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Issue
Summer 2020

Providing Hope & Opportunity



the **UPWARD BOUND PARADE**

COVID-19

Recommended Precautions for the Public

- Be alert for symptoms
 - Watch for fever*, cough, or shortness of breath
 - Take temperature if symptoms develop
- Practice social distancing
 - Maintain 6 feet of distance from others
 - Stay out of crowded places
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop

The Director's Chair



The Virginia State University Upward Bound staff is proud to present the Spring 2020 edition of the **Upward Bound Parade**. It has been a while since our last edition and quite a lot has changed since then. We have experienced one of the greatest pandemics this planet has ever seen with the onset of COVID-19. The effects of this virus has upset our entire way of being; from using new terms like “sheltering in place,” and “social distancing,” the closing of schools, and changing from classroom instruction to online learning and the cancelation of Proms and many graduations. More catastrophic is the extraordinary number of deaths in the United States and globally, and the number of families forever changed!

The silver lining of this tragic event, is that many families were reconnected, and found creative ways to have fun and spend more time together.

We were forced to embrace technology to stay connected to family and friends, jobs, school even with our medical providers. We found increased value in the people that make this world work every day like teachers, doctors/nurses, sanitation workers, truck drivers and farm workers just to name a few. We learned new skills, read books, were introduced to painting and gained new appreciate for the many blessings that we take for granted every day! We learned that some superficial things like hair, nails and make up were less important than how we treat humankind and how to help our neighbors.

As we continue to count our blessings, I'd like to share a few of my own... I am thankful for everyday that I am allowed to wake up and start a new day with the "right portion of health and strength!" I am thankful for my family who allow me to love and be loved unconditionally. I am thankful for my friends and support network who rarely allow me to have a bad day. I am thankful to work in a place and with people that give me so much joy and fulfillment and I am thankful for each of you because you are the light of tomorrow. It is said "and this too shall pass." I pray this newsletter finds you well and thankful! I hope to see you real soon!

Regina B. Tyler, ABD

Acting Associate VP & Chief Student Officer, Student Success & Engagement
Director, VSU TRiO Programs

Counselor's Corner

After schools closed, due to COVID-19, I reflect on the many conversations with the Upward Bound students and their parents. I felt their pain and could only empathize with them and let them vent, *especially* the seniors. With quivering voices exclaiming, "this is just not fair; I will not attend my senior prom, sporting events, senior trip, senior week or graduation." I had to take a deep breath to keep from bursting out in tears because all of their emotions were truly understandable.

We are facing unprecedented times. People are confused, hurting, and afraid of the unknown. We have literally been on an emotional roller coaster during this pandemic. I try not to fret or become fearful of the unknown. However, I find peace in knowing that this pandemic did not take God by surprise. He allowed it to happen, therefore I am comforted by that. I say to my Upward Bound family, this year has been like nothing we could have imagined, but God has us all in His hands.

To the seniors, class of 2020, when life doesn't happen the way you've planned, and you encounter twist and turns, set-backs and detours, my hope is that I have deposited in you, nuggets of wisdom, tools to help you persevere on your life's journey.

To my Upward Bound family, know that I am here to assist in any way to make this a smooth transition.



Sylvia Anderson, MS

He's got the whole world
in His hands,

He's got the Upward Bound **9th graders**
in His hands,

He's got the Upward Bound **10th graders**
in His hands

He's got the Upward Bound **11th graders**
in His hands

He has all of our **Seniors**,
in His hands

He has the Upward Bound **staff**
He has the Upward Bound **teachers**,
He has our **student workers**
in His hands

He has **President Abdullah**, in His hands
He has **VSU**, in His hands.
He has the whole world in His hands.

Turning Your Passion Into Purpose

Rebekah Pierce, MA



What is your passion? I have known since I was 15 years that I wanted to be a teacher. I have been an avid reader all my life, and I enjoyed sharing the stories I read with others and teaching them how to "deconstruct" a text. In fact, I feel most alive when I am in a classroom in front of students doing what I am passionate about; giving space for the *light bulb moment*.



My journey to education was a LONG and divergent one. I didn't go to college and major in Education. I was an English major. I left college the beginning of my junior year to join the military.

