In Focus
Spring 2011
A Periodic Publication of Oakland University's
Project Upward Bound
(248) 370-3218
www.oakland.edu/upwardbound

# This Is It, My Blueprint For The Future

## Director's Desktop

Geraldine E. Graham, Director

Here we are at the end of another PUB Academic Year (AY), able to report some good news as well as some areas that require more attention. **Retention**: 96% of Summer Academy participants were retained into the AY; 97.5% of AY participants were retained from beginning to end of the AY. **Attendance**: 92% of AY participants attended Saturday Academies an average of 73% of the time; and participants attended College Club an average of 63% of the time.

Percentages of PUB participants who earned **Fall 2010 GPA improvement** were: **55%** for Oak Park High, **62%** for Pontiac High, and **72%** for Pontiac Academy for Excellence High. **PAE also had the highest College Club attendance (74%!);** so this shows that PUB's tutoring has a positive impact on GPA.

PUB's Class of 2011 has been kept engaged in college-going activities: college fairs, visits, and admission applications; FAFSA completion & submission; ACT retakes, scholarship applications, and polishing up portfolios. **All seniors (100%) have been accepted to at least 2 post secondary institutions for next fall**.

Led by the PUB Parent Association, participants facilitated **4 PUB Make-A-Difference Days**: Food Donation Drive; Thanksgiving Basket preparation and deliveries; hat, scarf, and glove donations; and making and delivering colorful lap blankets to nursing home residents for Valentine's Day. Students and parents who participated received **Community Service Certificates**.

A dozen juniors participated in the **Michigan** College Access Professionals & Programs **Student Leadership Summit** February 18-20. **PUB delegates placed 1st and 2nd in the talent competition**, and **Joshua Guy was our Outstanding Student Leader**. (See delegate articles inside.)

Participants who met PUB's minimum standard for academic improvement traveled with Oakland University students and staff to Lansing, MI for **"OU Day at the Capitol"** on March 22. The agenda included tours, lunch, conversations with state legislators, and a chance to see state government in action.

The April 2 **Graduation & Recognition Ceremony** officially acknowledged 22 seniors' transition from high school to college. As we bid farewell to the Class of 2011, we are equally enthused to welcome rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to **PUB's 45th consecutive Summer Academy!**

*Geri Graham*
Project Director

# A STORY OF PERSISTENCE

**PUB Alumna: Cynasure Ross**
**B.S., December 2010**

My name is **Cynasure Ross** and I am a compelling example of what TRIO projects have achieved in Michigan. I participated in Project Upward Bound from September 1996 through high school graduation in June 1999. In addition to standard on-campus sessions, I also spent two summers on campus at Oakland University. I feel that Project Upward Bound greatly prepared and exposed me to the many aspects of campus environment. **The discipline we were subjected to was an example of the discipline we would need to govern ourselves in the near future. I know that this experience helped to prepare me for the real thing.**

Upon graduation from Pontiac Northern H.S., I attended The University of Michigan, National Institute of Technology, Oakland Community College and Wayne State University. **During this journey, I encountered many administrative, academic and financial barriers.** Administrative roadblocks include dealing with uncooperative personnel, uninspired counseling and slow financial and registration processing. Academic and financial roadblocks include the difficulty of balancing a full-time work schedule to supplement the cost of education with the desire to achieve satisfactory grades. **Even so, I am evidence that perseverance can overcome it all.** The culmination of these continuing efforts is **my recent graduation in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology from Wayne State University.**

**Project Upward Bound has influenced my family as well** through my participation and enthusiasm with sharing my experiences, such as the Japanese that I learned among other things. My two younger brothers' curiosity about college was sparked through my frequent trips to Oakland University; and they have since pursued their college educations at Grand Rapids Community College and Ferris State University. My two younger sisters have both since attended summer programs at Oakland University. One of them is a Project Upward Bound Alumnus and now attends Rochester College; the other attends Oakland Community College. **It is invaluable to have this college-preparatory program in the area which nurtures and encourages young aspiring minds who are and can be encouraged to be Upward Bound!**


**IN FOCUS is a publication of**

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S**

**PROJECT UPWARD BOUND**
**COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY**



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**www.oakland.edu/upwardbound**

# COLLEGE/CAREER DAY

## "Show Me the Money!

**Financial Literacy was the focus** of C/C Day. In his workshop, **"Developing Financial Goals and a Budget,"** guest facilitator **Mr. John Savio,** explained tools participants can use to save and invest money for college.

