An opening thought…

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events… Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Robert Kennedy
A presentation in two parts

• Upward Scholars Overview
• Upward Scholars Tutoring Program
Group Introductions

- Dr. Linda Prieto, Executive Director
- Milena Miyashiro, Program Coordinator
- Elizabeth Weal, Founder & Board Member

Please introduce yourself and tell us why you’re interested in this program.
Upward Scholars Mission Statement

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults, mostly immigrants, by providing them financial assistance, academic support, and career development so they can continue their education, get better jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.
Why ESL?

English language mastery is the single most widely-cited skill barrier among organizations working with low-wage workers.
Upward Scholars Students Tell their Stories

Luis

Video clip
Our Growth

- 2012: 21
- 2014: 48
- 2016: 129
- 2018: 194
- 2020: 237
- 2022: 274
- 2024: 340
- 2026: 352

Students Served
Part 1: Upward Scholars Overview

- We started in 2010 with 2 students
  - Currently, we’re supporting over 350 students across SMCCD.
- One-of-a-kind
- How we started
Who are Upward Scholars recipients?

• Came to the U.S. as adults
• 88% from Latin America
• Average age: 34
• 60% female
• 78% live in RWC, EPA, and Menlo Park
• Minimum wage jobs
• Students start ESL at adult schools and community-based organizations
What Upward Scholars provides

- Financial support
- Academic support
- Community support
Financial Support

• Books
Financial Support

- Bus passes
- Parking permits
Financial Support

• Food vouchers for on-campus meals
Financial Support

• Laptops for persistent students
For Upward Scholars recipients, college is almost free!

- **Tuition**: Paid for through a State of California program for low-income students
- **Books and transportation**: Paid for by Upward Scholars
- Students pay about $35 a semester.
Academic Support

• Tutoring and mentoring
Community Support

• Upward Scholars Friday evening Conversation Club @ Sequoia Adult School
Community Support

• Upward Scholars Conversation Club at Cañada College
Student Recruitment

- ESL classes at local adult school
- A SMCCD ESL class taught at local adult school
- SMCCD ESL classes at local CC
Impact on Students

• Attending college in the U.S. → increase self confidence and self worth
Impact on Students

• Better prepared to help their children in school
Impact on Students

• Improve their English, and, as a result, improve their job prospects
Impact on Students

• Some attain vocational certificates (e.g., early childhood education, medical assisting, bookkeeping)
Impact on Students

• A few Upward Scholars recipients get AA degrees and transfer to universities
Effects of Immigration Laws

• Federal laws
  • DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
    • most Upward Scholars students don’t qualify because they came to the U.S. after age 15
Effects of Immigration Laws

• State laws
  • Drivers licenses for undocumented residents
  • SB68: Undocumented students who get an AA degree can qualify for in-state tuition to CSUs, UCs
Part 2: The Upward Scholars Tutoring Program
Mindset

• You can transform a life, but there may be bumps along the way
Tutoring Program Growth

- 2013: 0
- 2014: 14
- 2015: 46
- 2016: 68
- 2017: 87
- 2018: 100
- 2019: 125

Students working with an Upward Scholars tutor
Why a Tutoring Program?

• Students’ schedules often don’t allow them to take advantage of tutoring resources on campus.
• Students can benefit from consistent one-on-one help.
• Students (and tutors) benefit from connecting with others in our community.
• Students with tutors are more likely to stay in college than those without.
Tutoring Program Referral

• Self-referral
• Progress reports completed by students’ professors
• Some are A students; other are struggling
Focus of Tutoring Sessions

• Most tutoring sessions focus on coursework, usually homework assignments for ESL classes
• ESL classes are from a 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade level
• Many students also like to practice English conversation
ESL Course Content

• Reading, Listening and Speaking classes
  • Reading comprehension
  • Presentations

