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5-26-1999

## UMaine Upward Bound Continues Tradition Of Building Success

Kay Hyatt

*College of Education & Human Development, University of Maine*

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# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## *Selected News Releases*

### **UMaine Upward Bound Continues Tradition Of Building Success**

ORONO, Maine -- Upward Bound will mark its 34th year at the University of Maine this summer when 145 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors served by the federally funded college preparation program launch into six weeks of academic study and career exploration. The campus residential summer experience runs June 26-August 5.

The majority of the students (100) are in the Classic Upward Bound general academic support and enrichment program, which serves low-income students throughout the school year in 12 high schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock and Waldo counties. The summer educational experience includes daily classes centered around an integrated curriculum of math, science, English, foreign languages and literature, and courses in career development and the college selection process. They also have the opportunity to work or job shadow someone in a career of interest.

The 45 students in UMaine's Regional Math-Science Center, beginning its eighth year, come from high schools around New England. Their summer academic experience includes accelerated classes focusing on math, science and/or computer science, as well as research opportunities in the sciences with UMaine faculty.

The longevity, quality and success of the Classic Upward Bound program was recently recognized with a \$2.7 million, five-year funding award from the U.S. Department of Education. Only grant proposals ranked in the top 10 percent are funded for five years, instead of the usual four-year cycle.

Upward Bound funding provides one of the highest possible returns on taxpayer dollars -- educational opportunities that give low-income students the advantage to pull themselves and their families out of poverty -- according to Linda Ives, director of UMaine's Upward Bound program. This year, 94 percent of students who complete the program have been accepted and plan to go on to four-year colleges. Most of them are the first in their families to attain higher education.

Grants, foundation, corporate and community contributions provide pre-college research grants, recognizing the individual research projects and intensive academic work of students entering college in the fall. These grants help students, who forego summer jobs in order to improve their chances of successfully entering and completing college, with essential, and often unexpected, first-year costs.

On campus, Upward Bound students will be working with the latest computer software provided through an on-going partnership with Microsoft. Each year, Microsoft

donates hundreds of software packages to selected Upward Bound programs around the country. Software such as Front Page, Encarta 99, Graphics Studio, Publisher 98, Office 97 and Windows 98 is shipped to Upward Bound programs for use during the summer experience and for distribution to participating Upward Bound high schools, where it is available for all students.

UMaine's Upward Bound program, one of the first Microsoft partner programs, serves as the software distributor for participating schools throughout New England. The estimated fair market value of the 1998-99 software donation which UMaine Upward Bound received and oversees is nearly \$225,000.

The Upward Bound students learn to use the state-of-the-art software during their summer experience, then go back to their schools as advocates and agents of technological change and instruction, Ives explains.

Nearly 600 Upward Bound programs are in operation at universities and colleges throughout the United States. Upward Bound programs at UMaine are administered by the College of Education and Human Development.

**Released:** May 26, 1999

**Contact:** Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

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