Grant Rewards Students for Research

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ORONO, Maine -- A $10,000 grant from the Nellie Mae Fund for Education to the University of Maine Upward Bound program is helping some high-achieving, low-income students with first-year college expenses. This is the sixth year the non-profit foundation has awarded grants to support pre-collegiate research internships for Upward Bound Math/Science students during the "Bridge" year between high school and college.

The 1998 grant allowed Upward Bound to award subsidies for essential college costs to 10 students, five of whom are attending UMaine. The grant recognizes students for their research, developed and conducted during the summer with UMaine faculty. Student research and resulting papers ranged from the effect of cerebral palsy on speech development to biodegradability of latex balloons in the environment.

The Math/Science students spend their summers meeting the program's intense academic and research demands and do not have the chance to earn money for college. "It's a trade-off that reflects their commitment to learning and their understanding of the long-range value of education," says Upward Bound Director Linda Ives. "That's why this grant is so important and appreciated."

Upward Bound is a federally funded TRIO program established to advance equal educational opportunity by helping students overcome economic, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. TRIO programs at UMaine are administered by the College of Education and Human Development.

The Classic Upward Bound program, in its 33rd year at UMaine, serves 100 economically disadvantaged students in high schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. The Regional Math/Science Center program, in its seventh year at UMaine, serves between 40 and 50 highly motivated, math and science-focused students in schools throughout New England. Both programs provide counseling and tutoring in the students' schools, as well as a summer residential experience at UMaine. Students in the Classic program have the opportunity to work in a career-related field and earn some money during their summer experience.

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