I became a Health Care Management Specialist, a far cry from teaching English Literature, right? I earned medals for my work ethic and teamwork, got accepted into an Army officer's program at Hampton University, and was offered a position in D.C. to work as the assistant to one of the colonels. However, none of it was for ME. My passion for teaching kept calling out to me, and it was getting louder and louder as the years went by, until I finally decided to do what I was purposed for.

How do you know when your passion is your purpose? When it won't leave you alone. When you would do it without pay. When you come alive internally and it shows externally while you're doing it. Now that there's time while we wait through the coronavirus pandemic, you can start researching what it will take to turn your passion into a reality. First, grab a notebook or your Chromebook and write everything about your passion: the pros and cons – the vision for it. Then start your research on the following questions:

Questions to ask

1. What kind of education do I need to be *"THE EXPERT"* in this field?
2. Where are two of the best programs for it? Which schools? How much is the tuition?
3. How do I find a mentor in the area where I live? How can I reach out to them?

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose."

 BISHOP T.D. JAKES



2020 Graduating Seniors...

Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

William Jennings Bryan



Donovan Bates

Donovan Bates plans to go out into the working world.

Quote he lives by:

*"Good, better, best. Never let it rest, 'til your good is better and your better is best."
(St Jerome)*



Selena Drake plans to attend George Mason University

Quote:

*"If you don't like it, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
(Maya Angelou)*



Tiara Debeary plans to attend Winston-Salem State University

Quote:

*"With the new day, comes new strengths and new thoughts."
(Eleanor Roosevelt)*



Tiara Debeary

Class of 2020



Selena Drake





Maurice Gray

Maurice Gray plans to attend
Old Dominion University or
Norfolk State University

Quote:

*"If they doubt you, work
harder."*



Shakiyah Hicks plans to
attend Virginia State
University

Quote:

*"Don't let someone else's
opinion of you become
your reality ."*
(Les Brown)



Wyatt Jackson plans to
attend John Tyler Community
College

Quote:

*"We do these things not
because they are easy, but
because they are hard."*
(John F. Kennedy)



Due to the COVID-19
pandemic and the states'
requirement of social
distancing, VSU has decided
to cancel all on campus
summer programs. Upward
Bound will plan to conduct a
virtual summer program.
More information will be
coming soon. Thank you!

Upward Bound Staff



Shakiyah Hicks



Wyatt Jackson



Dynasty Johnson



Asia Moore

Dynasty Johnson plans to attend Southside Virginia Community College

Quote:

"You cannot dream yourself into a character: you must hammer and forge yourself into one."

(Henry David Thoreau)
(James Anthony Froude)



Zakyha Jones-Walker plans to attend Bennett College

Quote:

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

(Eleanor Roosevelt)



Asia Moore plans to attend North Carolina A&T

Quote:

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

(Maya Angelou)



Zakyha Jones-Walker

*Don't just get involved.
Fight for your seat at
the table. Better yet,
fight for a seat at the
head of the table.*

Barack Obama
to
Barnard College in 2012



Diamon Patterson

Diamon Patterson plans to attend North Carolina A&T State University.

Quote:

"Love, kindness, hard-work, and God will carry you all the places you wish to go."



Quishawn Prosise plans to attend Norfolk State University

Quote:

"Reality is wrong. Dreams are for real."
(Tupac Shakur)



RaShanti Smith plans to attend Virginia State University

Quote:

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."
(Colin Powell)



Quishawn Prosise



RaShanti Smith





Jh'Marri Tucker

Jh'Marri Tucker plans to attend Norfolk State University

Quote:

"God gives his battles to his strongest soldiers."



Jonese White plans to attend Virginia Union University

Quote:

"Do not fear failure, but please be terrified of regret."
(DeShauna Barber)



Ciara Wright plans to attend Sweet Briar College

Quote:

"It's your life, don't let anyone make you feel guilty for living it your way."

www.livelifehappy.com



Ciara Wright

The New Interim Associate Director of TRiO Programs



Congratulation to Mrs. Gertrude Taylor who was recently promoted to Interim Associate Director of VSU TRiO Programs.

Mrs. Taylor is not new to TRiO, she has over 20 years' experience with the VSU TRiO Programs. She began her TRiO footprint with the previous Educational Talent Search program, served as the Upward Bound Counselor for a few years, before moving over to the Educational Opportunity Centers, (EOC) in 2011. Five years later, she was promoted to Associate Director of the EOC and the newly funded Educational Talent Search Program in 2015. She is often referred to as the "Financial Aid Guiro." If she doesn't know it, it doesn't exist. Mrs. Taylor is a proud alumnae of St. Paul's college, where she earned her bachelor's degree and Virginia State University, where she earned her Masters of Education degree.