**Mr. John Savio**

In **"All in the Bank," Ms. Tarissa O'Malley** introduced banking terms, defined good and bad credit, explained identity theft prevention, and clarified the differences and uses of debit and credit cards. PUB appreciates the continuing involvement of **MSU Federal Credit Union/OU Branch**.

**Ms. Tarissa O'Malley**

The third workshop, **"Let the *Funds* Begin,"** was facilitated by the **PUB Administrative Team**. It was an eye-opening hands-on approach to budgeting for participants. Given a random personal profile, **they had to develop and balance a monthly budget**. This required critical decision making about housing, transportation, food, insurance/medical, child care, education, and discretionary spending. Two **primary goals** of this exercise were to help participants understand the direct **relationship between education and earnings potential** and **how choices and unexpected events could affect their quality of life**.

The PUB Administrative Team defined 8 **Expected Learning Outcomes** for the 2011 College/Career Day. Pre/post-test results document that the mission was accomplished; **98% of participants scored higher on the post-test**!

**PUB Tutors assisted**

# STATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
# FEBRUARY 18, 2011– FEBRUARY 20, 2011
# KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Richard Dristy II

The MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit was amazing! It started out as the funniest car ride I have ever had. Then we attended a presentation and tour of Western Michigan University. The first night ended with PUB taking 1st and 2nd place in the talent show. Now that was day one, and it got better on day two.

The second day started off with breakfast and seminars. Then we had the funniest lunch ever. But after lunch is when the real fun started with games in the "Minute to Win It" session and Mr. Sanders' amazing session about limiting distractions.

After the seminars, we had dinner and repacked our bags to leave the next morning. All in all, the trip was amazing. So I finish with a big "1-2-3, P-U-B!"

Ka'Sha Daniels

Going to the conference was a great time and it has had a great impact on my life. From meeting other TRiO students to talking with some of the college representatives from schools where I'm interested in attending, from speakers telling me what type of scholarships to start looking into and when to start, it was all good. One lady gave us websites where to find scholarships.

One workshop that I liked a lot was "Charting the Course to Healthy Romantic Relationships." After all 4 workshops, we had dinner then a dance. Overall, the trip was great. Mr. Sanders and Ms. Theresa did a good job as well. I hope the other PUB Family members got the same charge I got. "If you stick to the line, you can overcome your obstacles." Being a leader is great!

Kyasa Dawson

This was my first time going to a conference with PUB, and I am so happy that I went because it was a life-changing experience! I had a chance to meet students from all over the state. We engaged in many activities such as workshops, luncheons, and a dance.

My favorite workshop, by far, was the one facilitated by Mr. Sanders. I have heard him speak many times, but this time was different. I felt moved by his presentation about avoiding distractions in life. I learned that you cannot do everything by yourself; sometimes you need help. The best part of the entire trip was being with my PUB Family!

Shalanda Taylor

My experience at the 2011 Student Leadership Summit was a very good, hands-on, and educational experience. In the workshops, I got to do a lot of activities that involved interacting with my fellow TRiO participants.

In the first session, "All Singles Ladies," I learned a lot about relationships and what can be their outcomes. I felt that session was very helpful because we, as teens, go through those kinds of things. In my second session, I learned how to budget money wisely when dealing with the real world. In my third session, I found out a lot about scholarships and how to earn them. I also learned how to write a college essay and make it look professional. Last, but not least, my favorite session was about learning how to deal with distractions. The presenter for that session was Mr. Kevin Sanders, and I feel he did a beautiful job.

Overall, the conference was a great experience for me, and I am very honored to have shared the experience with my Project Upward Bound Family.

Darius Carter

For this being my first time on a leadership conference, it was a great experience. I met many tremendously kind, respectful students from Talent Search and Student Support Services Programs across Michigan. I didn't expect to meet anyone new that I would end up exchanging contact information with, but I did. The students were very intelligent and a joy to be around. The speakers were outstanding. I, personally, enjoyed, loved, and related to every speech given by both adults and TRiO students. In addition, the four workshops I attended were beyond amazing.

I could write this article describing only my Michigan Leadership Summit experience. But just me saying this trip was amazing, without including my other TRiO Brothers and Sisters, would make it incomplete.

