Bemidji State University hosted the 2013 Northern Minnesota TRiO Day convention on Saturday, February 16th. Over 250 students from Bemidji, Hibbing, Mesabi, Superior, and Itasca TRiO programs attended the event. The day included over a dozen presentations from area professionals focusing on student growth and success in higher education. Students also had the chance to meet with representatives from over 12 different colleges, universities, and technical & community colleges.

Students arrived taking part in a keynote speech by renowned speaker Craig Hillier who encouraged students to achieve their full potential, and take an active role in pursuing a successful academic and personal career. Minnesota TRiO President Sue Austin then took the stage and spoke to the students about the many possibilities that lay ahead for each student, and thanked the students and dedicated staff who helped make the day happen. The students then chose to attend presentations conducted by various speakers who focused on topics such as leadership development, financial literacy, higher education options, and the maximization of academic skills. A lunch provided on the BSU campus was combined with an interactive college fair where post-secondary institutions met with students about school choices, program details, enrollment procedures, and more. A closing presentation combined with a prize raffle concluded the day.

The Bemidji State University TRiO department hosting the event includes Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and was recently awarded the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program. Upward Bound Associate Director Leah Girard, who in large part organized the event, emphasized that this day is all about the students. “These participants come from diverse backgrounds with an array of skills and a drive to pursue education to its fullest, and that’s what we hope to encourage and foster today” says Girard. BSU TRiO Director Kelli Steggall said that she was very pleased with the turnout, and was excited to have the opportunities presented and available for the students. Steggall commented that “TRiO programs, presenters, and staff provide a great opportunity to introduce a wide range of support options to students who may not have the opportunity to experience something like this”. 
THE College Decision

Where are you going to college? Our seniors will be able to answer this question in their sleep by the time the season of graduation parties is over. Deciding where to attend college after high school is a matter of determining fit. What is fit? College fit is the idea that the college or university you plan to attend is a place where you are excited to attend, a place where you feel comfortable and will have access to all the resources you will need to ensure your success.

How do you go about determining these things? The first step is visiting. Visiting multiple colleges helps give you a point of reference. What is it that makes you like a campus and feel comfortable there? Something else to take into consideration when considering higher education is the distance campus is from your home. For some, the farther away the better! Others like the idea of home being a quick weekend trip to visit or follow up with family obligations. Regardless of where you stand on the issue, it is an important one and often the deciding factor for many students when making their final decision.

Take advantage of the college visits offered by UB to help you in making this decision regarding your future!

From Upward Bound to College Bound

Upward Bound Seniors this year have found they identify with an array of campuses spanning Minnesota and North Dakota, a few even with their sights set on the east coast. Many students have decided to stay close and take advantage of the local access to a college degree.

Emily Biber has committed to Northwest Technical College in Bemidji and Shalynne Bogucki to Bemidji State University. Heather Spencer will be starting out in Bemidji as well at the Professional Salon Academy. Marylaine Bobolink and Nakita Nicasio have both decided to start out at Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake. Robin Littlewolf will be flying solo to MState in Detroit Lakes (an awesome campus seniors get to see during the summer program!)

Institutions on the Minnesota boarder are always popular among UB students and this year proved to be no different. A host of students are bound for Minnesota State University Moorhead and include Kayla Duos, Chase Gordon, and Clisha Lawrence. Dawning a ‘Grand Forks or Bust’ mentality, Callie Clark and Julie Wadena will be attending the University of North Dakota. Tamara Porter and Hailey Syyerson will be heading further west-Tamara is destined for Mayville State and Hailey for Black Hills State.

Wanting to get away from the brutal Northern Minnesota winters, a few students have opted to head south! Jasmine Jones and Chad Guinn will be attending St. Cloud State University.

Wanting a taste of the tropics, Jordan Collins will be enrolled at the University of Iowa in the September.

Two students will be entering the University of Minnesota system this fall. Morgan Harrington-Davis will be housed at the U of M campus in Crookston, and Ava Penner at the Minneapolis campus.

