

UPWARD BOUND

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

»» NEWSLETTER 2024-2025 ««



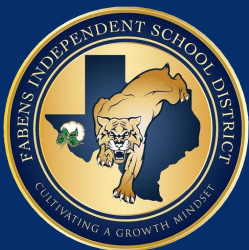
UPWARD BOUND GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

»» PROGRAM OVERVIEW ««

UTEP Upward Bound is a U.S. Department of Education program that serves low-income and/or first-generation students prepare for their post-secondary studies. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the enrollment and graduation rates from institutions of postsecondary education by improving their high school grades, growing their leadership, decision making, communication, and citizenship skills.

»» PROGRAM PARTNERS ««

The UTEP Upward Bound has two grants that partner up with the Socorro, Fabens Tornillo (SFT) and Ysleta (YISD) School Districts. The SFT grant serves 92 students from Eastlake, El Dorado, Fabens, Pebble Hills, Socorro, and Tornillo high schools. The YISD grant serves 78 students from Bel Air, Del Valle, Parkland, Riverside, and Ysleta high schools.



»»» FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK «««



LUCERO MACIAS, ED.D
DIRECTOR

It is our pleasure to assist low-income, first-generation high school students in achieving their aspirations of preparing for and succeeding in their post-secondary educational pursuits. Upward Bound is a federally funded, year-round program that provides academic and diversified developmental assistance to 170 eligible students annually. The Upward Bound Program is proud of its long history at UT El Paso and the services that it has provided and continues to provide to the youth of the El Paso region.

Sincerely, Dr. Macias

»»» MEET THE STAFF «««



LILIAN DIOSDADO
SFT MANAGER



DAVE CASTILLO
SFT COORDINATOR



LUIS JACQUEZ
YISD MANAGER



ERIKA MORENO
YISD COORDINATOR



ANGIE MEDINA
ADMIN SPECIALIST



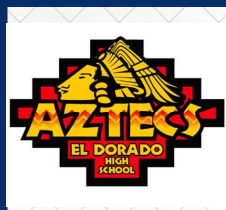
SHU-YUAN MAYR
DATA ANALYST

»»» UB SFT CAMPUS NUMBERS «««

SOCORRO, FABENS & TORNILLO



11 STUDENTS



16 STUDENTS



14 STUDENTS



26 STUDENTS



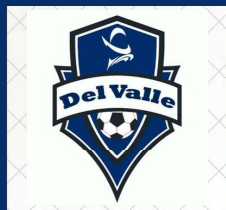
2 STUDENTS

»»» UB YISD CAMPUS NUMBERS «««

YSLETA



17 STUDENTS



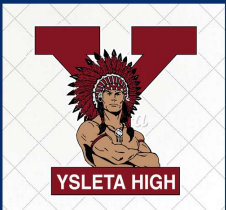
21 STUDENTS



13 STUDENTS



7 STUDENTS



20 STUDENTS

UB ACADEMIC YEAR

September 2024 to May 2025

The Upward Bound Program completed yet another year of continued excellence through its implementation of top-quality college readiness workshops delivered by some of the most experienced educators in the region. In order to make more meaningful connections relevant to real world experiences, this school year Upward Bound, always the trailblazer and pioneer among national UB programs, took an even more hands-on approach by providing students opportunities to further explore their college majors and eventual careers by offering leadership, medical, and criminal justice summer camps.



