

Director's Desktop



Geraldine E. Graham, Director

Washington, DC's **Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)** conferred three **Walter O. Mason Awards** at its September 14, 2018, Annual Awards Luncheon. Oakland University's, **Geri Graham**, was one of the three outstanding educational opportunity professionals honored **for generating individual and community change** throughout their careers. With her nomination agreed upon unanimously, Geri is one of only two Michigan TRIO professionals to have received the award in its 30-year history.

Geri is Director, Project Upward Bound (PUB) College Prep Academy at Oakland University. Under her leadership, in 2016 PUB celebrated 50 consecutive years of service to its



Front: Aureles Wiggins (MSU), Cindy Cowell (FU), Geri Graham (OU), Cynthia Copney (SU/WVA), Andrea Mireles (HC). Rear: Dave Kamrad (FU), Paulo Gordillo (MSU), Vicki Powers (GRCC)

target community. She has been PUB director since 1995; is a past president of the Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel (MI-CAPP) where she continues to serve on the board; is a board director with the Pontiac Academy for Excellence; and has been a long time active advocate on behalf of TRIO-eligible populations.

Geri's Nominator, COE Board President Kaye Monk-Morgan, specifically recognized Geri's successful grass roots campaign that preserved Prior Experience Points in the 1998 Higher Education Act Reauthorization negotiations. She encouraged the crowd of 2,000 TRIO professionals to emulate Geri's strategy of keeping her TRIO program and professionals connected to the target communities so that support can be rallied on occasions when immediate advocacy action is required on behalf of TRIO-eligible populations.



