

# Academic Achievement Programs NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2024

## A Message from the Interim Director of AAP:

Dear Friends of Academic Achievement Programs at The University of Akron,

As we move from the academic phase of your program year to our rewarding yet challenging summer phase, I want to take a moment to reflect on our recent accomplishments and celebrate the strides we've made thus far. Our collective efforts have not only propelled us forward but have also allowed us to continually serve our student scholars, while developing relationships with numerous community partners, enhancing our

social media presence, developing a quarterly newsletter, participating in various community initiatives and connecting our scholars to opportunities that they would not normally have access to. At the same we as a staff have strengthened the bonds that make us more than just colleagues, we are well on our way to becoming a community.

Our commitment to excellence continues to bear fruit, as evidenced by the success witnessed as we continue to build our team. We have added a new educational specialist, Alec Hartman; Lily Hunger as Secretary for our Strive Towards Excellence Program (STEP); Dr. Joseph Boateng, a new Academic Advisor in the STEP Program; a new secretary for Upward Bound Math and Science, Abby Stone, and we will continue to build and strengthen our team as new positions are slated to be filled to accommodate our upcoming Summer programs. Some of our efforts are already garnering positive feedback from our stakeholders. This achievement is a testament to our team's creativity, dedication, and hard work. It's a clear indicator that when we align our goals and pool our skills, there's no limit to what can be accomplished.

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Additionally, to aid in our team's sustainability, we have completed digital manuals for all AAP programs, to be used to maintain all program documents for future needs. Secondly, all programs have honed their daily processes for ensuring that effective services are offered to all of our student scholars. We are continually working to completely fill available openings associated with the AAP organizational chart. Lastly, we will soon complete position manuals for all AAP positions allowing us the opportunity to share vital institutional, departmental and specific program information to all staff members. These initiatives are designed to not only enhance our day to day operations, but also to ensure that everyone has the tools and knowledge to thrive in their current roles. We are working toward building a spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that will permeates our workspace.

As we move forward, we will attempt to carry forward this same momentum with vigor and unity. It is my hope that we continue to challenge ourselves, support each other, and to use innovative resources to strengthen our programs. Together, we are not just building a department; we are positively shaping and impacting the lives of the student scholars we serve.

Thank you for your unwavering and committed support and for being a valued and integral part of our story. Here's to our continued growth and success!

Warm regards,

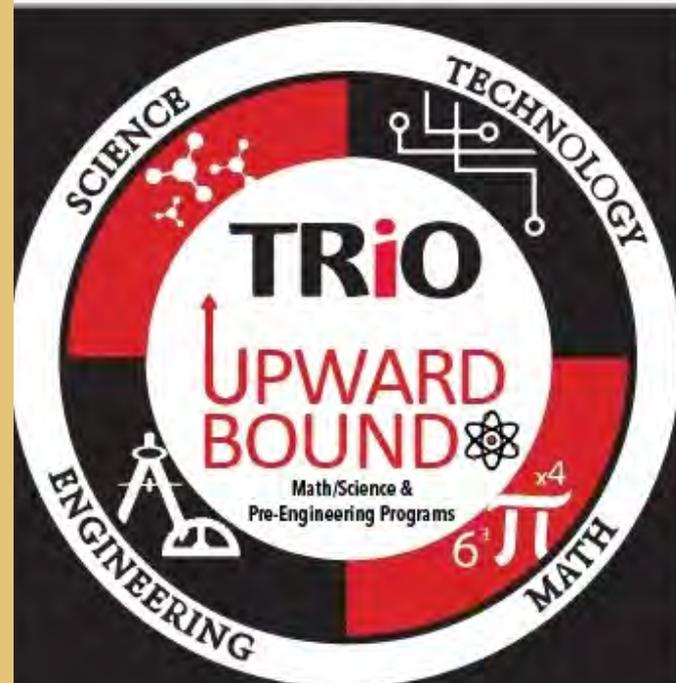
Dr. Fannie L. Brown  
Interim Director  
Academic Achievement Programs



**UPWARD  
BOUND**

**TRiO**

**EDUCATIONAL  
TALENT SEARCH**

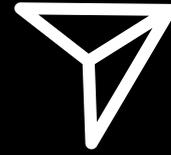


# RECENT STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



## Upward Bound Student Spotlight: William Satterwhite

William Satterwhite was a student at Archbishop Hoban High School that was in Upward Bound Classic for all four years. He always kept high grades and had a GPA of 3.7 before graduating early. He was recruited to play football for The University of Tennessee and will be an Offensive Lineman next season. We are proud of William and hope to see his future grow even brighter.

