Saturday sessions consist of tutoring, dynamic speakers, workshops and community service projects. Active participation of students is required to ensure improvement, preparation and support.

Summer Residential Component

This component is an important structured experience for participants. Students are in residence Sunday to Friday for six to eight weeks on the WSU campus.

The activities of the component consists of academic instruction, tutoring, guidance and counseling (individual and group), career information, postsecondary admissions advising and assistance, financial aid advising and assistance, and exposure to cultural events and academic programs. Each activity is designed to emulate a college-going experience for the participants. The majority of summer participants include students who have successfully completed the academic year component. The academic records of participants are reviewed by the staff to design an individualized schedule for each student and to group students according to their abilities. Prior to participation, an academic assessment is administered on each student to determine placement.

2012-2013 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The program provided 1,012 tutoring hours to program participants
- 67 percent of students had a GPA above 2.50
- 74 percent of participating seniors enrolled in a postsecondary institution by the fall of 2013

The mission of the Upward Bound Wichita Prep program seeks to provide an infrastructure that allows students to prepare for postsecondary education, complete secondary school and acquire skills and abilities for educational success. Services and activities are designed to improve academic and personal needs. The program’s primary goal lies in assisting limited-income, first-generation and secondary school students with disabilities in developing their academic potential. Building on years of experience, the program’s unique role resides in the opportunity to provide a summer residential experience on a college campus and a supportive academic year experience. Challenging students to perform to the best of their abilities and realistically consider postsecondary education completion is important to the goals of the program. Students are afforded the opportunity to interact with a highly qualified and professional staff attuned to a student’s unique needs.

Academic Year Component

During the school year, academic support is provided to students to augment the classroom instruction received at the Wichita high school they attend. This component runs September - May of each year. The program provides academic instruction, one-on-one tutoring, college and career exploration, seminars and workshops, campus visits, secondary and postsecondary preparation, social and cultural enrichment, financial aid application assistance, ACT preparation, personal guidance, leadership development, fundraisers, National TRIO Day activities, and bi-weekly Saturday sessions.

Travis Feeney, Charlie Jenkins, Rhonda Hicks-Director, Jaya Escobar, Lisa Perkins