TRIO Colleagues Celebrate Walter O. Mason Award with Geri Graham

See the video of Geri's acceptance speech at <https://youtu.be/KRKfr-DK6uo>

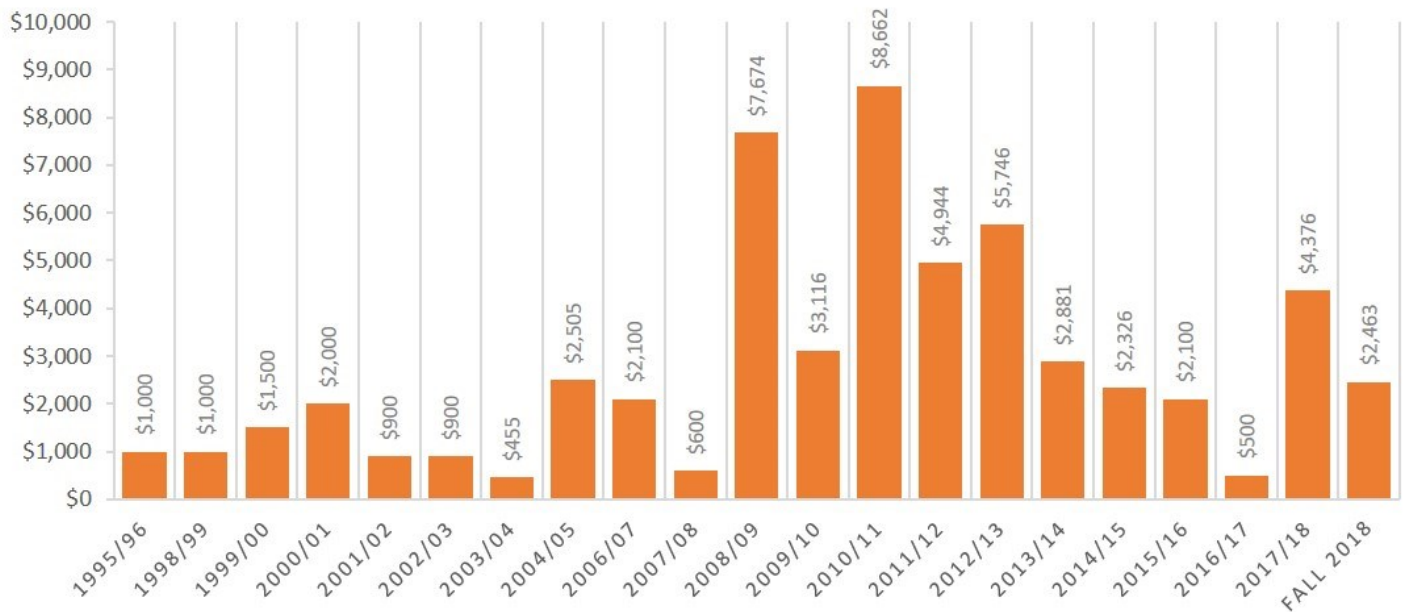


UPWARD BOUND GLASS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

In November 1989, **Project Upward Bound** received the devastating news that its beloved **Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Copeland Glass**, had fallen ill at the annual regional professional conference in Wisconsin. **She passed away in early 1990.** Upon hearing this news, Dr. Manuel H. Pierson had the foresight to ask permission from the family to establish a legacy that would honor Mrs. Glass' memory in perpetuity. So when colleagues, friends, and family asked the question *"Is there anything I can do?"* the response was *"Yes, you can contribute to the endowment fund we are establishing at Oakland University in her name."*

That is how **Oakland University's Upward Bound Glass Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund** came into being; and it has been the gift that keeps on giving. Once the minimum principal was secured, the interest, along with funds contributed through PUB's Annual Scholarship Gospelfest, have **generated nearly \$58,000 in scholarship awards** over the past 23 years **for 63 PUB alumni** who **enrolled at Oakland University.** Of those, we are able to confirm that **at least 46% either earned a bachelor's degree or are still persisting;** and another 1.6% started at OU then completed a certificate program elsewhere. This success rate **far exceeds the 16% national postsecondary graduation rate** for low-income students (*NCES 11.7.17*).

UBGM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BY ACADEMIC YEAR 1995 THROUGH 2018



WE ARE GLADLY MISTAKEN!

In the summer 2018 edition of *In Focus*, we welcomed 15 **PUB alumni** to **Oakland University** for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. In the process of research for our Annual Performance Report, we discovered that **there are actually 22!** Those who were not named or pictured are Joshua Davis (2014), Nezerena Graves (2013), Anassia Metoyer (2016) Amina Pettiford (2013), Bianca Sanders (2011), Ane Taylor (2010), and Marcus Webb. They are either still persisting toward their bachelor's degree, earning a master's, or pursuing doctoral studies.



INTRODUCING MS. SHAYLA MCCULLOUGH

Scholars who attended the 2018 Summer Academy and their parents already know Ms. Shayla McCullough as the energetic, always smiling, and positive Peer Mentor. Now Ms. Shayla has transitioned from Peer Mentor into her new role as PUB Graduate Assistant (GA) while she works towards her Master's Degree in Higher Education Leadership. As a GA, she will learn about higher education administration by assisting the PUB Team to plan and facilitate services and programming.



Ms. Shayla (center) with 2018 Peer Mentor Group "Sisters of Success"



My name is Ms. Shayla! For those of you who know me from our Saturday Academies, Parent Meetings, or Summer Academy 2018 – Hello again. For those who don't know me – it's nice to meet you! I am the Graduate Assistant in Project Upward Bound and am currently enrolled in Oakland University's Master of Higher Education Leadership graduate program. It is such an honor to be able to learn about higher education in my grad classes while simultaneously getting that hands on, professional experience working with PUB.

I was born and raised in Detroit, MI and graduated #8 in my class from South Lake High School in St. Clair Shores where I was involved in a slew of activities: school paper, student council, softball, choir, and cheer captain. In 2013 I enrolled at Oakland University and have spent the last four years earning my bachelor's degree in Inte-

grative Studies with a Concentration on Wellness, Health Promotions, and Injury Prevention with a minor in Psychology.

It wasn't until my college senior year that I realized leadership was a passion of mine. And most of my knowledge about leadership came from the campus rather than the classroom. I have been involved in campus student leadership for the last five years, but I have been on a journey to becoming a leader most of my life. When asked what we want to be when we grow up, no one says "a leader" or Director of Student Affairs, a Retention Coordinator, or a College Success Coach. We say things like "doctor, lawyer, basketball player, and teacher." But when I expanded my thinking I saw potential in everything I had ever done. It was my experiences as a child growing up in an inner city, a student in high school getting involved, and my student leadership positions in college that resulted in me becoming a leader and even taking it one step further and going to grad school for leadership. This will lead me to become a Student Affairs Professional to help other students expand their minds, develop leadership skills, recognize their potential, and use it to their fullest advantage.