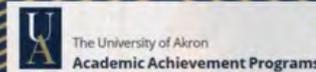


## STUDENT SCHOLAR

SPOTLIGHT

**SYDNEY**

Sydney is a senior of Upward Bound Classic and a graduate of the S.T.E.P. Program. She has spent her years in school on High academic achievements and has always been proactive when it comes to focusing on her goals. She has participated in her school's volleyball and track teams and multiple clubs. She plans to pursue psychology as her major and is choosing between Ohio State and Case Western for college. On behalf of UBC, we are proud to shine a light on this amazing senior!



## STUDENT SCHOLAR

SPOTLIGHT

**DEKOTA**

Dekota is a 7th grader at Hyer CLC. She currently is a member of of APS Ambassador Team representing Hyre CLC and a staff member of the Hyre Sun Newspaper Staff. Dekota made honor roll for the first semester of school this year. Although Dekota is in 7th grade, she is taking a very rigorous course load such as - Pre-Algebra 7 (Advanced Math) and Spanish 1, which she is taking for high school credit. Besides honor roll, Dekota has received the R.O.C.K. Award (Represent Outstanding Character through Kindness) and the STAR Award.

Dekota's teacher said this about her:  
"Dekota takes on challenges with joy and persistence. She demonstrates a willingness to learn and overcome obstacles. She also brings other students into her work to share in the fun of learning."



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS CONTINUED...

## Upward Bound Math Science

### Student Spotlight: Nyiemah Wahid

Huge congrats to Upward Bound Math & Science's Nyiemah Wahid for not only getting accepted into THREE colleges: The University of Akron, Kent State University, and Stark State but also securing a well-deserved merit scholarship. Nyiemah's hard work, dedication, and academic excellence truly shine through. Nyiemah, keep reaching for the stars because you're destined for greatness! On behalf of Upward Bound Math & Science, we are beyond proud of you and are excited to see where this takes you.



## STUDENT SCHOLAR

SPOTLIGHT

**BROOKLYNN**

Brooklynn is a 9th grader at Buchtel CLC. Educational Talent Search is proud to announce that Brooklynn made the Honor Roll making her eligible to apply for the National Honor Society.



 The University of Akron  
Academic Achievement Programs

Student Spotlights are posted weekly on the Academic Achievement Program's instagram page. Make sure to follow to stay up to date on our students' accomplishments!



Click here to make your own nomination for Instagram's Student Spotlight



# Stay Up to Date

Here are the official University of Akron, Academic Achievement Programs social media pages to follow in order to find out about events, Student Spotlights, and more:



@deptaapuakron  
Scan the QR or click the  
logo to take you to our  
page



The Department of Academic  
Achievement Programs, The  
University of Akron  
Scan the QR or click the logo  
to take you to our page

## Other relevant sites:



@ubcuakron  
Upward Bound Classic

@uakron.oie  
The Office of Inclusion and  
Equity

@omd.uakron  
The Office of Multicultural  
Development



Official Website for  
Academic  
Achievement  
Programs  
<https://www.uakron.edu/aap/>

# A Message from Upward Bound's Lead Academic Advisor



**Cheyenne Shippe**

Hello,

I am pleased to contact you through the new AAP newsletter and share the latest updates from Upward Bound Classic. I am continuously inspired by the dedication and perseverance displayed by our students.

Our program stands as a beacon of academic excellence, providing a nurturing environment where students are encouraged to push boundaries, explore their potential, and strive for greatness. We aim to support our students so that they may excel in their academic pursuits and beyond.

As we all start to wrap up the school year and head towards a fun filled summer, I am excited about the endless possibilities that lie ahead. Together with our dedicated team of educators, mentors, and supporters, we will continue to push the boundaries of academic excellence and empower our students to reach new heights.

Keep going AAP! Finish this year out strong!

With kindness,

Lead Academic Advisor  
Upward Bound Classic

## Contact Info for Upward Bound



Cheyenne Shippe  
Lead Academic  
Advisor

Email:  
[cls255@uakron.edu](mailto:cls255@uakron.edu)

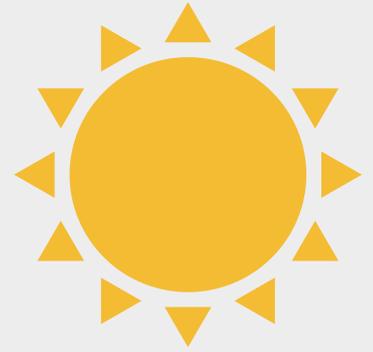
Work:  
330-972-6423



**UPWARD  
BOUND**

If you know a student that wants to join our program, please contact one of the advisors above to receive some information on how to start the application process.

