July 2

Summer Session 2
July 11–July 30

BRIDGE
June 28—July 30

(All dates subject to change)

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WHERE ARE WE?
Here we are at the end of another school year! The sun has finally decided to show its face again and there are the sweet sounds of little birds chirping and playing in the underbrush. All of these things make me happy. I know that prom, awards day, and graduation is near when I experience these events. This year is extra special because you all will get to actually “walk” across a stage! Please take my advice and savor every moment of your ceremonies. Here YOU ARE AT THE INTERSECTION OF LIFE!
WHO ARE YOU?
As you file into a gymnasium, auditorium, or stadium remember that you have endured a great journey thus far. No matter how bad or tough any day has been in the last 18 years….. You have survived every one of them. Your days won vs. your days lost are tremendous! You definitely have a winning record so keep it that way. Know that you cannot be defeated until you choose defeat as your choice. Before you were ever born, a grandmother, mother, father, sister, brother, or other family member most likely whispered a prayer or meditated on who you would be, how you would look, the sound of your voice, and how amazing you would be….. They were so right! I’m sure that your parents and family will agree—YOU ARE PERFECT!
WHERE WILL LIFE LEAD YOU?
For the next few months many of you will spend time with friends and family. Some will take classes or refresher courses to prepare for the upcoming freshmen (college) year. Whatever you choose to do this summer or in the near future please remember that your Upward Bound family will have you in our hearts and on our minds. We follow your progress for a number of years after you leave us and will help, intervene, and advocate for you at anytime or anywhere that you might go. We know that when you leave your respective schools, families and communities that you are not just venturing out. We know that YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY?
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?
This can be a tricky and confusing time of your life but only if you allow it to be. No matter where you go or what you choose to do there is usually someone willing to help or advise you. Wise people always seek the advice and guidance of those who have experienced things before. On most college campuses there are SSS- Student Support Services offices, Educational advisors, counselors, tutors, study groups, and mentors. You should KNOW THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOU AND WANT YOU TO SUCCEED!
Also KNOW THAT THE CONCORD UNIVERSITY UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM WILL ALWAYS LOVE and SUPPORT YOU… ALWAYS!!!!
Now! - GOWORK HARDER THAN EVERYONE ELSE, BE SUCCESSFUL, HAVE SOME FUN and BE BLESSED!!!
Graduating this May?

We have your certificates and cords available for you! Let us know and we will get them to you ASAP, or come by the Upward Bound Office.

BASIC ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- Log into your meeting from a distraction free, quiet environment.
- Please keep your audio on mute until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
- If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the “Raise Hand” feature. Then unmute yourself after you are called on.
- If you would like to use the chat box, remember that it is public, and a record of the chat is kept and archived.
- Have paper and a pen or pencil handy to take notes.
WHAT IS UPWARD BOUND?

Upward Bound

Upward Bound is a federally funded educational program within the United States. The program is one of a cluster of programs now referred to as TRiO, all of which owe their existence to the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (the War on Poverty Program) and the Higher Education Act of 1965. Upward Bound programs are implemented and monitored by the United States Department of Education. The goal of Upward Bound is to provide certain categories of high school students better opportunities for attending college. The categories of greatest concern are those with low income, those with parents who did not attend college, and those living in rural areas. The program works through individual grants, each of which covers a restricted geographic area and provides services to approximately 59,000 students annually. The program focuses on academic and nonacademic resources and activities like visits to museums or tutoring for school work. Students are encouraged to be involved in Upward Bound for the entire academic year and a 6-week long summer program. Many students who are also granted access into the Upward Bound program are labeled as first generation college students, who are students that are the first in their family to attend college. This program is set in place for students who come from low income families as well as underrepresented schools and gives them an opportunity to excel in college.

History

The program was launched in the summer of 1965 after the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (The Federal War on Poverty) during President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration, and was transferred to the Department of Education after the enactment of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The idea of Upward Bound came from Stan Salett, a civil rights organizer, national education policy advisor and one of the creators of the Head Start Program. Upward Bound has an annual budget around $250,000,000. Grants are usually made to institutes of higher education (universities), but some awards have been made to other non-profit organizations such as tribal organizations. Each award made averages $4,691 per participant, with the most common award providing $220,000 per grantee in 2004 and $250,000 in 2007. Awards are for four or five years and are competitive. The law providing for Upward Bound is 34 CFR Ch. VI Pt. 645. As federal education grants, Upward Bound awards fall under EDGAR and OMB Circular A-21 financial guidelines. In 1990, Upward Bound added an additional program called the Upward Bound Math-Science Program. It specializes in math and science skills for TRiO eligible students to improve their performance and motivation to pursue postsecondary enrollment.
Class of 2021

All the staff at Upward Bound want to wish the very best to all our graduating students this year! You all made it through a difficult Senior Year and we are all so very proud of each of you!
You will go out into the world and do wonderful things, we are sure of it!
Remember to “grab the bulls by the horn” and get out into the world, there are so many possibilities awaiting you all!
Keep in touch with us and let us know how the world is treating you too!

All our best,
Mike, Barb, Jasmine, Catrice, Melissa & Geri

May your future be BLESSED!
Mike C.

Wishing you all the best as you Graduate! $$$

Best Wishes!
Melissa

Jasmine

Congrats! I can’t wait to see where life takes you next.
Go and be great.
Ms. Robinson

SENiORS
2021
THE ONE WHERE THEY WERE QUARANTINED