College Opportunity Programs

Supporting a culture of college-going for California's youth

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

College Opportunity Programs are administered by the UC Davis School of Education and serve students in Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties.

Educational Talent Search participants tour the campus of CSU Sacramento on the first stop of a college tour that includes multiple campuses in Southern California.

For generations of Americans, going to college has brought greater adaptability, economic opportunity and more choice in life. Yet many students don't know that postsecondary education is a possibility for them. College Opportunity Programs (COP) at the UC Davis School of Education open college and career pathways for California students who are low income, may be English language learners, and in many cases, are the first in their families to go to college.

COP represent three federal grant programs—Upward Bound, GEAR UP and Educational Talent Search—that have collectively changed the educational trajectories of tens of thousands of Northern California middle and high school students. In January 2019, the UC Davis School of Education began managing these programs, which align with the School's mission to engage with public schools and community partners, with a goal of eliminating educational inequities. Each program is funded through multiple-year federal grants on a project basis, and each has a different approach to helping students not only thrive in high school, but transition successfully to college.

"This program creates generational change. We're changing families, not just students."

Samuel Blanco III, Director, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound, Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

41
High schools and middle schools in Northern California
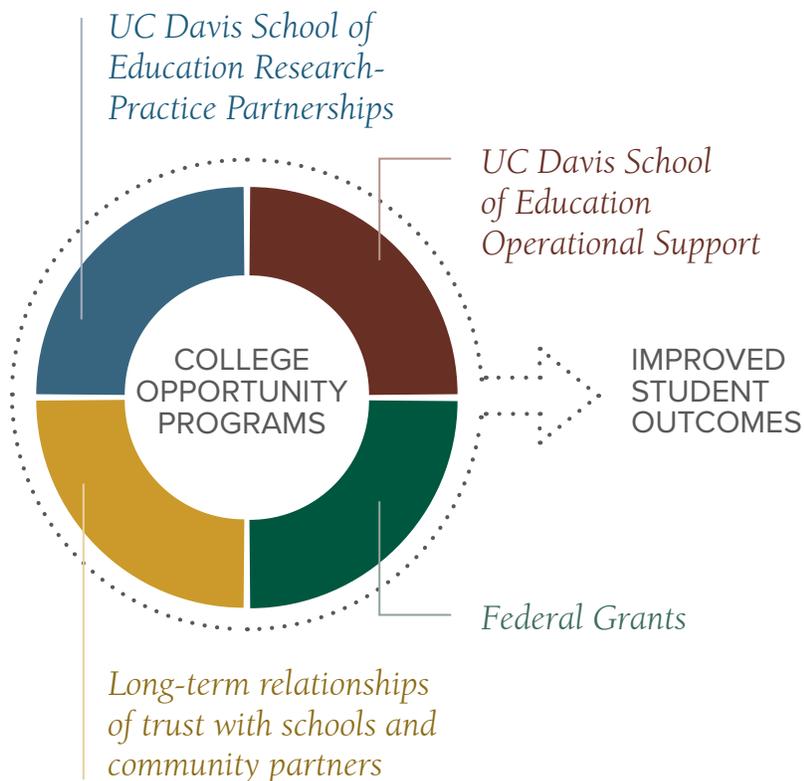
6,733
Participating students

91%
Of participants pursuing postsecondary education

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

COP serve students through workshops and one-on-one support provided by advisors who help students enhance their personal, cultural, social and academic awareness and development. Advisors assist students with early career and educational planning throughout middle school and high school, inform participants about college requirements, and help them identify their areas of interest. Each student receives the attention they need to stay focused on academic and personal goals, and successfully prepare for college.

UC Davis School of Education Research-Practice Partnerships

UC Davis School of Education Operational Support

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

IMPROVED STUDENT OUTCOMES

Federal Grants

Long-term relationships of trust with schools and community partners

The whole-systems approach modeled by COP means that UC Davis can observe best practices in action and support COP to make the most efficient use of resources through coaching and operational support from the UC Davis School of Education.

"Research-practice partnerships between COP and UC Davis School of Education advance the School's mission to engage with public schools and community partners with the goal of eliminating educational inequities."

Renee Newton, Senior Director, REEd Center, UC Davis School of Education

UCDAVIS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

"Educational Talent Search has the great potential to come into a campus, open doors for students and give them experiences that they wouldn't otherwise have. I believe very strongly that we are painting a new vision for our students. Without this program, I think many of them would be swept up by the status quo."

Angela Radford, Director, Educational Talent Search, Shasta County

Programs & Funding

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education in Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties. This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The GEAR UP Rural Valley Partnership Project will focus all efforts on a rural and economically depressed agricultural area of the Northern Sacramento Valley of California. The project will serve 1,741 students in two cohort groups of 6th and 7th graders enrolled at seven high-poverty middle schools.

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a federally funded TRIO program serving students in Sacramento, Shasta, Solano and Yolo counties. ETS serves 500 students in rural Shasta County and 1,700 students in Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties. Two-thirds of participating students must be from low-income families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. Services are provided on-site at the students' schools.

The program provides academic, career and financial counseling to its students and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education.

Upward Bound is a federally funded TRIO program serving students in Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano and Yolo counties. The goal of the program is to increase the rate at which students complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Students are supported for six years after high school graduation. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families and families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. Upward Bound serves 123 students in rural Siskiyou County, 120 in Shasta County, 37 in Sacramento County and 73 in Solano and Yolo counties.

COP Leadership Team

Renee Newton, Senior Director, REEd (Resourcing Excellence in Education)

Samuel Blanco III, Director, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound, Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties

Stacey Garrett, Director, GEAR UP Rural Valley Partnership Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties

Maryann Kaae-Munson, Director, Upward Bound, Siskiyou County

Cody Lane, Evaluation Director, GEAR UP Rural Valley Partnership

Angela Radford, Director, Educational Talent Search, Shasta County

Tim Warkentin, Director, Upward Bound, Shasta County

Contact Us

REEd, School of Education
University of California, Davis
1460 Drew Ave, Suite 100
Davis, CA 95618
Phone: (530) 752-0905
reedleadership@ucdavis.edu

UC DAVIS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

education.ucdavis.edu/college-opportunity-programs