# UPWARD BOUND ANNOUNCEMENTS

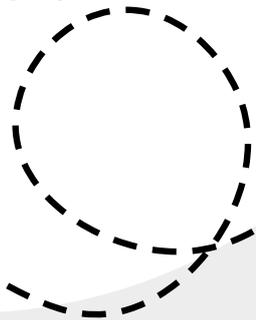


The Upward Bound senior banquet is Thursday April 4th. Seniors, please come and celebrate with your peers before your final weeks of high school begin.



The Spring Break Trip is Wednesday, April 3rd. If you want to sign up for the waitlist, please contact your advisor.

Signups for the summer program will begin mid-April. Please look for the future link in your emails.



**UPWARD  
BOUND**



# A Message from STEP's Interim Program Director

Mary Williams



“The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream...It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin.” ~ Dr. Benjamin E. Mayes

Greetings,

Dr. Mayes' quote emphasizes the importance of dreaming – reaching for the stars. Students, it is never too early nor too late to plan and set lofty goals. As Winston Churchill stated, “NEVER, NEVER, NEVER give up” on achieving your dreams! As a team, Dr. Joseph Boateng and Ms. Lily Hunger, we are ever vigilant in planning beneficial activities to help you in meeting your educational needs. Just to name a few mandatory upcoming events for the middle school students:

- April 13, 2024, 10-12 noon, Interviews for the new Class of STEP Participants
- April 27, 2024, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Educational Workshop, “Preparing for College Now,” Mr. Donray Bennett, Director of Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Akron, Guest Presenter
- May 2, 2024, 6 p.m. Student Recognition Banquet. New students, 8th graders who will be inducted into the class of Firestone

Fellows, and college graduates will be recognized for their accomplishments. Please remember to R.S.V.P. no later than April 16th.

·June 10-July 18, 2024, Summer Program - includes a broad range of academic and entertaining/educational activities.

Please pay attention to our emails, phone calls, and other forms of correspondence, and be sure to respond by the stated deadlines.

Thank you to the many stakeholders who continue to support the Strive Toward Excellence Program, including (but not limited to), School Counselors and Principals, Mr. Terry Robinson, our liaison at Bridgestone/Firestone, Dr. Sheldon Wrice, VP, Office of Inclusion & Equity and the Academic Achievement Programs, Interim Director, Dr. Fannie Brown.

Looking forward to continued success!

Best wishes,  
Mary Williams  
Interim Program Director  
Strive Toward Excellence Program

# STRIVE TOWARD EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (STEP) ANNOUNCEMENTS



The STEP Annual Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 6PM. Invitations are out. Make sure to RSVP no later than April 16th.

## **STEP April Educational Workshop “Preparing for College Now”**

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm, CBA Room 143

Facilitated by Donray Bennett, M.Ed.

Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships  
University of Akron



# *A Message from Educational Talent Search's Assistant Program Director*



**Dr. Jones**

Hello,

I am so happy for the opportunity to connect with you in the new AAP newsletter and share the latest updates from Educational Talent Search. Your dedication to excellence and perseverance is a constant inspiration.

You, the scholars of ETS, are a shining example of academic excellence, and it is our hope that you find the program to be a place of challenge and support. We want students to challenge themselves to do and be more than they can imagine and understand that we are here to support them along that journey.

As the end of another school year is fast approaching, I want you to focus on finishing strong and prepare yourselves to join us for another challenging and rewarding summer. The staff has already begun preparing for you and hope you will make plans to join us.

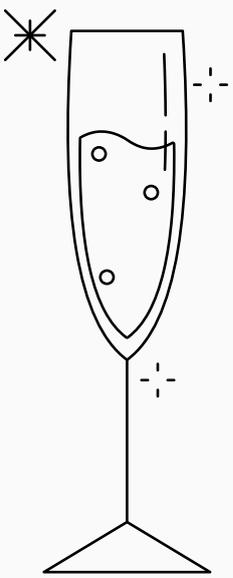
Keep going AAP! Finish this year out strong!

All the Best,  
Dr. Jones



If you know a student that wants to join our program, please contact one of the advisors above to receive some information on how to start the application process.

# EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH (ETS) ANNOUNCEMENTS



The ETS senior banquet is Tuesday, April 30th. Seniors, please come and celebrate with your peers before your final weeks of high school begin. The invitation will be arriving in your email soon.



The Spring Break Trip is Tuesday, April 2nd. If you want to sign up, please contact your advisor.



Signups for the summer program will begin mid-March. Please keep a look out for the application in your emails.