Erica Butts

This leadership conference has allowed us to talk to one another, understand each other's programs, and learn together. The workshops created a sense of encouragement. The presenters spoke deeper than education, but spoke of communication and balance. For instance, the workshop "Welcoming Attractions and Dismissing Distractions" provided more than information. It provided encouragement to keep moving when people's only intentions are to destroy your plans, encouragement to better that professional you in the mirror.

I was privileged to be invted to attend the 2011 MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit. The sessions helped me learn how to live as a teenager. The one presented by our own Kevin Sanders showed us the distractions that hinder young teens from getting to their goals. Leadership conferences help you socialize with other students from across Michigan. To sum it all up, all teens should stand up and speak out and be leaders wherever they go.

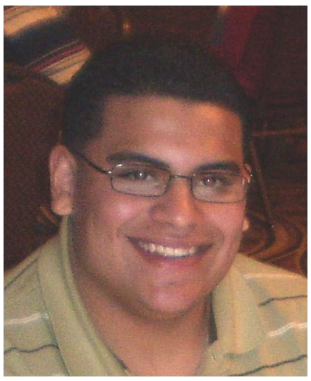
Erique Allen

The coordinators allowed us to engage with our TRiO Family. This made me more confident about communication skills. Entering the hotel doors, I began to panic because I knew I was going to be performing a dance that meant so much to me in front of eyes that spoke with simple curiosity. Hours later, after performing, the dance earned my PUB sisters and me First Place. I no longer felt alone, no longer isolated because I knew we were all alike while still different.

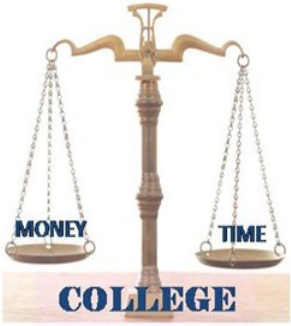
Going to the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit with PUB has really motivated me to do my best at whatever I choose to do in life. Another thing is that PUB gave me an opportunity to go on a college tour and to a college fair where I learned a substantial amount of information about the different colleges. In addition, I plan on working hard and really getting serious about school so that when the time comes for college, I will be prepared.

Timothy Tucker

My experience with the conference was very good. I enjoyed meeting new people and relating to different people. I really enjoyed getting as much information as I could from all of the colleges that were represented at the College Fair. The workshops were very helpful. They taught me to never let distractions be the center of my life. I also learned that it is very important to balance out time and money when you are in college. The workshop was very helpful in preparing me to be ready for the real world. I enjoyed every last second of the conference, and I hope it will not be the last one I go to.



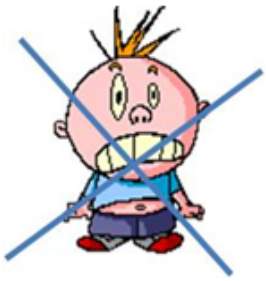
Alberto Melendez



Joshua Guy

This conference is the best thing that I have ever experienced. In particular, the workshops and having a chance to talk in front of hundreds of people were a great learning process. In one workshop called "Real World," I learned, that as a student, you have to manage your money and also be able to cancel wants and increase needs. For example, many college students buy such things as clothes, accessories, and different wants that can lead to bankruptcy. Our chaperones were great, and I want to thank Ms. Graham for making me the Outstanding Student Leader for our group. I give love to MI-CAPP.

What I learned in the workshops was that diversity can help you in the future; and that there are many different types of diversity to overcome. I learned that I have to compromise with others and try to be understanding of their problems. Finally, I learned that I need to let go of anger and hate.



Harvey Johnson Jr.

Enjoying dinner; some fun on the ride up; SLC Ice Breaker; and Mr. Sanders' workshop.

There are two workshops that I completely loved to the fullest. It seemed as if the first one, "Welcoming Attractions and Dismissing Distractions," really related to me – almost as if it was my reflection. I absolutely know that I have friends that are insecure to the max. It doesn't matter what you tell them; they believe it. I also realized that practically anything can be a distraction such as a picture, a friend, or a situation in the past. I know that everyone in this world has given a compliment to another; and when it was their time to receive a compliment, they refused or rejected it. Did you know that everything that happens to you in your life is because of you? You choose to let the bad people and bad things in. Just because you have distractions doesn't mean you can't get around the situation.