ACTIVITIES

- Alamo Theatre
- Holocaust Remembrance Play
- Youth Opera Night
- UTEP Orange & Blue Day - Seniors
- NMSU Aggie Experience - Juniors
- UNM Visit - Sophomores



PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

- Individual and Group Advising
- Note Taking and Email Etiquette
- Mock ACT
- Resume Writing and Interview Skills
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Financial Literacy
- Computer Science - Coding
- Engineering Music
- College Conference - Texas Universities

UTEP, UT Austin, UT Arlington,
UT San Antonio, Baylor, Texas A&M

- Career Conference - with El Paso Professionals

Lizette Sidransky Ulloa - Nurse Practitioner

Stibaly Aguirre - Physician Assistant

Selena Solis - Judge

Pablo C. Chavez - Architecture Professor

Heber Moya - Engineer

Joe Gudenrath - Executive Director

Jose Garza - COO

Edgar Del Rivero - Software Engineer

Daniel Guerrero - Marketing Specialist

Isabel Morales - Athletic Trainer

Hector Adonis Munoz - Nurse

Bola Adedeji - Dentist

Janet Romo - Crisis Specialist

UTEP Pharmacy Student Panel

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- El Pasoans Fighting Hunger (x2)
- La Posada Home
- Swim Meets (x2)
- El Paso Animal Services
- Reynolds Home





>>> UB SUMMER 1 <<<

June 9th - June 27th

During "Summer 1" as we called it, UB underclassmen were brought on to campus for 3 weeks. These three weeks consisted of morning core classes and afternoon enrichment classes.

Core Courses:

- Math - Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre Cal
- Science - Chemistry, Physics
- English - English 2, English 3

Enrichment Courses:

- Latin Dance
- El Paso History
- Italian Language



>>> UB SUMMER 2 <<<

June 30th - July 15th

For two weeks "Summer 2" had our soon-to-be high school seniors dedicate their focus to scholarship writing and career exploration, learning how subjects/majors in Business, Psychology, and Engineering can be used in Cyber Security careers. Other workshops and guest speakers were part of their curriculum. During this session Summer 1 students were invited to participate in additional program offerings both online and in person.



Summer 1 Opt-Ins:

- Engineering an Escape Room
- Virtual Academy - App Creation, College Readiness

AM Courses:

- Latin Dance
- Business
- Psychology
- ASPIRE -

PM Workshops and Presentations:

- Scholarship Writing
- Social Media for Success
- UTEP SSP
- Life Skills



RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT

Always seeking innovative ways of preparing students for college life, the UB program became one of the very few to offer students a residency program in the summer. For the first time, students were able to experience a glimpse into college life by attending classes in the morning and staying in the UTEP dorms for an entire week.

Residential Activities:

- Recreational Time Spinning, Volleyball, Basketball
- Karaoke Night
- Door Decorating
- Alamo Theatre
- Western Play Land



>>> SUMMER 2025 COLLEGE VISIT TOUR <<<

July 2025

This year's summer College Visit Tour (CVT) took students to Arizona. The group's first stop in Tucson dedicated time to explore the University of Arizona campus, while stop two of the trip was the Tempe campus of Arizona State University in the Phoenix area. Despite the hot sun and 90+ degree temperatures at 10 AM, the group had a great time touring the universities and exploring what each campus had to offer in academics and beyond.



UPWARD BOUND CLASS OF 2025



»» MORE THAN \$523K IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR C/O 2025 ««

