

**Profile of
Upward Bound Program
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
2018 Regents Diversity Award Institution/Unit Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- For the past 27 years, the Upward Bound program has had a significant impact on closing the opportunity and equity gap for low-income, first-generation college students at UW-Eau Claire.
- The program provides academic support during the school year through weekly study sessions and tutoring, social and cultural enrichment activities, and personal and career counseling in a community of young people with similar barriers and aspirations.
- Kimamo Wahome, program director since 1994, has incorporated data collection and feedback loops to monitor and track program effectiveness.
- 97% of the participants in fiscal year 2017 belong to economically disadvantaged families; 80.2% are from diverse backgrounds (Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian American, African American and Latino students); the program has especially strengthened connections with the Hmong community: Hmong participants, who are mostly English Language Learners, currently make up over 70% of the program's current enrollment.
- A six-week residential summer program includes classes in math (algebra, geometry, pre-calculus); science (earth science, biology, chemistry); English (literature, grammar, writing across the curriculum); STEM/nanoscience; languages (Japanese, Latin, American Sign Language, Hmong); and art (graphic design, theater).
- Positive academic results of participants are shown in the percentage of low-income, first-generation, Southeast Asian students who graduate and enroll in post-secondary institutions (90 to 100% over the last five years of the grant cycle). Historically, similar results can be seen since the inception of the program in 1990.
- For the past five years, students in the program have had a retention rate between 97% and 100%.
- The program collaborates with many community entities, including the Boys and Girls Club; Chippewa Valley Technical College; South, DeLong, and Northstar Middle Schools; North and Memorial High Schools; and a variety of community non-profit organizations to fulfill a service-learning requirement.

In the words of colleagues/participants:

- "This program illustrates that with appropriate help, students with many barriers – including English as a second language, poverty, low expectations, and few role models – can finish high school, win scholarships, attend college and successfully complete post-secondary degrees....This program captures the best practices in academic and social interactions among multicultural populations and across age groups, from elementary students at the Boys and Girls Club to the elder adults at the nursing home where the Upward Bound students volunteer."
—James C. Schmidt, Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire
- "The Upward Bound program opened doors and opportunities that set my family on a journey that many only dream of embarking: using education to not only [lift] ourselves out of poverty, but empower ourselves into spaces we never imagined occupying – community leader, compliance officer, software engineer, and business owner, etc."
—Caitlin Mai Chong Lee, former UW-Eau Claire Upward Bound participant, 2003 graduate of UW-Eau Claire