Kineasha Wiggins

My second workshop was about stress. The thing about it was that I was in that room full of college students, and I actually felt smart and capable. I thought it was going to be completely boring. But I actually learned that humans go through so much stress compared to zebras because we are always thinking about the future way ahead of time, whereas zebras think about grass all day. They are ready for their next meal until it becomes one. We can't turn off our stress level. Everyone has that good, heart-racing stress sometimes. But the fact is, we need stress to accomplish tasks. I learned that two thirds of stress cases that doctors see are hurtful stress (death, disease, headaches). Also, your stroke risk can rise if you are constantly stressed.

I believe I learned a lot, and I enjoyed my time at the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit. I hope to do it again next year!

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Remember when you were trying to get into PUB and had to sit through that interview? Well, now is your chance to be the one asking the questions! PUB parents, participants, alumni, and supporters who are knowledgeable about the program, are **invited to be a part of PUB's Admission Interview Committee** (AIC).

All volunteers for the AIC **will receive an advance orientation** that explains the process in detail – you won't have to wonder about a thing. The AIC will interview 4-7 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. AIC members **will not have to be present on every interview date**; whatever time you can contribute will be appreciated. If you're interested, contact the office at **248-370-3218 or PUB@oakland.edu**.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

The U. S. Department of Education requires TRiO Programs to include Objectives in funding applications. These **Objectives predict improvements to all or part of the student body from participating in PUB**. Objectives also drive all grant activities and resource uses. The degree to which Objectives are met (i.e., **the degree to which participants achieve**) **determines whether PUB continues to get funded**.

Oakland University's Division of Student Affairs has introduced Learning Outcomes. While similar to objectives, PUB's **Learning Outcomes identify specific change(s) that will occur in a participant because of a specific PUB interaction with them**. For example, a College/ Career Day Expected Learning Outcome was that each participant would understand the definitions of good and bad credit.

Together, **Objectives and Learning Outcomes** are powerful tools that support planning and measuring progress. They **help** the **PUB** Administrative Team **achieve its mission of preparing high school participants for college success**.

TRiO
UPWARD BOUND

TRIO

# OU Day at the Capitol
# Lansing, MI
# Tuesday, March 22, 2011

My trip to the State Capitol with Project Upward Bound was remarkable; the sightseeing was beautiful, and a fun way to learn about Michigan history. In my personal opinion, the best part of my trip to Lansing was in the Hall of Justice, learning about the severity of Michigan's Judiciary System.

**Desmond Graham**

Though our tour only visited the Learning Center on the first floor, I gathered a bundle of information about Lansing's Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is only acknowledged by major court cases such as the making or the changing of a law. There are seven court justices so that a case will never have an even amount of votes. Before one can be a juror, they must apply for it as if the position was a job. The Chief Justice, who has the next authority, is elected to a two-year term by the other Supreme Court justices. I also learned that the actual Supreme Court courtroom is on the highest floor.

My trip to Lansing, was one not to be forgotten, the beautiful sightseeing , and the bundle of knowledge gathered. I solemnly appreciate Project Upward Bound for allowing such a great opportunity for me, and I highly recommend any teacher or instructor not hesitate to visit.

Going to meet State Representative Rudy Hobbs was a good experience for me. He welcomed us with opened arms and spoke as if we had known him for years. Even though the meeting lasted for a little while, it felt like I had known everything about him because that is how open he was to sharing with us his life story and challenges he overcame through the years as a student to become a state representative.

**De'Angelo Vernon**

I was grateful that he took time out of his work day to sit and speak with us. He asked us questions as to how we were doing in school, what extracurricular activities we were involved in, and gave us tips for getting through school. You could also tell by the questions he asked, and the way he answered our questions, that he actually cared about our working environment in school and that he was taking our comments into consideration.

In my short interaction with Rudy Hobbs, I've come to the conclusion that he is very fit to be a state representative because he actually cares about the education of kids and is very good at what he does.

The trip to the capital that I was invited to attend with the college students of Oakland University was my first trip to Lansing. It was an amazing experience where I had fun and learned a lot. All I had to do was find the bus before it left.

**Sereen Abouzahr**

After the long ride (and a nap), we got to the Hall of Justice. It was a long walk in overcast weather and formal clothes. I really couldn't believe all the walking we did, but it was beautiful there. Once inside, we learned about the courts, Lady Justice, and about Michigan's past constitutions. We also discovered our rights in certain cases.

