

Office of Educational Opportunity Programs

The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs was created in January 1992 to bring the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program, the MIT Educational Talent Search Program (which operated from 1991 to 1998), and all future programs serving low-income Cambridge youth together in one organizational location. The federal Upward Bound program was created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and is one of the US Department of Education's TRIO programs. The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program has operated at MIT since 1966. This year, the program was sponsored through a consortium of MIT, Wellesley College, and the City of Cambridge.

MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program

The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program is a year-round, coeducational, multicultural college preparatory program for high school students who reside in Cambridge, MA, and attend Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS). The 2013–2014 academic year was the program's 47th year, and with the financial support of the City of Cambridge, MIT, and Wellesley College, the program continued to serve academically promising young men and women from low-income backgrounds and from families where parents have not had the opportunity to attend college or to graduate with a baccalaureate degree. The goal of Upward Bound is twofold: to motivate participating high school students to continue to postsecondary education and to provide them with the fundamental skills necessary for success at the college level.

Enrollment Statistics

Although the program traditionally has had the capacity to accept 75 students or more, because of uncertainty about funding, only 63 students were enrolled in the 2013–2014 program year. Student data is presented in the table below.

Total number of students served in FY2013–2014	63
Females	40
Males	23
Low-income and first-generation	52
Low-income only	10
First-generation only	5

Summer Session

The 2013 summer session, which was housed at Wellesley College and ran from June 30 to August 14, provided participants with a rigorous academic, residential, college-like experience. Forty-three of the 63 students who were served during the 2013–2014 academic year participated in the session. Program services offered during the summer included classes and academic support, workshops, and college advising.

Classes and Academic Support

Students enrolled in courses taught by experienced high school teachers from school districts in the Greater Boston area. Each participant enrolled in a mathematics class, an English class, and an elective class in social studies, science, or world languages. Courses offered included algebra I, algebra II, trigonometry, geometry, pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics; physics, biology, and chemistry; US history, world history, and the African American experience; English; Spanish I, Spanish II, and Culture Through Film. Through a longstanding agreement with the Cambridge Public Schools, three students enrolled in no more than two classes in an effort to receive summer school credit for courses that they had failed during the 2012–2013 school year, and they succeeded; credit was granted. Classes were held Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 pm, with accompanying study halls Monday through Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. In addition, students received specialized tutorial assistance on an “as needed” basis in the evening from 7 to 9:30 pm.

Workshops

Students participated in educational, recreational, and cultural workshops Monday to Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Each student enrolled in two workshops that were designed to expose them to new and creative interests or to strengthen their knowledge of more familiar areas. Workshops included an introduction to the college experience, senior seminar, technology and media, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparation, financial literacy, event planning, talent showcase, yearbook, and creative writing.

College Advising

The program hosted its annual College Day event on July 17 at Wellesley College. Representatives from 42 colleges and universities participated and 265 students, representing six visiting TRIO Upward Bound programs from the Greater Boston area, were in attendance.

School-year Session

The school-year session, located at MIT and conducted from September 2013 through June 2014, played an important role in participants’ educational development and provided assistance and support with coursework for students’ regular classes at CRLS. Services offered during the academic year included homework supervision, academic advising, workshops, college and career advising, and field trips.

Homework Supervision

The Upward Bound office was open for study and homework supervision on a drop-in basis four days a week, Monday to Thursday, beginning October 1. Part-time employees and volunteer tutors from MIT and other local institutions were available to assist participants with homework problems and to meet with individuals or small groups for specific content-area tutoring.

Academic Advising

Students received academic advising through monthly class meetings from October through May. The meetings provided students in each class an opportunity to learn new material or to strengthen their knowledge in the following areas: understanding current academic status, course selection requirements (high school and college), the college application process and the college experience, career advising and assessment, managing personal finances, goal setting (academic and personal), leadership development, current affairs such as local and national elections, and community service and engagement.