Serenity Alston

\$20,000- UTEP Presidential Scholarship

Susana Lozano

\$4,000- UTEP Academic Scholarship

Jaylenn Lujan

\$8,000- UTEP Academic Scholarship

\$16,000- NMSU Hadley Hands Out of State Scholarship

Celeste Ojeda-Manzano

\$12,000- UTEP Excellence Scholarship

\$4,000- Texas Tech Merit Scholarship

\$2,000- Fabens Alumni Scholarship

Axel Orozco

\$32,000- CSU Green & Gold Scholarship

Grace Perez

\$4,000- UTEP Academic Scholarship

Mariafernanda Soroa-Alvidrez

\$6,000 - Texas Tech Presidential Merit Scholarship

Yazmin Torres

\$8,000 - UTEP Academic Scholarship

Dominick Vasquez

\$26,000 - GCU Presidential Scholarship

\$16,000 - NMSU Honors Scholarship

\$91,600 - UNM Scholarship

\$120,000 - Norwich University Academic Scholarship

\$8,000 - UTEP Academic Scholarship

Nicole Balderrama

\$50,000- University of Oregon

\$40,000 - Oregon State

\$30,000 - North Arizona State

Andy Calderas

\$8,000- UTEP Academic Scholarship

MariJane Garavito

\$5,000- Ysleta Education Foundation Scholarship

Norma Gay

\$5,000- Ysleta Education Foundation Scholarship

Aryanna Robledo

\$5,000- Ysleta Education Foundation Scholarship

Pia Zapata

\$2,500- Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship

UB SENIOR CELEBRATION

The UB Class of 2025 was honored with a Senior Celebration which was held at 6:00pm on May 6th at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center. Students received awards and recognition for all their hard work and accomplishments.



ASSOCIATES DEGREES BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Seven (7) UB seniors obtained their associates degree on May 2025.

- Alan Cole
- Celeste Manzano-Ojeda
- Mariafernanda Soroa
- Yazmin Torres
- Dominick Vasquez
- Nicole Balderrama
- Eliazar Alvarez

UB BRIDGE PROGRAM

Ten (10) Class of 2025 graduates participated in our bridge program, which helps them take their first two college classes at UTEP the summer after graduation. UB provides the guidance and resources in order to have a smooth transition to their first semester at the university. From June 9th to August 4th, students took two college courses, and participated in New Student Orientation on April 11th.

College Courses taken:

- COMM 1301
- UNIV 1301
- MUSL 1324
- PSYCH 1301
- ESE Developmental Math

UB provides

assistance with:

- Tuition,
- Transportation,
- Books,
- Advising,
- Tutoring,

Students also received:

Daily summer meals at the Pick N Shovel,
 Summer Stipend,
 Weekly Workshops,
 Methodize: Academic Success,
 LinkedIn,

Campus Resources: Career Center, Rec Center,
 Library, Mike Loya Academic Services, etc.



SENIOR CVT

For their last UB activity, seniors had the opportunity to tour The University of Texas at Arlington and the General Motors (GM) Arlington Assembly Plant. They received insight on the education and majors the plant workers pursued to work at GM. While in the area, students were able to enjoy a fun dinner at medieval times and closed out their last CVT with a senior night at Six Flags Over Texas.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DENISSE VILLALOBOS



Denisse Villalobos, 11th grade Upward Bound student from Fabens High School is now a local celebrity! She took home the 1st place award for the third edition of the El Paso County Elections Department sticker design contest. Her 1st Place design debuted during the 2024 electoral season. Her winning sticker was available at all early voting locations and worn by El Paso voters.



SOPHIA LABANT & KARINA CUETO



Upward Bound students, **Sophia Labant**, (on the left) and **Karina Cueto** (on the right) from Socorro High School are now published authors! They both took home 1st place awards in their respective genres in the SISD 39th Annual Literacy Anthology Writing Competition. Karina for 10th grade and Sophia for 9th grade. Both of them being published authors reflects their exceptional creativity, dedication, and talent.

>>> NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS <<<

THE UTEP UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR. NEW APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, A FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT AND/OR MEET INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES AND BE A 9TH, 10TH OR 11TH GRADER ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM TARGET SCHOOL.

>>> APPLY TODAY! <<<



SFT APPLICATION:

SCAN HERE TO APPLY IF YOU ATTEND: EASTLAKE, EL DORADO, FABENS, PEBBLE HILLS, SOCORRO OR TORNILLO



YISD APPLICATION:

SCAN HERE TO APPLY IF YOU ATTEND: BEL AIR, DEL VALLE, PARKLAND, RIVERSIDE OR YSLETA.



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EL PASO, TEXAS 79902**

WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.UTEP.EDU/ENROLLMENT-MANAGEMENT/UPWARD-BOUND/](https://www.utep.edu/enrollment-management/upward-bound/)

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