A SEASON FOR GIVING

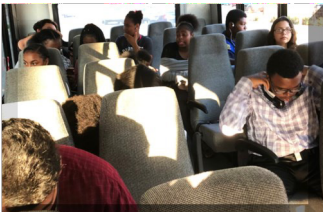
For many years PUB Scholars have provided community service to Pontiac-area residents. Even though many PUB families were in need, they still gave of their time and talents. This fall, **PUB Scholars and parents signed up for about 120 volunteer hours at the Lighthouse of Oakland County** to assist with their Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. PUB is happy to spread positivity in the community because it comes right back to us! We extend a big PUB thank you to the Lighthouse for including 20 PUB families among those to receive a turkey and all the fixings for a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner as well as 13 PUB families to receive Christmas gifts through their Adopt-A-Family Program.



PUB SEES CLASSICS



As PUB Summer Academy Scholars know, watching television, movies, and videos is okay for everyday entertainment. But there is nothing like a live stage performance! PUB Scholars got two recent opportunities to have exactly that experience. In August, **"Wicked"** was showing at **Detroit's Music Hall**; and Scholars who signed up got a chance to learn the true story of the Wizard of Oz's Wicked Witch of the West (we won't be spoilers by telling it here). December 1 **"A Christmas Carol"** came alive onstage at **Meadow Brook Theatre** as it does every year; and PUB had a bird's-eye-view when the Ghost of Christmas past came jangling through. If you didn't sign up to go, I guess the same old TV version will have to do . . .



WICKED



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

PUB IS SO MUCH MORE . . .

PUB is much more than just the place where Scholars drag themselves to on Saturday mornings! Scholars who have been fully active reap benefits far beyond high school graduation:

- * An introduction to college life, new experiences, and lifetime friendships
- * Letters of recommendation for scholarships, awards, and career moves
- * Advice, referrals, networking opportunities that result in college and career benefits
- * Job opportunities in PUB as Head Resident, Peer Mentor, Night Watch Person, Academic Mentor, or Office Assistant
- * Undergraduate and graduate internships and graduate assistantships
- * Opportunities to pay it forward by participating as Career Day and Star Ceremony speakers
- * Continued mentoring, book scholarships, and a home-away-from-home if you enroll at Oakland University
- * Membership in a national network of TRIO Alumni with common experiences



Home Away From Home

Lifetime Relationships

Mentors

Advisors

PUB PARENTS ARE ON THE MOVE

In addition to receiving news, announcements, and helpful workshops, PUB Parent Association (PUBPA) meetings are where parents can discuss common challenges and ask questions without fear of judgement. And even if we don't have all of the answers right then, the atmosphere is very supportive and every opinion is valued.



PUBPA also creates opportunities for parents and their children to work on meaningful projects together. This fall, parents helped Scholars with community service at the Lighthouse of Oakland County and at the Haven; and their fundraising campaign raised about \$1,000 in a month. On the agenda after the holiday break is assistance with lap-blanket making and distribution around Valentine's Day.

PUB Graduate Assistant Shayla McCullough will continue to conduct a series of workshops throughout the

academic year that address topics of interest parents identified at their October meeting. Parents really get involved in the conversations and valuable information exchanges happens.



PUBPA meetings are held during the **first Saturday Academy of each month, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** in room **365 South Foundation Hall.** If you are a PUB parent and haven't been to one, come on out and see for yourself

PUB Parent Association

Meets during the 1st Saturday Academy of each month

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Room 365
South Foundation Hall



what it's all about. We'd love to have you join us for **coffee complements of the Squirrel Road Starbucks!**

MI-CAPP STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The 2019 MI-CAPP SLS is coming up February 15-17 at the Kensington Court Hotel in Ann Arbor. PUB attendance and participation will be two of the factors in deciding who gets to go. Scholarships will be awarded at the Summit Banquet and seniors have been working diligently with Mr. Johnson to get their applications in.

In the last *In Focus* we inadvertently left out articles of Scholars who attended the February 2018 MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit. So those articles are included here.



JESUS HERNANDEZ

At the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit, I wasn't expecting what was going to happen. First, when I arrived I thought I was just going to be with my friends who came from OU. But as soon as dinner started I met Aaron and we really hit it off. The biggest surprise came in the games room when I met Abdullahman, Jose, and Ivan. They were all from Detroit and we knew some of the same people!

