Hopefully by now you know that the most significant thing about college is not where you go, but what you do once you get there. Here is a roadmap to ensure that you get the most out of college.

Pursue passion, not A’s: Not everyone will agree with this one. As a strong student myself, getting good grades has always been really important to me, however, I learned that identifying my passion was more important. I talk to students every semester who are majoring in a subject just because it sounds like the right thing to do, they have shared it with their family, and they are afraid to let others down. I understand and I’ve been there myself. I changed my major 4 times before I got it right. Don’t be afraid to declare a major that might be perceived as unconventional. In the long run, you’ll be much happier once you identify your passion. You need a personal connection to your studies.

Get comfortable with failure: Things are not always going to go your way. The sooner you understand this, the better off you will be. The key is to never stop trying to reach your goals.

Read and think actively: Always know what you believe and more importantly, why you believe it.

Ask big questions: This one is pretty self-explanatory. If you don’t know something, ask someone.

Set realistic goals: There is a light at the end of the tunnel and it isn’t a train. No matter where you are in life, you should always have goals. Even as a 28 year old administrator, I still write my goals down and work toward them each and every day.

Find a way to contribute and cultivate empathy for others: Never be too busy to help others. Always find a way to give back.
For this year’s college tour there were twenty-eight students in attendance. The students along with the program director and assistant director departed Missouri State University’s campus on March 9, 2014. The first stop was at the University of Missouri. We had the pleasure of meeting the TRiO program director, where he along with other staff members gave us a tour of their campus. About 50% of our students seemed to be interested in a university that size. We learnt that Mizzou houses one of the best Journalism programs in the nation.

On this trip, our students were exposed to the different components that contributed to each university’s rich culture. The students learnt about educational programs, extracurricular activities, financial aid, scholarship programs, living on campus and the different types of student support each university offered.

Webster University caught the interest of a number of our students, as they took to the diversity and homey feel of the campus.

We also had the opportunity to get a snapshot of Fontbonne University, between touring Washington University and Webster University. We also toured the University of Missouri– St. Louis.

During our tour of Missouri S & T, they were celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. He is the Patron Saint on Engineer, this was a chance for our students to see firsthand, some of the fun activities that colleges foster.

During the tour our students were also able to interact with and hear about college experiences from past Upward Bound students Heather Reynolds, who is attends at Missouri S & T and, Taylor Harrington and Rylea Luckfied who are current students at the University of Missouri.

Other activities included a Tour to the top of the Gateway Arch. We ate at Cheeburger Cheeburger, and Fitz’s Rootbeer, which was a great experience for our students who all received souvenirs. At Cheeburger Cheeburger three of our students accepted the challenge of finishing their one pound burger and were rewarded with a spot on the wall of fame. Our students also had time to hang out at the hotel pool, play board games and form new relationships as they interacted on different occasions.
Marcus Bullard

Marcus is currently a senior at Parkview High School. He has been a member of Upward Bound since his sophomore year. Among his greatest accomplishments is being a 2015 recipient of the Multicultural Leadership Scholarship at Missouri State University.

He has received 10 medals between Track and Cross Country over his four years in high school. He has been able to attend the scholastics tea all four years. This is a tea where students receive a certificate for having good grades and being a good student all year. Marcus has also been on the Principals Honor Roll every semester since freshmen year.

Marcus also enjoys giving back to his community, his volunteer activities include: Ozark Food Harvest, Convoy of Hope, Pregnancy Care Center, worked with special education student, volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, raised awareness of the free lunch boxes that the school provides if a student does not have money for lunches or forget their money, made and donated blankets for the Child Advocacy Center, went to Jarrett and Carver Middle Schools to help eighth graders make their schedule for their upcoming freshmen year.

He is a very well-rounded individual who partakes in a wealth of extracurricular activities, some of these are Cross Country, Theatre, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Men’s Chorus, The Parkviewer Magazine, Ultimate Frisbee Club, Mu Alpha Theta Math Society, Tri M Music Society, National Honor Society, Green Team, World Language Club, Freshmen Mentoring. Other involvements inclue: the Parkview Poverty Leadership Project, co-creator of the student vs. teacher basketball game fundraiser.

Marcus is also a very talented young man, and in his spare time, he enjoys singing, doing Pinterest art projects, hammocking with friends, running, hiking, camping, shopping, eating lots of food, hanging out with his best friend Maram Samaha, and making others smile. He also loves playing with dogs, playing in the rain, traveling, and watching Netflix, YouTube and listening to motivational Podcast.

Becoming a teacher and working with elementary students who are underprivileged is his ultimate career goal. He wants to create an environment for them that is a safe place for both learning and for them to be themselves. Marcus also hopes to give back to the kids because he knows what it is like to feel completely isolated from everyone else, as a result he plans to everything possible to help his students feel comfortable in the classroom.

He feels as though Upward Bound has completely changed his life for the better. He gives a lot of credit to his best friend Maram Samaha for persuading him to join the program his sophomore year. He has always known that he wanted to go to college, but had no idea what all went into the process of applying to college. Being in Upward bound has allowed him to see and learn all about the different types of colleges there are by actually traveling to them. He has also made good friends in my time in Upward Bound. He has had the opportunity to see friends graduate and are able to do incredible things in college because of the help they had through the program. Now he feels as though it is his turn to graduate and go off to college. This is the most exciting time for all Upward Bound seniors. He is excited that him along with the other seniors have made it this far and hopes that everyone else will also be able to attend college and not have to pay anything to go. He knows that this is also the end result that Mr. Taljaun and Mrs. Killian want s for all the students in the program, also that they are successful and live up to their full potential. Marcus describes his Upward Bound Experiences as being amazing! He believes the only way he show his gratitude is to go into the world and change it for the better.

Truman State University and Missouri State University are the colleges he has been accepted to. He is planning on attending MSU and studying elementary education.

My most rewarding senior moment was when my mom called me in the middle of class to tell me I won the Multicultural leadership Scholarship for MSU. I had just finished presenting my Hamlet project in AP English when I got her call. I screamed and everyone in the class turned and looked at me. I then said frantically, “I won my scholarship at MSU!!!!” Everyone in the class congratulated and it was amazing. Also being a Freshmen Mentor has been very rewarding to me. We get to work at the Freshmen Focus and Family Fair at the beginning of the school year to help the freshmen. We get to show them around the school to make sure that they don’t get lost and we are in the freshmen study halls to tutor them. Since Parkview are become a Leadership School of Choice, the mentor were the first ones to create service-learning projects. I was in a group with two other people to work on fighting poverty. I have really enjoyed my time as a mentor.

According to him, his biggest inspiration is his mom. they have not had the easiest life but she has always been on his side. He is confident that he can go to her with any idea that comes to my mind and she will support it. She always gives her honest opinion. Although, sometimes they are not what Marcus wants to hear but she always lets him know that she will support his idea even if she doesn’t agree with it. This is one of the things he loves most about her and strives to be as great of a parent when he is older and hopefully have kids of my own.
March—April 2015 Calendar

March 23, 2015: PHS After School Meeting
March 24, 2015: CHS After School Meeting
March 25, 2015: HHS After School Meeting
March 28, 2015: Destined for College Meeting
April 6, 2015: PHS After School Meeting
April 8, 2015: CHS After School Meeting
April 9, 2015: HHS After School Meeting

Birthdays

March 3rd - Jose Villanueva
March 11th - Corey Cline
March 21st - Chase Compton
March 22nd - Jathan Compton
March 25th - Tracey Paxton
March 27th - Jasmine Canady
March 19th Gracey Crawford
March 29th - Donovan DelaCruz