

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 later 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 by MIT and Wellesley College.

MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program

The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program is a year-round, coeducational, multicultural college preparatory program for high school youth who reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and attend Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS). The 2015 academic year marked the program's 48th year. With the financial support of the Institute 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 client high school youth to continue to postsecondary education and to provide them with the fundamental skills necessary for success at the collegiate level.

Enrollment Statistics

Only 53 students were enrolled in the 2014–2015 program year. Student data is presented in the table below.

Number of Students Served in FY2014–2015	
Females	25
Males	28
Total	53

Eligibility Breakdown in FY2013–2014	
Low-income and first-generation	41
Low-income only	7
First-generation only	5

Summer Session

The 2014 summer session, which was housed at Wellesley College and ran from June 29 to August 8, provided participants with a rigorous academic, residential, college-like experience. Forty-five of the 53 students who were served during the 2015 academic year

participated in the session. Program services offered during the summer included the elements listed below.

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 in social studies, science, or world languages. Courses offered included freshman-bridge English; algebra I, algebra II, trigonometry, geometry, pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics; physics, biology, and chemistry; the African-American experience; Spanish I, Spanish II, and Culture Through Film. Through a longstanding agreement with the Cambridge Public Schools, four students enrolled in no more than two classes in an effort to receive summer school credit for courses that they had failed during the 2013–2014 school year; credit was granted. Classes were held Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 pm, with accompanying study halls from 3 to 6 pm Monday through Thursday. 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 in more familiar areas. Workshops included senior seminar, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparation, computer technology, financial literacy, event planning, talent showcase, yearbook, creative writing, fundamentals of drawing, and health and fitness.

College Advising

The program hosted its annual College Day event on July 16 at Wellesley College. Representatives from 42 colleges and universities participated and more than 200 students, representing three 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 30, 2014, through June 11, 2015, played an important role in participants' educational development and provided assistance and support with coursework for students' regular classes at CRLS. Program 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 on 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 that took place on the following days: October 20–23, November 17–20, December 8–11, February 23–26, March 23–26, April 27–30, and May 26–28. The meetings provided students in each class an opportunity to learn new material, to strengthen their knowledge in the following areas, or both: 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 participant needs such as study-skills development, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) preparation, SAT preparation, the college application process, computing skills, time management, and job-readiness skills, were held on November 8, December 6, February 7, March 7, April 11, and May 2.

Financial literacy workshops or presentations, conducted by certified employees from the Eastern Bank, were offered during the December 2 and March 4 Quarterly Parent Meetings. The December presentation focused on personal banking and savings while the March 4 presentation focused on Section 529 college savings plans.

College Advising

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

Students visited Suffolk University (October 21), the University of Massachusetts Boston (January 21), Southern Main Community College and the University of New Hampshire (February 19), Quincy College (April 7), Lesley University (April 14), Williams College and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (April 22), the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Hampshire College (April 23). All students were required to attend and participate in the CRLS College Fair (October 1). Thirteen students attended a college fair on February 20 in Portland, Maine, as part of the New England Educational Opportunity Association's annual TRIO Day Celebration. Participants were able to communicate with representatives from more than 55 postsecondary education institutions. Representatives from Denison University (October 16), Williams College (November 3), and Worcester State University (March 11) visited the program office to make in-house presentations.

A representative from the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund and a Fund Trustee from MIT visited the program on November 18 to discuss this scholarship opportunity and the application process. Additionally, Financial Aid Night was held on January 21 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 on the dates noted: elementary school teacher (October 22), middle school principal (October 28), software engineer (November 5), postdoctoral associate from MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (November 12), graduate school admissions counselor (December 10), finance (January 13), certified public accountant (February 11), public health (March 18), neonatal intensive care unit nurse (April 8), chemical engineer (April 29), intelligence, information and service (May 12), and ministry (May 13).

Field Trips and Activities

The students participated in the following trips and activities: MIT Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research Center (December 3), MIT Museum (January 14), TRIO Day in Portland, Maine (February 19–20), and Laser Craze (May 2). In addition, the Student Advisory Council, comprising members from each undergraduate year (freshman through senior), planned and executed the following activities: Annual Holiday Celebration (December 17), Chinese New Year (February 25), and Black History Month (February 26).

Class of 2015

All of the program's graduating seniors (eight students) were accepted into postsecondary education institutions. Students from the program's Class of 2015 will enroll in the following colleges and universities in September 2015: Bucknell University, Dean College, Emmanuel College, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (two students), Salem State University, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Wheelock College.

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 17, the program hosted an "Afternoon with Upward Bound Alumni" and provided the opportunity for numerous alumni to visit the program and share their college experiences via panel presentations and general networking discussions. Additionally, several alumni from the Classes of 2013 and 2014 volunteered as tutors and mentors during the December through January winter break.

Two alumni from the Class of 2013 served as mentors and chaperones during the New England Educational Opportunity Association TRIO Day Celebration in February. These students participated in college tours and the college fair, as well as serving as mentors during workshops. And one alumna from the Class of 2008 continued to work with the program as both summer program coordinator (summer session) and academic advisor (school year program).

Ronald S. Crichlow
Director
Office of Educational Opportunity Programs

Evette M. Layne
Director
MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program