Enrichment Workshops

Saturday enrichment workshops, which helped to address more specialized needs such as study-skills development, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System preparation, SAT preparation, the college application process, computing skills, time management, and job-readiness skills, were held on one Saturday each in November, December, February, March, April, and May.

Instead of having financial literacy workshops on-site this year, the students went on a field trip in May to the Eastern Bank on Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square. There they had the opportunity to learn hands-on, and to see actual documents and transactions, such as deposit and withdrawal slips, as well as to learn about a variety of departments and careers related to the banking industry.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in leadership workshops. The young men attended a Leadership Conference at Roxbury Community College in March while the Young Women's Leadership Workshop, facilitated by two Harvard University doctoral candidates of the School of Education, took place at MIT in April.

College Advising

Weekly individual meetings were held with senior students to monitor their progress through the college admissions and financial aid processes.

Students visited Clark University, Framingham State University, Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts Boston, Stonehill College, Wheaton College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. All students were required to attend and participate in the CRLS College Fair in October. Twelve students attended a college fair in February in Framingham as part of the New England Educational Opportunity Association's (NEOA) annual TRIO Day Celebration. Participants were able to communicate with representatives from more than 55 postsecondary education institutions.

Representatives from the following institutions visited the program office to make in-house presentations: Stonehill College, Bentley University, Denison University, Clark University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A representative from the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund visited the program on January 7 to discuss

this scholarship opportunity and the application process. Financial Aid Night was held on January 15 to assist parents of seniors with the financial aid application process. A representative from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority facilitated the workshop.

Career Advising

The career-advising component of the program offered students exposure to career options through the Career Presentations Program as well as through research on the internet and follow-up inventories and assessments. Professionals in the following positions and companies participated in this effort: classroom technology trainer, Valley Communications Systems, Inc.; certified public accountant, PricewaterhouseCoopers; education coordinator (scientist by trade and educational background), MIT Museum; administrative assistant, MIT Department of Chemical Engineering; police officers, Cambridge Police Department; public defender and real estate attorneys, American Civil Liberties Union and a private law firm; urologist, Steward Health Care Systems; a doctoral candidate in education leadership, Harvard University; and the Office of the State Comptroller Director, Federal Grants and Cost Allocation Bureau.

Field Trips and Activities

The students attended a number of trips and activities, from football games at Gillette Stadium (University of Massachusetts Amherst vs. the Miami University Ohio's RedHawks in October, and University of Massachusetts Amherst vs. the Northern Illinois Huskies in November); Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* in October; a movie, *The Book Thief*, and a dance performance, *What the Dickens!*, in December. They enjoyed winter sports activities at Cranmore Mountain Resort in January. The students also attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Awards Breakfast and the NEOA TRIO Day Celebration in February, and a performance by Cirque Du Soleil in June. In addition, the Student Advisory Council, which includes members from freshman through senior years, planned and executed the annual holiday celebration in December.

Class of 2014

One hundred percent of the program's graduating seniors (six students) were accepted into postsecondary education institutions. In September 2014, they will enroll in Colby-Sawyer College, Framingham State University, Syracuse University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Postgraduate Involvement

The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs strongly encourages its alumni to stay connected to the program and to serve as role models and mentors for current students. On December 18, the office hosted an "Afternoon with Upward Bound Alumni," which was an opportunity for numerous alumni to visit the program and share their college experiences through panel presentations and networking discussions. Several alumni from the Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 also volunteered as tutors and mentors during the December through January winter break.

Three alumni from the Class of 2013 served as mentors and chaperones during the NEOA TRIO Day Celebration in February. These students participated in college tours, the college fair, and panel discussions, and served as moderators at workshops.

A number of alumni from the Class of 2013 created a video that summarized their Upward Bound experiences and expressed the effect of the program on them and their preparation for college. The program used the video as part of its recruitment process as well as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of TRIO Upward Bound nationally.

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