



# LAKE & MENDOCINO TRIO PROGRAMS



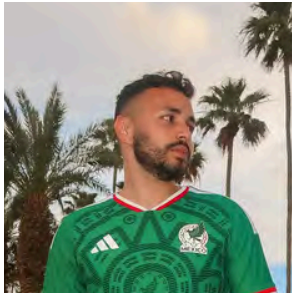
**Help us welcome all our new staff across Lake and Mendocino Trio Programs!**



**Ganga Kharka**

*UB Outreach Manager,  
Clear Lake/Ukiah*

As a former stateless refugee, I grew up in Syracuse, New York, where Upward Bound helped make college feel like a real possibility for my family. A decade later, I now work for the same program as staff. My role is to help first-generation students get to college and persist through it. Much of the work involves connecting students and families with resources they may not know exist, and helping them navigate systems that weren't designed with them in mind. I graduated from Syracuse University in 2022 with degrees in Political Science and International Relations. I keep returning to the same idea: someone showed up for me, and it made all the difference. That's why I do this work for our students, especially first-generation and immigrant students who are often learning to navigate two worlds at once.



**Rodolfo Rincon**

*Upward Bound  
Program Assistant*

Hi, my name is Rudy Rincon, and I'm new to the UB Team. I am excited to work for a program that positively impacts my community. On my free time, I'm a concert photographer who loves capturing real moments and high-energy experiences. Whether I'm shooting live shows, working brand events, or traveling to new places, I'm always focused on telling a story through my work. Fitness is a big part of my life, and I bring that same discipline and consistency into everything I do. I'm passionate about creating authentic visuals that connect with people and leave a lasting impression. I hope I can bring that energy and creativity to Upward Bound.



**Krystyn Holston**

*TRIO Pre-Collegiate  
Program Assistant*

I am an Upward Bound alumni from Fort Bragg. I am working towards my AS in Biology at Mendocino College currently as I have always had a passion for animals. I'm excited to be back with TRIO and UB.



**We extend our sincere thanks to our summer program partners for their continued support.**



# UPWARD BOUND - FORT BRAGG

This month was centered heavily around academics, with a strong focus on school and future planning. Our Upward Bound students have been actively working on their projects, reflecting on their goals for the upcoming years of high school while also gaining a deeper understanding of what makes a strong scholarship application. Despite the academic focus, students also had the opportunity to recharge during spring break, taking time to relax and prepare themselves to finish the school year strong. The month wrapped up on a high note with prom, where our students dressed up and enjoyed a memorable evening together.

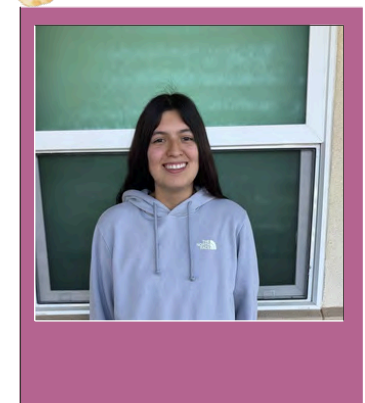
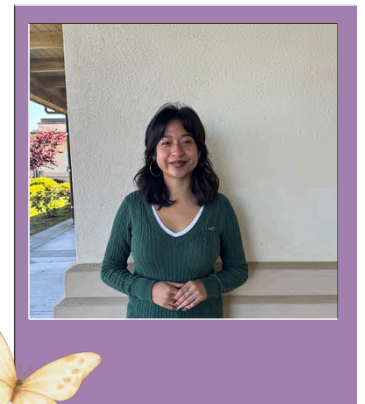


## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Meredith Mendez Tolteca** is a dedicated junior in Upward Bound who takes great pride in her academic success and consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic. She is a supportive and collaborative peer, always willing to help others and work closely with her classmates to create a positive learning environment. As she completes her junior year, Meredith is taking all the right steps to prepare for her senior year and the opportunities that come with it, showing focus, responsibility, and determination. In addition to her academic strengths, Meredith brings a great sense of humor to the classroom—her positive attitude and ability to make others laugh make her a joy to be around and contribute to an uplifting atmosphere. Meredith is truly deserving of recognition as Student of the Month.

