

Johnson C. Smith University Upward Bound Program

Director's Message

Dear Upward Bound Parents and Students!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021-2022 Academic Year Component for the Upward Bound Program! As always, it is indeed a joy to be the Director of a Program with long-standing commitment to academic excellence, leadership and service. We are pleased that you have chosen to continue your participation in the Upward Bound Program. In addition, I would like to extend my congratulations to those students who will participate in the Academic Year Component for the first time. You have joined a bright and talented family of learners and instructors that will provide extraordinary pathways for your intellectual, creative and cultural enrichment.

We are very excited as we begin a new school year for the Upward Bound Program and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools! Due to COVID-19, we have experienced a myriad of setbacks that have been different from any school year any of us have ever experienced. However, through faith and perseverance, **WE MADE IT!!!** It is our hope that this year brings positive results that will allow our students to receive the education that they so desperately need and deserve. The Upward Bound staff stands firm in our efforts to continue pursuing, with urgency, the legacy of improving the quality of services provided to Upward Bound participants so that they will obtain a high-quality education. We pledge to continue delivering services to our participants even as we continue to battle COVID-19.

As we begin Academic Component 2021-2022, be reminded that the safety and health of our students is still our number one priority, and we will continue to work with what is best for this program, along with any additional protocol set by JCSU, local, state, and federal agencies to ensure we are doing everything we can for the safety our students and staff. The pandemic is NOT over. In fact, there is a rise in positive cases and deaths. We cannot afford to get comfortable, but must remain focused in our daily activities and our efforts to take care of our communities by getting vaccinated (if possible) and continuing to (1) Wear Mask; (2) Sanitize; and (3) Social Distance).

Due to the status of COVID-19, students' return to school (CMS and JCSU), decisions on whether or not to wear mask or vaccinate, and the deaths that families and friends are having to endure, because of this pandemic, we have decided to continue Tutorials and Academic Saturday sessions virtually. Doing so doesn't mean that services offered will be any different than in person. You will have the opportunity to still receive top quality assistance. Ultimately, your academic successes depends on how well **"YOU"** take responsibility for your own education. **YOU** must take the initiative to achieve academic excellence. It is your duty to take advantage of everything that will be offered to you (attending Tutorials, Academic Saturday sessions, etc.).

Parents, we will also need your assistance. Securing a strong future requires everyone working as a team—it requires having a shared vision. If we are going to be successful, we are going to have

to become a united team of workers. In line with our theme for Academic Year 2021-2022, *"Stronger Together,"* Helen Keller says, *"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."*

We will need your assistance in the following areas: (1) Make a commitment to faithfully ensure that your son/daughter participate in all functions offered, in particular, Tutorials and Academic Saturday sessions; (2) Consistently monitor your son/daughter's academic progress. Be aware of the scheduled dates for report card submission and (3) Notify the office of any changes that may occur in your son/daughter's behavior/academics, as well as changes in addresses, emails and phone numbers.

During Academic Year Component 2021-2022, you will be apprised of any changes that occur in the program. If at any time you have questions/concerns, please feel free to make us aware of them. We look forward to seeing you at our **MANDATORY** Orientation on September 25, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m. Please be on time and bring this entire Orientation packet with you. You will receive a reminder via text message as the date draws near.

On behalf of the Upward Bound Staff...We look forward to working with you!!!

Magdalyn Lowe-Smith, Director
Upward Bound Program