

## The Upward Bound Rundown by Abby Lyons

One of the best things about the Upward Bound program is that the program doesn't stop serving you just because you graduate high school. The main goal of UB is to make sure that you obtain either an Associates or Bachelor's degree within 6 years of your high school graduation date.

We offer multiple various resources for all of our alumni students. Scholarships and links can be found on the Upward Bound website alumni page. Your county's Educational Specialists are always ready and available for support and advice about anything college, financial aid, or careers. We make it possible to have the program woven into the fabric of your everyday life and we strive to be a beacon to all past and present students.

November has been dubbed the "tracking" month. Specific time has been placed aside for all Upward Bound Educational Specialists to reach out to our alumni students and ask about college and degrees earned. A lot of the times this month your Specialists may feel like this Adele meme....



However, we are all very excited to hear from you! Even though you can reach out to us anytime, this is a moment where we are reaching out to you personally. Don't be afraid to ask us questions. We understand how life can happen and get in the way of

plans. The program is still committed to upholding the promise it made to you on the day you joined.

Upward Bound students come from a variety of backgrounds and have faced both personal and academic challenges. So this month we want to take the time to hear from you and share some testimonies on how the program has helped people in high school and gave extra help while obtaining college degrees.

"Looking back on my experiences in Upward Bound I can see how they have shaped my life and my ability to be accepted into the college that has helped me find my own passion and drive. I was first introduced to the Upward Bound program by a friend who was already a member. My mother and my friend's parents both understood how beneficial the program could be to my future. Even though I was not a first generation student (my mother has a degree in English, which I followed suit with an English and Creative Writing double major) I was accepted into the program on my GPA and the fact that my family was in a low income bracket. Throughout the two years I made many new friends who shared similar interests, and I was able to expand my academic knowledge through bridge classes during the summer and ACT Prep courses during the regular academic semester. Not only did the program expand my knowledge and academically prepare me for post-secondary education, but it taught me how to understand the financial side of college. I came to understand the FAFSA and the ways in which to handle scholarships. To this day, I go back to documents and the websites that I was introduced to during my time in Upward Bound. My family and I will even call Abby in the Cherokee Upward Bound office to ask for advice on financial aid or other abnormal college discrepancies that might come up in grad school or scholarship applications. I contribute much of my drive for success to the Upward Bound program. It helped me see where I wanted to be and how I wanted to pursue my degree. With that drive I was able to attend Warren Wilson College for the entirety of my undergraduate degree and I hope to attend a low residency MFA degree for Creative Writing in the near future." -Ellen Willman

2014 Cherokee High School Graduate

2018 Graduate from Warren Wilson, B.A. in English and Creative Writing

Ellen is just one of the many testimonies that you will hear this month about how the Upward Bound program is committed to its purpose of helping you achieve your goals.

Your life stories and successes are not only a part of Upward Bound's notable history but a part of the program's future.