**Annalise Rivas**, a sophomore in Upward Bound, has been selected as Student of the Month for her dedication and positive presence. As a student-athlete, she balances her academic responsibilities with her athletic commitments while continuing to strive for success in both areas. Annalise consistently comes into class with a smile, greets her peers with kindness and respect, and is always asking thoughtful questions to deepen her understanding. She helps create a welcoming and engaged environment for everyone. Annalise is a bright and motivated young woman, and we look forward to seeing all the success that comes her way.



[upwardboundfb](https://www.instagram.com/upwardboundfb)



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# ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH MENDOCINO COUNTY

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Yaritza Rivera is a dedicated and well-rounded student involved in leadership, athletics, and community service. She participated in FFA, volunteered in fundraisers, and helped prepare food boxes for those in need. She completed four years of cheer (serving as senior captain) and volleyball. Yaritza also gained experience through internships at Boonville Stables and an elementary school. She studied abroad in Alicante, Spain, and completed her senior project by shadowing an ultrasound technician, reflecting her interest in a medical career.



**Yaritza Rivera**



**Joanna Peres**

Joanna Peres is a motivated student leader with strong involvement in school and community activities. She participated in FFA for three years, served as ASB Secretary, and was a cheer captain for three years. As a junior class officer, she helped organize prom. Joanna gained experience through internships, including work with a nonprofit focused on housing in the valley. She also dedicated time to community service through the food bank, helping grow, collect, and distribute food. Her senior project focused on the first Mexican exhibition at the local museum, where she conducted interviews highlighting important community history.

Guadalupe Arias is a dedicated student leader with strong involvement in school, agriculture, and community service. She served as Cheer Captain for three years and held leadership roles including ASB Board Representative, FFA Vice President, and Class Officer for three years. An active FFA member, she managed animal production projects and participated in national service efforts. Guadalupe also helped organize prom and contributed to local volunteer work. For her senior project, she created a community clothing and hygiene pantry to support low-income families in her school district.



**Guadalupe Arias**



**ATS Seniors, please complete the attached senior survey if you haven't already. This will ensure you receive your TRIO stole for graduation.**

**Deadline: Friday, May 22, 2026**



[ats\\_mendocino](https://www.instagram.com/ats_mendocino)



[atsm@sonoma.edu](mailto:atsm@sonoma.edu)

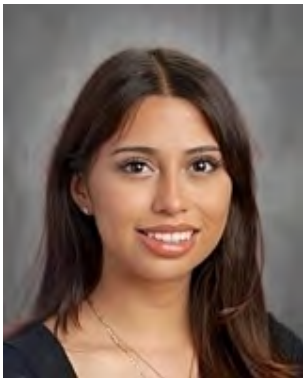
# UPWARD BOUND - LOWER LAKE

In April, we had our spring break that allowed our students to reest up and get re-energized for the last few months of school! After our break, the 9th graders had a focus on improving our writing skills through current event research assignments and several writing prompts. The 10th graders completed their Cultural Unit by learning about the annexation of Hawaii and its impact on Hawaiian culture. The 11th graders are now focused on their SAT prep and have begun learning some test taking skills and going over sample problems to know what to expect on the SAT. The 12th graders have heard back from all of their colleges and they now had the tough task of determining where they would like to attend this fall while also going over what to expect in college.

Upward Bound students joined the City of Clearlake and other local organizations to help clean up our local park and surrounding environment. This is one of Upward Bound's favorite events to volunteer with as we can protect our local environment and keep our park, beach and city clean!



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Cristal Castro-Luna**

Cristal is an 11th grade student who has had a remarkable year full of academic achievements such as receiving all A's in her Fall semester which include Advanced Placement courses such as AP Biology and AP English Literature. Her Spring Semester did not slow down as she is currently taking 2 college classes at the local community college, continuing her AP courses, participating in Kids Club and volunteering throughout the community. She has also made sure to attend all Upward Bound events and take advantage of all the social and leadership opportunities. This semester she has also dedicated time to continue improving in track by running the 400m, 4x400m and the 100m. She has placed in the top 3 several times this season and hopes to continue this success as the season winds down. She is a prime example of a student-athlete!