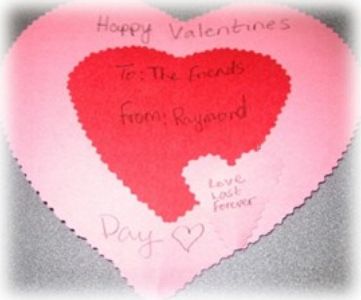
There were too many buildings to keep track of the names, but at the next stop we mostly speculated on the reasoning behind things and looked around. I'm sure we went to at least three different buildings, but we walked way too much to really notice. Eventually we got to the Representatives' building where we met our state representative, The Honorable Tim Melton, who told us his story. He also let us know that if we filled out of the right papers, we could get a free college education for living in Oakland County. I believe he said it was for a 2-year education or for the college textbooks. Just after seeing him, we ate once we got back to the Capitol building.

After some good food, we took an official tour of the building. We learned about the different rooms, why they were set up the way they were, who did what, and about the time period. Everything there was painted or fixed to look really expensive, but it was really just regular high quality stuff that was at a better price. We found out about some of the designs of the doors, statues, and paintings too.

The really cool thing, from a non- educational angle, was that we ended up having an extra hour. So we sat and hung out as they played a movie about the building. Before we knew it, it was time to go. I did fall asleep on the bus again, but the company was still good. So if you wanted to know if this trip to the Capitol was as exhilarating as you heard, it was.

# 2010 / 2011 PUB Make-A-Difference Day

PUB PARTICIPANTS, FAMILY, AND PUB STAFF COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE AND DELIVER LAP BLANKETS AND VALENTINE CARDS TO THE RESIDENTS OF GOLDEN OAKS NURSING CENTER.


Happy Valentines
To: The Friends
From: Raymond
Love Lost Forever
Ray

MICHIGAN
STATE

# SURROUNDED BY ROLE MODELS

PUB participants have had the advantage of **weekly interactions** (sometimes twice weekly) **with** current Oakland University students who are **Upward Bound alumni**. Tutors **Catherine Pannell, Cortney Hopkins-Dorris**, and **Alexander Saunders** are OU-PUB graduates.

**From left to right: Cortney Hopkins-Dorris, Catherine Pannell, and Theresa Floyd**

Tutor **Adrian Lucio** is a Cranbrook-Kingswood Horizons Upward Bound Alumnus, and Student Office Assistant **Theresa Floyd** participated in Wayne State University's Upward Bound.

**Alexander Saunders and Adrian Lucio**

So **take advantage of these wonderful resources** – seek advice, ask questions, pick their brains! These great role models have been where you are now, and they are now where you are trying to go.

**These role models are living proof that TRIO/UPWARD BOUND WORKS!** The chart below shows that **IT PAYS OFF TO STAY IN PUB**.

**PARTICIPANTS WHO ENROLLED IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE FALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

| PARTICIPANT CATEGORY | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Participants who **stayed** in PUB through High School Graduation | 75% | 88% | 82% | 88% | 83% |
| Participants who **did not stay** in PUB through High School Graduation | 54% | 35% | 47% | 37% | 43% |

# Did you know that . . .

**Arielis and Aracelis Bernard** received a National Honor Society award, are on A/B Honor Roll, and received Perfect Attendance Awards.

**Richard Dristy** received 3 Karate awards and raised $343 for St. Jude Hospital.

**Jamari Chunn** plays AAU basketball and is on PAE's Varsity Basketball Team and Track Team.

**Darius Carter** is a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2011 Young Hero.

**D'maea Allen-Seay** is an Early College Program Scholar.

**Daryl Jackson** is in National Honor Society, is on the PAE Honor Roll, and will be an escort in the 2011 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Scholarship Debutante Cotillion. He has also been awarded a Karen M. Turner Educational Foundation Scholarship.

**Joshua Davis** is an Oakland University Wade McCree Scholar.

**Ricky Cohen II** is on the "Wings of Fire" Robotics Team.

**Cameron Blunt** is on "Wings of Fire," is Tennis Team Captain, and just got selected to go to Nicaragua with Build On!

**Kyasa Dawson** is a member of the Oak park High School Robotics Team.

**Ashley Taylor, Ariel Wiley, and Amber Briggs** were awarded Wolverine State Baptist Convention Scholarships on Saturday, March 26.

**Joshua Guy, Kyasa Dawson, Kineasha Wiggins, and Shalanda Taylor** will represent PUB at the Council for Opportunity in Education's 2011 National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, DC, June 4-9, 2011

# 2011 SUMMER ACADEMY PREVIEW

Have you ever sat in class and wondered, **"What will I ever use this information for?"** Well, **answering that question is a teaching goal in each 2011 Summer Academy class**.