The next day I went to "From Dreaming to Reality" where the speaker, Kylie Naomi, talked about study abroad and how amazing his experience was. In "Learning the Habits," I brushed up on etiquette skills that I had already learned in PUB. I met Nolan and Jasmine at "Financial Reality" where we all learned how to manage our money. My final workshop was "From Business to Success" where we had to build a tower with people we didn't know. But this taught us how to be a leader in difficult times and a motivator.

At the banquet scholarships were awarded and I met one of the winners, Francesca. At the dance following the banquet, I didn't dance but I saw people dance and they had some cool moves. The next day at breakfast, there was also an awards ceremony; and I won an award for being an ambassador.

This leadership conference was an unforgettable experience! From meeting new people to gaining tips for the transition from high school to college, it was truly an enjoyable experience.

We were able to attend different workshops of our choice; so the first one I went to was "Meet the Greeks." I learned a lot about time management and giving back to the community. They do plenty of fundraisers and take care of school work first to make time for other tasks. Between education, Greek life, and other extra-curricular activities, they make sure to give 100% to all of them. I was so in love with the fact that people of color could come together and do good deeds in peace.



ASHLEY ADAMS

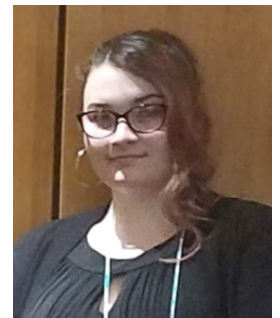


In my next workshop, "TRIO goes to college," I learned what to include on a college application: all of your extra-curricular involve-

ments, whether you are first-generation-college, and always write the optional essay to show your dedication to and initiative for getting into school.

"Awakening my Leadership" taught me how to find my purpose and turn failure into success. One thing the presenter said that will stick with me is, "as long as there is breath in me, there is purpose." That stood out to me because it was always a challenge for me to figure out what I was born to do. Turning failure into success is another challenge because it is so easy to give up. Once you apply your mind to something though, giving up is not an option.

This weekend was an awesome experience at the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit. I was able to connect with new people and say hello to people who I have met at previous conferences/events. During the Summit, we were able to choose different workshops as well as be student ambassadors. As an ambassador, I checked names at the door for breakfast and was moderator for the "Recipe for Success" workshop.



ANGELICA TIBBITTS

I attended three workshops: "How Not to Fail," "Leadership and Team Building Skills," and "Awakening my Leadership Character." Of these, learning how not to fail at life was my favorite because we discussed things that add a lot of pressure to life and how to manage that feeling of being overwhelmed by using tools such as time management, study skills, stress reduction, healthy eating habits, and exercising.

On the last day, the breakfast speaker talked about how he made it to where he is being a first-generation college student and coming from a single-parent home. The SLS was well worth it and truly an unforgettable experience. I am thankful for the time I spent at the conference.

The Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel Student Leadership Summit is a conference that teaches students valuable lessons about leadership. While I was there, I went to different workshops that taught me different things about college life and how to survive in college while applying leadership qualities. Also, as an ambassador and host, I got to moderate a workshop and greet people.



NYAJA ROGERS

My first workshop, which was also the one I moderated, was "Awakening My Leadership Character" facilitated by Jose Mejia. This was an excellent workshop that explored failure and being uncomfortable but then gave students success tools: The 3 P's – Passion, Patience, and Purpose. "Financial Reality" presented by Jordan Hester taught students about financial responsibilities of the college life – how to manage money so that they can have some savings. This whole conference showed that how when you put these together, it leads to success.



KENDALL WRIGHT

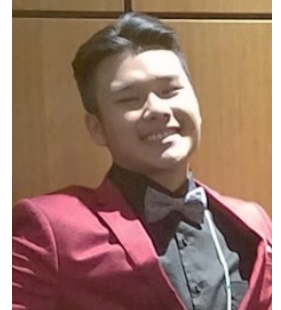
The 2018 Student Leadership Summit was a very exciting and beneficial weekend for me. Days before the Summit, I was very anxious and excited for what was in store for me. But this weekend turned out to be all I was expecting and more.