• Grammar and Writing classes
  • Grammar exercises
  • Paragraphs/essays
# ESL Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Writing I (taken at adult school)</td>
<td>Grammar &amp; Writing II</td>
<td>Grammar &amp; Writing III</td>
<td>Grammar &amp; Writing IV</td>
<td>ESL 400</td>
<td>English 100 or English 105 (can be transferred to 4-yr college)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading, Listening &amp; Speaking I (taken at local schools, RWC)</td>
<td>Reading, Listening &amp; Speaking II</td>
<td>Reading, Listening &amp; Speaking III</td>
<td>Reading, Listening &amp; Speaking IV</td>
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Upward Scholar's
BAY AREA
Options After ESL

- Complete all ESL classes
- Leave the program
- Vocational certificate (e.g., early childhood education, bookkeeping, paralegal studies)
- Associate’s degree
Student Expectations

• Arrive on time
• Arrive with assignments complete or at least started
• Inform you in advance if they can’t attend
Tutor Expectations

• Meet once a week at a location you and your student agree to, usually a library or coffee shop
• Minimum session: one hour; most sessions are 90 minutes
• Commitment is through end of semester, though you can stop at any time
Tutor Expectations (cont.)

• If you need to miss more than a week, contact our Program Coordinator, Milena Miyashiro, and she will try to find a sub for you.
• Complete a short form at the end of the semester about your experience as a tutor.
Common tutor frustrations

• Students don’t have enough time to study
• Students cancel sessions, usually because they’re working
• Irrelevant course material
• Classes move too quickly
First, allaying your fears…

• You don’t need to be a grammar expert to tutor ESL
• ESL books for you to review are on display
Resources for tutors

• **Upward Scholars Website**
• Tutors section of website: [WWW.UPWARDSCHOLARS.ORG/FOR-TUTORS](http://WWW.UPWARDSCHOLARS.ORG/FOR-TUTORS)
  • Recommended grammar books
  • Online grammar resources
  • Video of “Effective techniques for working with Cañada College ESL students” given by ESL faculty
Special documents

- Review handouts:
  - Important Dates
  - “Why ESL?”
Getting started

At the first session...

• Ask to see the syllabus for your student’s class. Every student should have this. It may only be available electronically, so bring a laptop to your session, if possible.

• Ask your student to log in to Canvas and show you how it works.
Tutoring tips (in no particular order)

• Don’t be afraid to correct students’ pronunciation.
• Check for understanding again and again. Students often say they understand when they don’t.
Tutoring tips (in no particular order, cont.)

• Encourage your student to use the Internet as a resource:
  • Ask your student to bring their laptop to your sessions, if they have one.
  • Help the student search for answers online.
Tutoring tips (in no particular order, cont.)

• When teaching vocabulary, ask your student to use the new word in a sentence.
• If you can, use Spanish when it elucidates; avoid it other times.
A word about grades

• If a student receives a D or F in an ESL class, he/she is required to repeat the class.

• A student can receive an Upward Scholars scholarship even if they fail a class and need to repeat it.
Don’t hesitate to be a mentor on the side

• Ask students about their lives; they’ll be flattered you’re interested.
• Don’t hesitate to refer students to community resources. (See the Tutors as Mentors presentation on the Upward Scholars Tutor Web page for food, medical, legal resources, et al).
Resources for students

• Diana Viscarra, Upward Scholars Student Fellow, for college-specific concerns
• Milena, Program Coordinator, for tutoring and scholarship queries
• Linda, Executive Director, for general concerns
• College counselors
• College Learning Center
Getting assigned a student

• Classes start August 14\textsuperscript{th}
• We anticipate more students requesting tutors after the semester begins
• When you’ve been matched, Milena will text or email you and your student to introduce you to your student and include each other’s contact info
Connecting with your student ...

• Text or call your student to introduce yourself and choose a starting date and location.
• Avoid email, at least at first, unless your student emails you.
Before your first session…

• Text your student again the day before your first session to remind them to attend.
• For your first session, plan to meet outside your meeting place. It’s easier to connect that way.
• For the next several weeks, send reminders to your student prior to meeting.
Final requests

• Please let us know if
  • You are unable to connect with your student
  • Your student stops coming to tutoring sessions
Extra credit

- Like Upward Scholars on Facebook
- Donate to Upward Scholars to help us support 350+ students
- Volunteer in other ways
Thank you for your time and commitment to our students!