In March, Summer Academy teachers and tutors met with the PUB Administrative Team to do some preliminary brainstorming. Input from tutors was very valuable for providing a student's perspective. We believe that Summer Academy participants will be pleasantly surprised as we **transform standard classrooms into spaces that promote enthusiasm and motivation to learn**. So, PUB students, **you do not want to miss the 2011 Summer Academy**.

**TEACHERS AND TUTORS WORK IT OUT!**

## Save These Preliminary Dates *(Subject to Change Slightly)*:

**Senior Seminar Orientation**: Monday, April 11, 6:15 p.m., OC Lake Michigan Room
**Residential Orientation**: Tuesday, May 17, 6:15 p.m., OC Gold Rooms
**Dorm Check-In**: Friday, June 18 (Register, Set Up Room, & Return Sunday)
**Parent Meetings**: Every Sunday Evening, 7:15 p.m., 117 E. Vandenberg
**Independence Day Holiday**: Noon Friday, July 2 through Noon Tuesday, July 5
**Family Day**: Sunday, July 10, 4-7 p.m., Auburn Hills Municipal Park
**Gospelfest**: Thursday, July 21, 6:00 p.m.
**Summer Stage Performance**: Thursday, July 28, 3:00 p.m.
**Summer Trip**: Fri, July 29 through Tues or Wed, August 3 or 4

# Coming Soon to an UB Program Near You . . .

Along with hundreds of colleagues, Project Director Geri Graham attended the 27th Annual Seminar on Relations with the U. S. Department of Education (USDOEd) March 9 in Washington, DC. The highlights included lunch with **Program Specialist Rachael Couch**, a Department update by **Office of Student Service Director Linda Byrd Johnson**, and a detailed explanation of the new TRiO regulations by **Workshop Facilitator Julia Tower**.

Starting with the Upward Bound grant cycle that begins in mid-year 2012, **the effectiveness of Upward Bound grants will be measured by the degree to which participants**:

Earn B.A.

**Improve grade point average** annually

GPA Increase

**Improve standardized test scores** annually

**Graduate from high school** on time

**Enroll in college** in the fall immediately following high school graduation

**Earn a bachelor's degree** within 6 years of high school graduation.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Test Scores

H.S. Graduation

**PUB participants, the ball is in your court – the power is in your hands**. **PUB only continues to exist if you continue to improve academically and reach your educational goals**. Your commitment will be reflected in your behavior and your academic outcomes.

**SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PUB STUDENTS:** Every year, PUB must submit an Annual Performance Report to the USDOEd. As long as you demonstrate growth, Congress will know that spending money on you is a wise investment. **So please, do what you are here to do - graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college**. That way, PUB can continue to be around for future secondary students from your community, your high school, and possibly your family.

# 3 Post Secondary School Options

Students enrolled at Pontiac High School may earn an Associate's Degree while earning their high school diploma. In the **Early College Program** (ECP), PHS students may start enrolling at Rochester College, Oakland Community College, or Baker College in their sophomore year. ECP requires attending high school classes during the day, then going to college classes in the late afternoon and evening, on Saturdays, and every summer. There is no charge to students.

Alternatively, the **Pontiac Promise Program** is for <u>any graduate</u> from <u>any high school in Pontiac</u> beginning in 2011. It guarantees funding to attend a post secondary school for 2 years – the time it normally takes to earn an Associate's Degree.

Of the two programs, **PUB is most excited about the Pontiac Promise**. Since it begins after high school graduation, Pontiac Promise is less stressful for students. It does not conflict with PUB's College Club and Summer Academy programming, and it allows students the time to participate in other extracurricular activities. This is critically important to students' social and professional skill development that lays the groundwork for their college and career success.

**An added advantage to the Pontiac Promise Program is compatibility with Oakland University's CC-to-O (Community College to Oakland University) Program**. With CC-to-O, freshman and transfer students may enroll at Oakland University; at Oakland, Macomb, or St. Clair Community Colleges; or at OU <u>and</u> a community college at the same time. They would officially be OU students with access to housing, the Rec Center, and other student privileges. Further, they can earn an Associate's Degree while earning their Bachelor's Degree because credits can transfer back and forth between schools. **CC-to-O is for any student who is eligible to enroll at Oakland University**.

