September 1, 2015

Dear Upward Bounders,

Hello from the Upward Bound office! I hope that your school year has started off well and that you are enjoying all of your new classes and teachers. Since Upward Bound’s activities for the 2015-2016 school year will kick off soon, please read the following information carefully and return the required forms promptly.

**Important Forms:** To ensure that you are on the roster for the upcoming year and that everything is up-to-date, please complete the enclosed *Academic Year Update* and *Student Agreement* forms enclosed in this mailing and return them to the Upward Bound by September 11 using the preaddressed envelope included with this mailing.

**Senior Saturday:** If you are a senior, please watch for information on an upcoming Senior Saturday event that we are planning to provide you and your families with more information on the college admissions application process, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, and the upcoming 2016 Summer Academy Bridge program.

**After School Meetings:** Upward Bound’s weekly 1½ hour after school meetings, a very important component of Upward Bound, will begin in either late September or early October, depending on your school. These will run until early December before taking a break for the holidays and then they will resume in mid-January. A listing of the meeting dates, times, and locations will be sent to you separately in the very near future. Don’t forget that transportation home from after school meetings is not provided by Upward Bound, so please be sure to begin making arrangements for transportation once you receive the schedule.

**Saturday Sessions:** Saturday Sessions for the 2015-2016 school year are listed on the *Upcoming Events* sheet enclosed in this mailing. The first one will be held on October 31. Approximately two weeks before each Saturday Session you will receive a mailing with additional information, including the check in location and an overview of the day’s activities. A listing of times and locations when the buses will pick you up and drop you off will also be included with your first Saturday Session mailing. Other Saturday Sessions will be held on December 5, February 20, and April 16. Please mark these on your calendar.

**Remind (Text/Email Alerts) Service:** Please sign up for Upward Bound’s Remind text messaging/email notification system, even if you signed up last year, using the directions for your school. (All of the subscribers from last year have been removed.) We will use this system to let you know of meeting changes/cancellations and provide reminders about upcoming events. The instructions on how to register and unregister for this service are enclosed. Please encourage
your parents/guardians to sign up for this service too. NOTE: Regular text messaging rates may apply if you do not have unlimited texting.

**Upward Bound's Web Page:** Upward Bound will send several mailings to you throughout the year. Some, including invitations to college visits or the National College Fair, will require returning forms to Upward Bound by a specific deadline. Please pay attention to all of the mailings we send. If you ever need another copy of a form or mailing, check our web page by visiting [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu), typing Upward Bound into the white search box in the top right corner, and selecting the first link. Copies of all mailings will be posted there under the News & Forms tab on the right.

**Summer Academy 2016:** Upward Bound's 2016 Summer Academy dates are listed on the enclosed Upcoming Events sheet. Applications for the 2016 Summer Academy will be available in early March and will be due later that month. A pre-summer orientation session will be held on the Cal U campus on March 19 for those who have never attended a Summer Academy session before and are hoping to attend. (Those who have attended a Summer Academy in the past will not need to attend a pre-summer orientation this year.) As in past summers, Upward Bound has a limited number of spaces for the upcoming summer and will look at attendance, participation, grades, and other factors in selecting those who will attend. Also, absences lasting more than one day will not be possible, so please plan accordingly.

Whether you are a new student or a fourth year student in Upward Bound, I congratulate you for dedicating yourself to becoming a stronger student and preparing for a successful future. If you or your parents or guardians have any questions about anything related to Upward Bound at any point in the year, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 724-938-4470. Our office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on most weekdays and we are always happy to hear from you. Also, if you haven’t done so yet, please join our Facebook group (Cal U Upward Bound).

Thank you for reading. We look forward to receiving your forms and seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Kula, Director
Upward Bound Program

Enclosures:  
* Academic Year Update Form  
* Student Agreement Form  
* Upcoming Events for 2015-2016