Many of our students have confirmed with their new institutions, but some are still deciding which direction to go! Anthony Swanholm and Shayna Blue have both been accepted to the University of Minnesota, but are waiting yet to hear from others. Donnie Manz is also working to decide the direction of his future, but is strongly considering Hibbing Community College. Zach Dahl is in the same boat, but leaning toward the North Dakota State College of Science. Marquita Jones is going back and forth between MState-Moorhead and St. Paul College. Only time will tell!

Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education. -Mark Twain
Financial Planning for the 21st Century

The good news: you will probably make more money after high school. The bad news: managing your money becomes even more complicated. Right now, your financial concerns may include recreational spending (toys), food, vehicle expenses (gas, tires, insurance, etc.), and prom. In college, your expenses grow to include tuition, books, housing, transportation, and even more opportunity to blow big bucks on going out to eat. Let’s assume you graduate from college and get a degree. You will then be looking to payback student loans, pay for housing (renting an apartment, buying a house) updating your wardrobe with professional attire, and much more. Setting yourself up for success in terms of money begins in high school, and now is the time to begin practicing saving, budgeting, and understanding the dynamics of money management.

Preparing yourself for college and beyond requires a combination of the right tools. The grades you earn in your classes give you the opportunity to show off your abilities in particular areas such as math, writing, science, and more. If one of these areas gives you a hard time, visiting with your teachers and working with an Upward Bound tutor can help give you a great advantage. To prepare yourself for college and beyond, take a look at the following tips to help you get a head start on financing your future.

* Open a savings account, and make a habit of putting a minimum amount in each month.
* Upward Bound checks are a great way to do this. When you go to the bank to cash them in, deposit them into your savings account.
* Going out to eat can be one of the biggest drains of money, try the grocery store!

Cut back on “impulse buys” such as vending machine food, clothes, and electronics.

Spending money is a big part of the process. An old saying is “some people get rich by how much they make, but far more get rich by how much they spend”. In English, this means that even if you don’t make much money, you can still accumulate a significant amount by spending your money wisely. Don’t buy a new release DVD, wait a month or so when the price gets cut by 50%. iPods go out of date fast, tell yourself “I’ll save up and buy the best one that comes out”. This will keep you saving money until you reach a point when you can drop the cash for a $200 radio. Cell phones are great, and let’s be honest, some of us can’t seem to live without them, but they can have features that cost money that you probably don’t need. Take a look at the below example and see for yourself:

A regular cell phone costs around $40 per month. A “smartphone” with internet costs around $80 per month. If you bought the regular phone, and put the other $40 in a savings account, you would accumulate around $480 per year, or almost $2,000 if you did this all 4 years of high school.

Q: Who would you rather be, the person with the smartphone, or the person who makes around a $1,000,000 more in their lifetime with a college degree because you financially planned ahead?

Savings Accounts

The process of financially preparing for college is one with multiple steps and one that is never started too early. The first step in this process is opening a savings account. There are two serious benefits of opening an account now:

1) A savings account provides a place for you money so you can start the saving process early on
2) When you are in college, any financial aid you receive will need to be directly deposited into a bank account-Why not set one up now and get used to how it works?

*Opening an account at most banks and credit unions is free!
Upward Bound
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Check out our website!
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/
students/services/upward_bound/

Upcoming Dates:

March 22-23: Spring College Visits
(students must have been pre-registered to attend)

April 6: Back-to-Campus

May 5: End-of-the-Year Banquet
(Invite to follow~2 family members invited to attend)

January Back-to-Campus

First Term Honor Roll

*Cass Lake Grades were unavailable during the December printing of the UB Messenger. CLB students who made the Honor Roll first term are listed below. WAY TO GO Cass Lakers!

MaryJane Bobolink   Andie Jones   Miranda Opsal-Richards
Meghan Brun         Dedrick LaDuke    Daven Staples
Leilani Cloud       Kayla Madigan    Jon Staples
Tori Foster         Jazzmin McGhghy    Raquel Staples
                    Nakita Nicazio    Amanda Wright