**The availability of these programs means that earning a Bachelor's Degree just got easier for Project participants!** PUB will be happy to help participants weigh the pros and cons of each, on an individual basis, and identify the option that is the best fit for their circumstances.

# 2011 COE POLICY SEMINAR

Project Director Geri Graham, Parent Association President Renee Blunt, and PUB Alumnus Catherine Pannell traveled to Washington, DC joining hundreds of other TRiO supporters to "swarm" Capitol Hill on March 8. **The goal was to speak to Congresspersons**, or their education aides, **about making TRiO Programs a national education priority.** We asked them to join the TRiO Caucus and support President Obama's FY 2012 budget increase forTRiO.

Left to right: Geri Graham (OU Upward Bound Director), *Carly Hepola (Peters' Aide), Renee' Blunt (PUB Parent Association President), Catherine Pannell (OU Upward Bound Alumnus and Upward Bound Tutor), and Dr. Daryl Taylor* (*Horizon's Upward Bound Director and Alumnus)*

The Policy Seminar was sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education; and the OU contingency used non-federal funds to participate. **We met with aides of** our own District 9 Representative, Congressman **Gary Peters** (D), and Macomb County's District 10 Representative **Candice Miller** (R). We appreciate the courtesy shown to us by their office staffs.

Since Congressman Peters has not been able to visit our program, **we left a PUB video** of participant, alumni, and parent testimonies; the Class of 2010 graduation speeches; and the 2010 Summer Academy stage performance.

# 30TH ANNUAL COE POLICY SEMINAR
## WASHINGTON, DC
## REPORTING FROM CAPITOL HILL:
## RENEE BLUNT AND CATHERINE PANNELL

Back to Capitol Hill we went! Catherine Pannell, Renee Blunt and Geri Graham embarked upon Washington D.C. once again in support of TRiO programs at the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) Annual Policy Seminar. Many issues were discussed by very important people. The two most notable people were Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of COE, and Senator Tom Harkin (Democrat) from the state of Iowa, who is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies, and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

As we met on Monday, March 7, 2011, to discuss strategies for Tuesday's Capitol Hill visits, of course the budget was the main topic of discussion. There was a bill called HR1 that was put on the floor of Congress for a vote on March 4th. It is a bill that will make appropriations for the department of defense and other departments and agencies of the government for the fiscal year of 2011. If this bill passes it will mean a cut of 24.9 million dollars from TRiO programs. Of course there were a total of **235 Republicans who voted yes** for the bill and **186 Democrats along with 3 Republicans who voted no on this bill**. As you can see we have the Democrats on our side and we now must persuade more Republicans to vote no on this bill.

The good thing that happened is President Obama has asked that 853.1 million dollars be appropriated for TRiO programs, which is an increase of 8%. We have gotten through to the president. It is now time, as we stated above, to persuade more Republicans to vote **NO** on HR1. We must also do our part and call, email, get on Face Book, Twitter, and write our Congressmen and women and let them know that we need their support for TRiO programs. You must let them know how important this program is to you and the community you live in. As of now, over 50,000 men, women, and students have been denied TRiO services because of lack of funds. If we get the increase in funds these people will be able to receive services. So please do your part to help TRiO continue to be of service to our communities around the country and to our territories. Thank you.

Longworth House Office Building

**UPDATE:** In April Congress voted to DECREASE the 2012 TRiO funds by 3%. Your contacts to Congress are even more important now! Just Google the names to get contact information.

# CONGRATULATIONS!
# PROJECT UPWARD BOUND
# 2011 GRADUATING SENIORS

| NAME | HIGH SCHOOL | FALL 2011 COLLEGE |
|---|---|---|
| Amadore-Harper, Shalea | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Wayne State University |
| Andrews, Derwin | Oak Park High School | Indiana Technology University |
| Bernard, Aracelis | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Oakland University |
| Bernard, Arielis | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Oakland Community College |
| Briggs, Amber | Pontiac High School | Michigan State University |
| Carpenter, Ashley | Pontiac High School | Oakland University |
| Cohen II, Ricky | Pontiac High School | Michigan State University |
| Dowell, Christopher | Pontiac High School | Western Michigan University |
| Jackson, Daryl | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Oakland University |
| Jarrett, Chantal | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Saginaw Valley University |
| Hunter, Brittany | Pontiac High School | Oakland Community College |
| Major, Rieanne | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Central State University |
| Miller, Marlon | Pontiac High School | Wayne State University |
| Miller-Johnson, Martina | Oak Park High School | Undecided |
| Phillips, Shaquala | Pontiac High School | Seton Hall University |
| Rosado, Marina | Pontiac High School | Western Michigan University |
| Ross, Jessica | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Undecided |
| Smith, Ashley | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Clark Atlanta University |
| Taylor, Ashley | Pontiac High School | Oakland University |
| Vigier-Cage, Jamila | Pontiac Academy for Excellence | Wayne State University |
| Ward, Thomas | Oak Park High School | Oakland Community College |
| Wiley, Ariel | Pontiac High School | University of Michigan |

