



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Compton College Upward Bound Math and Science Program Helps Local High School Graduates Get Into College

A dozen high school graduates from Compton and Dominguez High Schools who participated in Compton College's Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) program are heading to four-year universities this fall, many with full-ride scholarships to fund their college education. These students are exclusively first-generation college students who benefited from the UBMS program tailored specifically to their needs. This federal program supports high school students who are dedicated to their goals—graduate from high school, enroll in college and successfully earn degrees.

For many of these students, their dreams of attending a four-year university proved to be a difficult goal due to personal and financial obstacles. UBMS provided them with the academic discipline, knowledge and resources needed to successfully enter higher education and compete for grants and scholarships. The program provides an environment with academic rigor and structured support outside the bounds of high school, where the average student to counselor ratio is 600 to 1.

Compton College's UBMS program is offered at both Compton and Dominguez high schools. "Upward Bound Math and Science is specifically tailored for 9th and 10th grade students who have the potential to improve academically in order to meet university admission requirements," said Nelly Alvarado, Compton College director of enrollment services. "The program not only helps students academically, it also helps students build character and motivates them to be positive examples in their communities. Our goal is to ensure students are college ready when they complete the Upward Bound Math and Science program."

Established as part of the Department of Higher Education's TRIO initiative, Upward Bound Math and Science aims to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education with science, technology, engineering, and math degrees (STEM). The program is targeted specifically for high school students from low-income families, as well as those from families where neither parent earned a bachelor's degree.

Upward Bound Math and Science students have opportunities to meet industry professionals within the math and science fields while working alongside peers who share similar interests. Armando Villagomez is a recent UBMS graduate who received a full-ride scholarship to University of California, Irvine with plans to major in engineering. "UBMS helped me make close friends and has contributed to

my academic achievement,” said Villagomez. “The program is extremely helpful with every aspect of the college application process.”

The course options include an 18-session Saturday Academy during the regular school year and a six-week Summer Program. One feature of the Summer Program includes spending finals week at a local four-year university so participants can get a hands-on perspective of college life. The students stay in the dorms, take their finals in lecture halls and may use some of the university resources such as computer labs, providing them a tangible motivation towards achieving their goals.

The Upward Bound Math and Science program gives students access to invaluable academic resources including counseling and tutoring services, SAT/ACT test preparation, guest speakers and field trips. Jose Nava, a University of California, Davis-bound graduate of the program, credits the overall impact of the program toward his successful path to higher education. “I can honestly say Compton College’s UBMS staff members have helped shape who I am today and I have taken a piece of each of them with me,” said Nava. “I have taken a piece of learning from every single person who helped me in this program”.

The Upward Bound Math and Science program is free to eligible students and is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information or to enroll in the program, contact LeShawn Simplis-Barnes at 310-900-1600, ext. 2205 or visit the website:

<http://www.compton.edu/student-services/support-services/trio/index.aspx>

Upward Bound Math and Science Program Class of 2018:

Lizette Adame - Undecided
Edwin Alcantara – University of California, Irvine
Giovanni Carcamo - University of California, Irvine
Jocelyn Gonzalez-Diaz – California State University, Long Beach
Angelica Hernandez - California State University, Long Beach
Cinthya Lopez - University of California, Irvine
Jesus Lopez-Arambula - East Los Angeles College
Adrian Luciano - University of California, Merced
Jose Luciano – University of California, Merced
Christopher Martinez - University of California, Irvine
Arturo Mendoza - Undecided
Jose Nava – University of California, Davis
Alejandra Saucedo – University of California, Merced
Armando Villagomez - University of California, Irvine

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About Compton College

Compton College is the community’s education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or

certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. Compton College is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.