

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Transforming Lives Through
Quality Learning Experiences"

Upward Bound Summer Academy Begins

BEEBE, Ark. - Arkansas State University-Beebe's Upward Bound program has begun its summer academy for area high school students in White, Cleburne, Van Buren, Faulkner, Lonoke, and Prairie counties.

ASU-Beebe hosts two of the seven Federal TRIO Programs funded through the United States Department of Education: Student Support Services and Upward Bound. Upward Bound is intended to help students develop the skills necessary to enter and complete post-secondary education. The program is offered on the Beebe and Heber Springs campuses.

The program is open to students in ninth through eleventh grade who attend schools at Beebe, Carlisle, Clinton, Concord, Des Arc, England, Guy-Perkins, Hazen, Heber Springs, Lonoke, Mt. Vernon-Enola, Quitman, Rose Bud, Shirley, South Side Bee Branch, and West Side.

Students must demonstrate academic potential for post-secondary education, must be classified as a first-generation college student, and/or come from families with low incomes, and/or have a high risk for academic failure in order to qualify. A first generation student is a person whose parents have not graduated with a bachelor's degree. Academic failure is defined as students with below a 2.5 GPA, or who have scored close or in need of support on their state assessments, or have not successfully completed algebra 1 by the tenth grade.

Through Upward Bound, students receive additional classroom instruction, tutoring, academic and career counseling, ACT preparation, college experience through attendance in summer academy, and cultural enrichment and social skills. Students also receive information on colleges/universities, campus visits, completing admissions, financial aid and scholarship applications.

Students attend classes sixteen Saturdays per academic year and participate in after-school tutoring programs and a six-week summer program. The summer program consists of the students living in the ASU-Beebe residence halls for five weeks during the months of June and July. The sixth week is used for an educational cultural trip.

The costs of the program for students are covered under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Each Upward Bound participant receives a stipend plus mileage for each Saturday or tutoring session attended. Room and board during the summer academy, cultural event admission and other activities are also paid by the program.

The Upward Bound program is also participating in the summer USDA Food Service Program. Meals are provided to all eligible participants free of charge. Since this is a closed residential camp, all participants must meet the income guidelines and be accepted for TRIO Programs as set down by the Department of Education.

Applications for Upward Bound may be picked up from a student's high school counselor, or by calling the Upward Bound offices on the Beebe campus at (501) 882-4455, or the Heber Springs campus at (501) 362-1180.

For more information about ASU-Beebe, call (501) 882-3600 or visit the ASU-Beebe website at www.asub.edu.

Founded in 1927, Arkansas State University-Beebe is an operationally separate, two-year institution of the Arkansas State University System. With campuses located in Beebe, Heber Springs, Searcy, the Little Rock Air Force Base, and online, the university offers associate degrees, certificates, and non-credit training for business and industry. The Beebe campus also collaborates with Arkansas State, a four-year university in Jonesboro, to offer baccalaureate and graduate degrees on the Beebe campus. ASU-Beebe is nationally recognized by the Aspen Institute for student success rates.

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