TRiO
UPWARD BOUND

# 2011 Graduation & Recognition Celebration

This year, 22 seniors completed their requirements and were honored with a ceremony at River Crest Catering on Saturday, April 2, 2011. About 150 participants, staff, parents of seniors, and special guests gathered to witness this traditional rite of passage - PUB graduation. It was rewarding for staff and encouraging for other participants to listen to graduates' stories of growth through PUB and plans for the future.

We were honored to share this experience with OU Senior Vice President and Provost Virinder Moudgil, OU Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder, Oak Park Schools Superintendent Daveda Colbert, Pontiac High School Principal Mary Jackson, and Pontiac Academy for Excellence Counselor Maricruz Avitia. Graduates received not only PUB Graduation Certificates in OU-sealed leather certificate covers, but also Congressional Certificates of Recognition from The Honorable Gary Peters.

Select freshmen, sophomores, and juniors were also recognized for their exceptional attendance and academic performance accomplishments. PUB's highest honor, the Director's Mark of Excellence Award, was conferred upon senior Ariel Wiley.

*Geri Graham*
Project Director

**Ariel Wiley**
**Director's Mark of Excellence Award**

TRiO
UPWARD BOUND

Diploma

# 2011 GRADUATES WITH PARENTS

# GRADUATES AND STAFF

# PERFECT ATTENDANCE

2010—2011 AY

## COLLEGE CLUB

Erique Allen
Darius Carter
Tatiana Love
Vanessa Perkins
Talisha Williamson
Ariel Wiley

## SATURDAY ACADEMY

Sereen Abouzahr
James Dixon
T'Andre Hardnett
Tatiana Love
Courtney Teasley
Tiara Thomas
Renee' Thornton
Raymond Vining

# Academic Recognition
## Maintained a 3.0 or above
## 2010–2011 AY

SEREEN ABOUZAHR
ERIQUE ALLEN
TA'QUANDA ALLEN
MARLORI, ALLEN
D'MAEA ALLEN-SEAY
SHALEA AMADORE-HARPER
ARACELIS BERNARD
ARIELIS BERNARD
CAMERON BLUNT
TIMARSHAY BRACEWELL
AMBER BRIGGS
ERICA BUTTS
JOVONTAE BUTTS
ANGELIQUE CAGE
DARIUS CARTER
LAVONTE' COPELAND
CATHERINE DAOUD
JOSHUA DAVIS
KYASA DAWSON
JAMES DIXON JR.
BRITTANY HALL
KEYON'TAY HARRIS
DONALD JAMES
BRIA KITTRELL
TATIANA LOVE
MARLON MILLER
CRISTOPHER MORALES
LEMUEL MORALES
KAYLA NOEL
JAZMINE OSLEY
SHAQUALA PHILLIPS
GISELLE RIVERA TORRES
ASHLEY TAYLOR
SHALANDA TAYLOR
TIARA THOMAS
DE'ANGELO VERNON
JAMILA VIGIER-CAGE
RAYMOND VINING
KINEASHA WIGGINS
ARIEL WILEY
JAYLEN WILLIAMS
TALISHA WILLIAMSON
ELISE WILLIAMSON

# Academic Acheivement

**2010—2011 AY**

Meeting or Exceeding the Minimum Required

Kristen Davis

Desmond Graham

Justyne Hall

Treonte Jackson

Marlana Ledbetter

Rieanne Major

Kayla Noel

Vanessa Perkins

Raymond Vining

Shkayla Williams

## SATURDAY ACADEMY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

## ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

# SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

## Deonna M. Foster

### High School Attended:

Pontiac Northern
(Class of 2007)

### College Attended:

Kentucky State University

### Date of Graduation/Degree:

May 2011,
Bachelor of Arts in
Mass Communications
with concentration in
Public Relations and Broadcasting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**College Prep Academy**
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