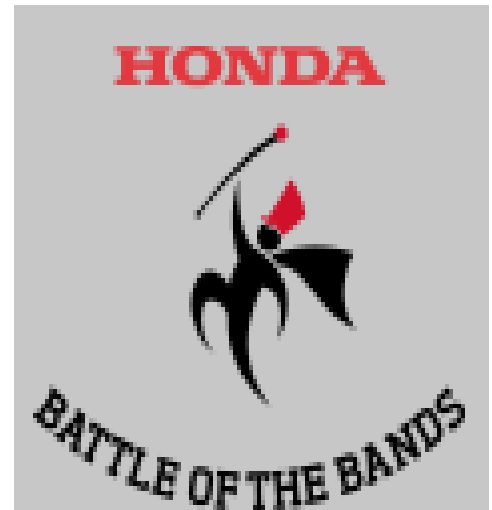
Mrs. Taylor is highly respected in the TRiO and local communities and we are proud to have her on the team!



Jasmine Wyatt plans to attend Norfolk State University

Quote: "Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows, and live your todays."

(Anonymous)



Honda Battle of the Bands

Atlanta, GA

On Friday January 24, 2020 twenty-five Upward Bound students along with twenty-five Educational Talent Search students boarded the bus bound for Atlanta, Georgia. Students that earned a 3.5 GPA and participated regularly in Saturday sessions were given the opportunity to travel.



Our first stop was South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, which is the only public historically black college and university (HBCU) in the state of South Carolina. SC State University prepares highly skilled, competent, and socially aware graduates to enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society. SC State University is the first HBCU to have live human cells for scientific studies. Our students enjoyed the tour despite the rain. They had the opportunity to meet the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Director of Student Activities, a young African American man who had just completed his doctorate degree. The students asked him questions about his success and fulfilling his dream at a young age. He was impressed with the students and encouraged them to strive for excellence in meeting their goals.

After touring SC State University, we continued our journey to Atlanta, Georgia. We stopped for dinner, checked into the hotel and settled in for the night. Early Saturday morning we headed to the Georgia World Congress Center for one of the largest HBCU College fairs. The excitement that filled our student's eyes was priceless. They had an opportunity to visit different colleges, receive information and collect memorabilia from various schools. We continued our journey to the CNN center for lunch. Afterwards we walked over to the Mercedes Benz Stadium for the Honda Battle of the Bands. Excitement filled the air. It was an exhilarating experience to hear some of the best bands in the world. The energy was electrifying. It was an unforgettable, breathtaking experience. The students enjoyed the trip and I can say with assurance, a great time was had by all!!

Birthday Board



APRIL

- 5 Quishawn Prorise
- 9 Brie'Ajah Johnson
- 10 Savion Adams
- 14 Selena Drake
- 15 Dynasty Johnson
- 23 Jonese White
- 26 Azhane' Pollard

MAY

- 3 Nina Winfield
- 8 Frencheon James
- 16 Kianna Morris
- 21 Tiara DeBeary
- 30 Rahjuana Lowery

JUNE

- 4 *Mrs. Parsons*
- 4 Nakiyah Johnson
- 5 Taire Smith
- 20 De'Asia Armstrong
- 26 Jh'Marri Tucker
- 29 Andre' Mangram
- 30 Felecia Seaborn

Meet the Upward Bound Staff & Teachers

STAFF

Regina Barnett Tyler, ABD
Acting Associate VP & Chief Student Officer, SSE
Director, VSU TRiO Programs

Gertrude Taylor, M.Ed
Intern Associate Director, VSU TRiO Programs

M. Elaine Parsons, M.Ed
Administrative Assistant

Sylvia Anderson, MS
Counselor

Rebekah Pierce, MA
Academic Coordinator

Gregory Kwakye & Ricky Norwood
Office Assistants

TEACHERS

Granada Hamilton, *English*
Eleanor Poarch-Wall, *Mathematics*
Nelson Cuffey, *Science*
Nateesha Maryland, *Social Studies*

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