

## 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 youth in Cambridge, MA. 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.

### 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, MA, and attend Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS). The 2019 academic year marked the program's 52nd year, and 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 and 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

A total of 61 students were enrolled in the 2019 program year, of which 39 are female and 22 are male. Student eligibility was grouped into three categories: low-income and first generation (44 students), low-income only (11 students), and first-generation only (6 students).

### Summer Session

The 2018 summer session, which was housed at Wellesley College and ran from June 24 to August 3, provided participants with a rigorous academic and residential, college-like experience. Forty-one of the 61 students during the 2019 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 the Greater Boston area school districts. Each participant enrolled in a mathematics class, an English class, and an elective in social studies, science, or world languages. Courses offered included freshman English through senior English; algebra I, algebra II, trigonometry, geometry, pre-calculus, and calculus; physics, biology, and chemistry; world history, US history, and the African-American experience; and Spanish II, Spanish III, and American Sign Language. Through a long-standing 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 2018 academic year; credit was granted. Classes were held Monday through Friday from 9

am to 12 pm, with accompanying study halls held from 3 pm to 6 pm Monday through Thursday. In addition, students received specialized tutorial assistance on an “as needed” basis in the evening from 7 pm to 9:30 pm.

### ***Wellesley College Summer Course Experience***

One rising senior from the Class of 2019 was given the opportunity to take a college-level sociology course through Wellesley College Summer School. The student excelled in the course and was granted three college credits.

### ***Workshops***

Students participated in educational, recreational, and cultural workshops Monday through Thursday from 1:30 pm 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, leadership development, team sports, dance, event planning, talent showcase, yearbook, female empowerment, fitness, and swimming.

### ***College Advising***

The program hosted its annual College Day event on July 11 at Wellesley College. Representatives from 40 colleges and universities participated and more than 300 students were in attendance, representing three visiting TRIO Upward Bound programs from the Greater Boston area.

### ***School-Year Session***

The school-year session, located at MIT and conducted from October 1, 2018, through June 5, 2019, 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 through 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 that took place on the following days: October 22–25, November 26–29, December 10–13, and January 28–31. The meetings provided students in each respective 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. Beginning in February 2019, class meetings were held on Saturday, the same day as the enrichment workshops.

### ***Enrichment Workshops***

Saturday enrichment workshops—which helped to address more specialized participant needs such as study-skills development, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System preparation, Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation, the college application process, computing skills, time management, and job-readiness skills—were held on October 13, November 3, December 8, January 12, February 2, April 6, and May 4.

### ***College Advising***

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

Students visited Northeastern University (October 11), Boston University (November 8), and Simmons University (November 20). All students were required to attend the CRLS College Fair (October 3).

Representatives from the following institutions visited the program office to make in-house presentations: Fitchburg State University (November 15), Clark University (December 3), the University of Massachusetts Amherst (December 18), Dean College (January 24), Framingham State University (February 13), the Benjamin Franklin Institute (February 26), Merrimack College (March 6), Fisher College (March 12), Salem State University (March 19), and the University of Massachusetts Lowell (May 6).

Financial Aid Night was held on November 7 to help the parents of seniors with the financial aid application process. A financial aid counselor from MIT facilitated the workshop. A representative from the University of New Hampshire facilitated a College Application Process Workshop for seniors and their parents on October 16. Representatives from the Red Pine and Stephen Phillips Scholarship Programs visited Upward Bound on January 8 and January 10, respectively, to share information about their scholarship opportunities and application processes.

### ***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 companies and positions participated on the dates noted: Cambridge Police Department, community and strategic partnerships coordinator (January 23); Eastern Bank, branch manager (February 5); and MIT, information technology support engineer (April 30).

### ***Field Trips and Activities***

The students participated in the following trips and activities: Day at the Movies (February 20) and the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Leadership Conference (April 18). The program also participated in a holiday canned food drive during the month of December.

### **Class of 2019**

Ninety-one percent of the program's graduating seniors (10 of 11 students) were accepted into postsecondary education institutions. Students from the program's Class of 2019 will enroll in the following colleges and universities in September 2019: Bridgewater State University, Framingham State University, Johnson & Wales University, Salem State University, Temple University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. One graduate will join the New England Carpenters Union to continue studying a trade.

### **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. Alumni from the Classes of 2017 and 2018 volunteered as speakers on the Alumni Panel (December 19). A graduate of the Class of 2013 worked as a staff member during the 2018 summer session.

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