I was privileged to be a Student Ambassador with the responsibilities to check name tags for breakfast and then moderate a workshop presented by Lynn Hoerauf. Once I completed my Ambassador duties, I was free to select the workshops I wanted to attend; and I learned a lot. My favorite was "meet the Greeks" where I learned that there are strong leadership roles that are played in Greek life as well.

All of the workshops I participated in helped me think about ways to be a better leader. My biggest take-away is the Three P's: Passion, Purpose, and Patience. If I continue to practice these, I will keep pushing and be an outstanding leader in life!



It was a pleasure to be one of the PUB Scholars selected to go to the MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit and also to be an ambassador. That made this Leadership Summit different than the previous one I attended. This year was also the best because I made a lot of new friends, overcame my fears of talking to new people, and I also danced on the dance floor doing the worm and just doing things I never thought I would do. The best part was when I told the DJ to put some Hmong music on and everyone stopped dancing but me!



VINCENT LOR



I was literally the only dancer on the floor. By the end of the Summit, I learned that meeting new people and coming out of your comfort zone really helps you open up more and makes you want to make new friends.

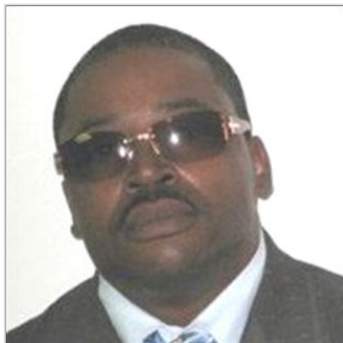


Where the PUB 2018 Graduating Class is Now



Arhin, Savonne - Clark Atlanta University
Barnes, Nicole - Grand Valley State University
Bullock, Ciara - Oakland Community College
Carattini Ball, Cameron - Oakland University
Cardenas, Jocelin - Oakland Community College
Cheng, Nou - Oakland University
Clark, Cameron - Oakland University
Davis, Allante' - Saginaw Valley State University
Fletcher, Monet - Oakland University
Garcia, Brian - Michigan State University
Hernandez, Jesus - Oakland Community College
Hoard, Massiah - University of Arkansas
Houston, Ruby - Saginaw Valley State University
Jones, Javon - Alabama A & M
Joseph, Aleyah - Saginaw Valley State University
Lopez, Charlie - Oakland Community College
Louris, Ariana - Oakland University
McNeir, Be'Anca - Wayne State University

Mendez, Damaris - Oakland University
Newbern, Amyre - Oakland University
Oliver, Mariane - Oakland University
Parham, Sydney - Central Michigan University
Payton, KaPrese - Central State—Ohio
Rimbert, Jon'i - Wayne State University
Rucker, Patricia - Wayne Community College
Sisawo, Sanna - Lawrence Technological University
Sistrunk, Alonna - Michigan State University
Smith, Crystal - Mid Michigan College
Tibbitts, Angelica - Saginaw Valley State University
Vue, Lillie - Oakland Community College
Webb, Micaiah - University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
White, Tamara - Wayne State University
Williams, Mylicia - University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Williams, Tamia - Central Michigan University
Yang, John - Oakland Community College



In Memoriam

Robert Nathan Burrows II

PUB Alumnus and former Head Resident

4/20/67—12/1/18

SENIOR S. O. S.

**IT'S NOT
TOO LATE!**
to apply for financial aid!

If you are a senior and haven't filled out the **FAFSA** or started your **admission applications**, the clock is ticking. Don't have a clue where you want to go, how to get there, or how you're going to pay for it? **Contact PUB to get the ball rolling.**



PUB will help you through every step. Even if you haven't been active for a while, if you were once PUB you'll always be PUB. You can count on us! Pick up your phone and dial 248-370-3218 or email us at PUB@oakland.edu to get your future on the right track!

PLANT THE SEEDS

Have you been on the OU campus lately? If not, you may want to come on out and take a look. Aside from seeing what's new, touring campus is a **great no-cost way to get young minds not just thinking about but expecting to go to college.**

In August, OU christened its latest residence hall, Hillcrest – the first one on the south end of campus. And it has a fabulous new dining facility on the lower level. Then there is the new and improved Oakland Center – expanded north, south, east, up and down with lots of wide open spaces, wonderful meeting rooms, cozy study nooks, and diverse food choices. Find food service times and locations here <https://www.dineoncampus.com/oakland/where-to-eat> and Oakland Center building hours here <https://www.oakland.edu/oc/>.



