Report Summary

The Upward Bound Program is dedicated to helping at risk high school students achieve success through higher education. Students in their senior year of high school participate in the Bridge portion of the program. The program consists of monthly meetings, a yearly Academic Bowl versus other Upward Bound programs, and various visits to college campuses. During the year, students also participate in weekly tutoring sessions to help improve their academic performance. In addition, seniors receive extra help with financial aid and career advising for college. The goal of the program is to help the students become more competitive applicants for college. The summer component of the Bridge program is specifically designed to help “bridge” the gap between high school and college for students that have graduated in May and will be starting college in the Fall. Students have the opportunity to enroll in summer college courses and participate in a work component, as well as live on a college campus for a portion of the summer. This year, the Summer Academic Institute took place from June 2, 2008 to July 7, 2008.

At the end of the summer portion, students are asked to evaluate their experiences throughout the year in their classes, during field trips, with staff, the food, and in the dormitories. The survey instructs students to rate the various categories using the following scale: 1) Unacceptable, 2) Acceptable, 3) Average, 4) Above Average, 5) Excellent. In addition, the students fill out a free response section in which they answer questions about their favorite and least favorite portions of the program and are asked to evaluate their experience throughout their participation in the program as a whole. This allowed students the opportunity to provide positive and constructive feedback. A total of 7 surveys from Bridge students
were compiled and analyzed. Areas of excellence are defined by a score of 4.5 or higher, while areas of concern are defined as rating below 3.0. The following report includes highlights from the students’ responses.

During the Summer Academic Institute, students participated in freshmen college courses. Students rated their various classes with an average of 4.41. food quality and food quantity rated 4.86 and 4.43 respectively, and are further discussed in a separate, more in depth, survey. Overall, the Bridge students rated their Resident Advisors with a mean score of 4.65.

Areas of excellence were the office staff with an average of 4.86, dorm roommates with an average of 5.00, dorm suitemates with an average of 5.00, bridge activities with an average of 4.86, and the Texas A&M – Corpus Christi campus with an average of 4.86,

In the free response section students were asked to state their opinion to specific questions; the most frequent responses are cited. The favorite part of the program was staying in the dorms, in addition to the activities and spending time with the staff and friends. The least favorite part of the program was the rules and restrictions placed on all students. Suggestions for improvement include being more lenient on bridge students and improved activities. In the additional comment section, students responded with positive comments about their love for the program.

Four Bridge students will be attending Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, two will be attending Texas A&M – College Station and one will attend Stephen F. Austin State University in Fall 2008. The
degrees that will be pursued by these students include Music, Theater Arts, Criminal Justice, Math, Physical Therapy, Aerospace Engineering, and Psychology.

The goal of the survey is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the student experience in the 2008 Upward Bound Program. The survey and the summary were designed to be objective and provide a positive and constructive evaluation of all portions of the program.

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What was your favorite part or component of the program?

- Staying in the dorms
- The people I met and places it took me
- Working in the office and getting to see behind the scenes
- Soccer
- The dorm rooms
- Activities
- Being with my friends

What was your least favorite part or component of the program?

- 9 o’clock curfew
- hall meetings
- having to go to class everyday lol
- too much walking
- tutoring
- nothing
- waking up early

What suggestions do you have which may help us improve the program?

- For bridge students, make the curfew 11 o’clock
- Be more lenient
- Find a field to play soccer in
- Less walking
- Nothing
- N/A
- Keep doing what you are doing!

Where will you be attending college in the fall?

- TAMU-CC
- SFA
- Texas A&M – Corpus Christi
- A&M – CC
- TAMU – CC
- Texas A&M – College Station
- College Station
What college major will you declare?

- Music B.A.
- Theater Arts
- Criminal Justice
- Math
- Physical Therapy
- Aerospace engineering
- Psychology

Additional Comments

- I ♥ YOU ALL
- Thank you!!!
- I enjoyed working a lot with all the staff. Denim denim denim. I ♥ UB!
- Denim denim denim
- N/A
- None
- Amanda and Rosa are awesome office helpers!