**TRiO**  
EDUCATIONAL  
TALENT SEARCH



Summer

# *A Message from Upward Bound Math Science Interim Assistant Program Director*



**Hannah Boulware**

Hi,

This new year has allowed for many changes within the Academic Achievement Programs, and with those changes comes a new way to keep in touch, I introduce you all to the AAP Newsletter. With this newsletter, Upward Bound Math & Science will be able to give you information about upcoming and past events.

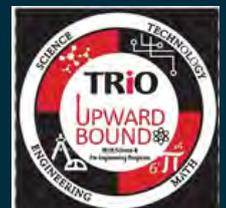
As I try to write this director's message, I find it difficult because to me the definition of a director is a person who oversees a production, like in the movies or theater. I spent much of my middle and high school years as part of a theater program where I was part of a production. Our director was responsible for guiding and managing the actors and crew, interpreting scripts, and ensuring the visual storytelling aligned with the desired narrative style. But then I realized that my role as a director of the Upward Bound Math and Science is very similar to the role of a director in the theater. A director is nothing without the actors and crew. This is also true for the work we do together. Each student that I work with is the lead actor or actress in their life production and I am here to work with you to guide and help advise on ways to make your future goals a reality. Whether that journey includes planning events and trips, coordinating school visits, providing tutoring and help with schoolwork or just being a sounding board when you need someone to talk to, I am available to be part of your journey.

When I took the job of Interim Assistant Program Director for Upward Bound Math Science in January, I knew that this was a challenge that I was excited to accept. I am thrilled to be working with each of you and am proud of the efforts you are making to be a star. While we are a program that fosters a love of learning and academic excellence, this program is unique because I can see a special spark in each of you as you find your individual interest areas and hopes for the future.

It makes my day when I hear how great you are doing from your teachers, seeing your grades, and hearing about what you are doing in the community. I feel confident that as we work together to create opportunities for you to succeed in your pre-college performance each of you will have an excellent chance of success in your higher educational pursuits.

When I think of an excellent play or movie there are a few things that are always present: intrigue which makes the audience want to see what happens next, good characters that we want to care about, and a good storyline. I cannot wait to see how each of you finds your own passion and interests as you embark on writing your own script. I am here to help you in any way I can.

Love and Rockets,  
Hannah Boulware



Interim Assistant Program Director  
Upward Bound Math Science

# Upward Bound Math Science Announcements

**April 3, 2024**

Upward Bound Math Science is going on their Spring Break Trip to Miami University

**April 4, 2024**

Senior Banquet

**April, 10, 2024**

Applications for the Upward Bound Math Science Summer Program are sent out. Keep an eye out.

If you know a student who wants to join our program, please contact Hannah Boulware to receive some information on how to start the application process.



## **Contact Upward Bound Math Science**

Hannah Boulware, CRC  
Interim Assistant Program Director  
Email: [hboulware@uakron.edu](mailto:hboulware@uakron.edu)  
Work: (330)-972-6562

# New Staff Spotlight



Lily Hunger is STEP's new Administrative Secretary. She is a graduate of the University of Akron, with a master's degree in English and a bachelor's in Spanish and English. Before working with STEP, she taught English Composition on campus. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, writing, taekwondo, travelling, and petting her cats.

Dr. Joseph Boateng is STEP's new Academic Advisor. He has a master's degree in Geography & Planning and a Ph.D. in Public Administration & Urban Studies. Prior to joining STEP, he taught as a Snr. Lecturer for the Pan African Studies Program at the University of Akron. Besides academic career, Dr. Boateng has worked with several public organizations in the United States and in his home country Ghana.



Joseph cherishes being with people who have a good sense of humor. His hobbies include Football, Football (Soccer), music (Reggae and country), watching documentaries, reading, and travelling.



Alec Hartman is a new educational specialist for ETS. He graduated from Kent State University. Before working for the University of Akron, he was a social studies teacher. Alec likes going on hikes and trying new foods.

# Staff Farewell



The Department of Academic Achievement Programs is sad to announce that Damaris Gibbons, Academic Advisor for Upward Bound, is leaving us shortly for a new position working for another Trio program at Tennessee State University. We are excited about her new opportunity, though we will all miss her dearly.





Thank you to all of our contributors and readers. This newsletter is set to run quarterly, with the next edition tentatively scheduled for release on July 1st. If you would like to submit an article, news, or photos for our next issue, please email [mbw1@uakron.edu](mailto:mbw1@uakron.edu) by June 15th.

**Newsletter Co-editors:**

Lily Hunger, STEP Administrative Secretary  
Mary Williams, STEP Interim Program Director

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Dr. Sheldon Wrice  
Vice President of Inclusion and Equity  
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