PUB IS ACTIVE AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
November 11—14, 2018



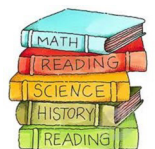
Geri Graham & Vaughn Robertson, Jr.
EOA TRIO Achiever Luncheon MCs &
COE Walter O. Mason Award Recipients



Jeremy Johnson (center) assisted the
conference committee



Ava McDowell
TRIO Achievers Luncheon Chair



FROM THE ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



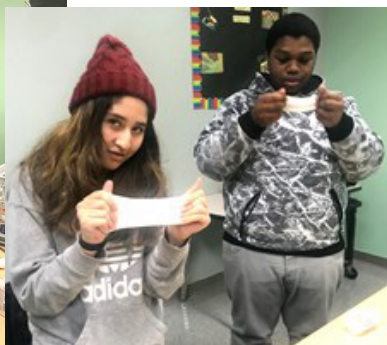
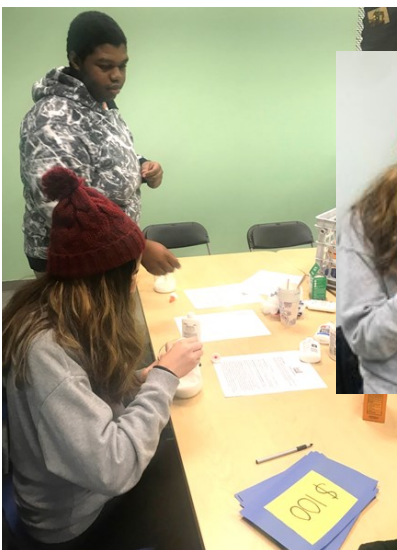
Ava McDowell
Academic Coordinator

Welcome to another academic year at PUB! As the leaves are falling, along with the temperatures, it's time to put away the summer gear and gear up for an outstanding school year.

College Club is in full swing. The first full week of each month is a business meeting led by the Club Officers, followed by a community service activity. We are starting with writing **letters to soldiers** this year. The second and fourth weeks are Math and Science games and activities. The third week is ELA/Social Studies.

College and Career Day is February 2 and is shaping up to be a fun day of **Computer Science and Engineering activities**. Will it be coding? Cyber security? 3D printing? Graphic Design? Maybe a field trip? Stay tuned to find out!

We welcome new science teacher, **Ms. Kate Hojnacki**. Miss H began with PUB as a mentor in 2014 and is now returning as the 9th and 11th grade science teacher. She and Mrs. Jones (grades 10 and 12) have some great activities and experiments planned for this year!

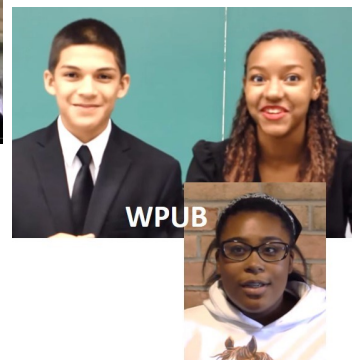


DaRon Guthery and Brendaly Batrez experiment with polymers, boron and sodium bicarbonate compounds

Did you know we have a YouTube channel? That's right! We have some Study Skills videos, and a news program we did a couple of summers ago on it right now. We are adding more content as it becomes available. If you have some ideas for videos to create and add, let Mrs. McDowell know.

Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy9HYsuLvtEt3iya35Y1Xow>

College Club wrapped up the **Time Management series** at the end of October and is moving into a new study skills series, "How to Take, and Use, **Good Notes.**" They will be working on using Cornell Notes in the classroom, and then using those notes to create Study Cards to prepare for classes.



Saturday Academy kicked off on October 20. A major change for 2018-19 is Math and Science running **all year long!** Scholars need to make sure to keep the Math and Science teachers updated on what they are covering in their classes.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PUB will now be a regular class at Pontiac High School starting second semester (the week of January 28). The class will be counted as an elective and all PUB scholars attending PHS will be enrolled.





FROM THE PROJECT ADVISOR



Jeremy Johnson
Project Advisor

Careers

This semester I focused on assisting PUB Scholars with setting goals and finding focus. I met with Scholars to find out what colleges and careers interest them and devised ways of finding relevant experiences to enhance their knowledge. Next semester's focus will be on connecting Scholars to various professionals who

can give them an idea of what to expect in their respective fields. This process has already begun; I've connected with a chef, a law school student in their final year, a social worker, and a counselor. The idea is to highlight the relationship of Scholars' present effort to their envisioned future.

Everyone can get a college and career preview at PUB's upcoming **Annual College/Career Day on February 2**. Be on time for a **full breakfast buffet** in the Oakland Center where a **college panel** will let you know what college is really like and answer all of your questions. Then we'll hop on the bus for our **STEM field trip**.

College

Of PUB's 19 active graduating seniors, **13 have been accepted into a college or university**. Those schools include Central Michigan University, Oakland Community College, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Grand Valley State and others. Seniors are encouraged to enroll at institutions that have TRIO programs for adult learners. Student Support Services Programs will help participants navigate their freshman year and Ron McNair Post-baccalaureate Programs will help undergraduates prepare for graduate research. **PUB will be happy to make those connections** for graduating seniors as well as alumni.

If you are a graduating senior who let your PUB membership slide, we'll be glad to accept you back with open arms. Contact us by phone (248-370-3218), email (PUB@oakland.edu), or Facebook and we'll reinstate your membership and help you get the ball rolling towards college.

Community Service

HAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICE DATES IN 2019 HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM SATURDAYS TO SUNDAYS. They are January 13, February 10, and March 10. Scholars please make sure you have waivers signed by your parent or you won't be allowed to perform any service on the day you are scheduled to. Signed waivers may be given to me in advance or bring

them with you on the day of service. See me if you haven't signed up and still want to do so.

Student Success Plans (SSP)

Time spent is more productive when there are goals to work toward and positive direction for all of that stored up energy! That's what **SSP's** do for you. So, **if you haven't had yours for this year, call me now**. I've completed 22, and there are many more to be done. With myself, Ms. Shayla, and Ms. Ane' working on them, our **goal is to have them all done by the end of January**. We'll also be following up on the progress of those who already have active SSP's.

Recruitment

Welcome to new PUB members Shania Burkett, Evante' Crenshaw, Cynthia Evans, Trevon Payne, Rishard Weaver, and Kimora Webb. **PUB is still recruiting new students!** If you have friends or acquaintances who are high school students and who attend Pontiac Public Schools, Oak Park Schools, or Pontiac Academy for Excellence or live in Pontiac or Royal Oak Township and attend any high school, **refer them to PUB** for a life-changing experience.

Technology

PUB's Student Office Assistants, Mackenzie Baranski, Christian Flannigan, Arianna Mills, and Taylor Smith, have helped me put together an in-depth resource repository of various colleges and universities, careers, and majors. We used the free project management application, Trello, which has a very simple interface, can easily be used on both computers and mobile devices, and there is no need to download anything to see the database. See the link now on PUB's Facebook page (located under "Notes".) New information will be added as appropriate. I believe it's a great tool for Scholars to explore their options and I'm very impressed with the work that PUB's OU student workers did to put it together.

Upcoming PUB Activities

- February: MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit
PUB College/Career Day
PUB Make-A-Difference Day
- March: OU Day at the Capitol
PUB Graduation & Recognition Banquet
- April: NACAC Detroit National College Fair
(Juniors and Seniors need to sign up if you haven't already)
Grand Valley State University TRIO Access Day



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Project Upward Bound College Prep Academy

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IN FOCUS is a publication of
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S
PROJECT UPWARD BOUND
COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

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Please enjoy the full color version of
IN FOCUS at PUB'S website:
www.oakland.edu/upwardbound

Our Facebook Page:
Upward Bound OaklandUniversity

PUB welcomes back Ms. Ane' Taylor, a PUB alumna from Pontiac who worked as a PUB Academic Mentor during her undergraduate studies at OU. The Summer 2017 *In Focus* issue announced that Ane' had been accepted to OU's graduate school to pursue a Master of Higher Education Leadership Degree. Her final project for that program is a Graduate Internship to gain practical



experience in her field. Ane' has chosen to complete that requirement with PUB and we are happy to have her! Guidance, advising, administrative support, and leadership development are the four main areas that she will be exposed to; and she will interact with both Scholars and Parents. So let's help her finish that degree!