**Giovanni Negrete**

Giovanni is a 9th grade student who has spent his first year in high school challenging himself with an Honors Math class as well as a College class in the Spring semester while maintaining a 4.37 GPA. He has also made sure to get involved on campus by serving as Class of 2029 President, being an integral part of the Boys Volleyball team and attending all Upward Bound events and taking advantage of all the social and leadership opportunities.



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# UPWARD BOUND UPPER LAKE & MIDDLETOWN



This past month I have been meeting with the Upper Lake students at our usual spot, Double D's coffee in Upper Lake. Lots of new faces have stopped by, slowly but surely! We chatted about the available classes for the summer as well as the events we have planned for the Summer program.

**COFFEE & CHAT**  
w/ Upward Bound  
Upper Lake

Where?  
**Double D's Coffee** 9449 MAIN ST,  
UPPER LAKE,  
CA 95485



Come and enjoy a **drink** and a **pastry** of your choice on us! Let's catch up and connect about upcoming events and how we can best serve you.

**Every Wednesday**  
Anytime from  
**12:40 pm to 3:30 pm**



Chavezreb@sonoma.edu programsu@sonoma.edu 707-664-3895 @UBUPPERLAKE

We are adding Middletown High school to this program and this month I was able to attend the Career fair to spark interest in the community. I have already received applications and I'm looking forward to receiving more. We are excited to offer this program at MHS and we can't wait to start serving the students.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



### **Destiny Caballero**

Destiny Caballero is UB Upper Lake's student of the month. I would like to show my appreciation to Destiny because not only does she come to all of our coffee and chat events, but she was also the first one to sign up for college classes. She is on top of her education and I can't wait to see what next year has in store for her. Thank you Destiny for showing initiative and interest.



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# UPWARD BOUND CLEAR LAKE & UKIAH

This week, I met with 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at Clearlake High School to review their academic progress and discuss plans for the upcoming summer. We talked with students about their grades, summer enrollment options, and whether they may need credit recovery or plan to take high school or college classes. Students also received information about summer program dates, upcoming events, and potential field trips, including opportunities to visit Puerto Rico and Chicago. They were excited about the upcoming events.

During the visit, I introduced myself as the new point of contact for the Clear Lake program so students know who to reach out to with questions or support needs. Students were encouraged to stay on track, check their email regularly, and remain in communication with staff about deadlines and updates. Our next visit with students is scheduled for May 6th.



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### **Severene Faye Viray, 12**

Severene Faye Viray is a Senior at Clear Lake High School and our Student of the Month! She will be graduating this June and will be attending CSU Northridge. We are so proud of you Faye, and we wish you the best of luck on your new journey. Thank you for always signing up for field trips and participating. We will miss you!!



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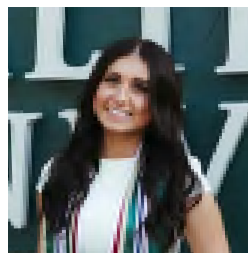
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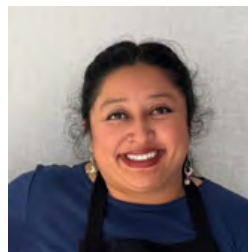
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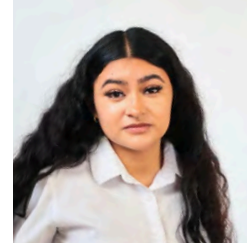
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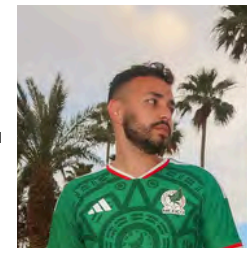
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# UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

## SUMMER COLLEGE TOUR

### DATES:

Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

### LOCATION:

Stanford University, CSU Monterrey Bay, UC Santa Cruz,  
and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

### REGISTER:

Click this [link](#) or scan  
the QR code



# UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

## MAY WORKSHOPS

Come join us for a variety of topics to improve your college readiness and build better study habits!

### MAJORS IN COLLEGE

Learn about different majors in college, careers that you can do with a degree in this major, and more.

Saturday, May, 16th 11:20am	Wednesday, May 20th 4:30pm
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Saturday: [meet.google.com/kvy-rber-vmt](https://meet.google.com/kvy-rber-vmt)      Wednesday : [meet.google.com/bmv-jywr-qne](https://meet.google.com/bmv-jywr-qne)

### MATH DROP-IN

Get some extra support for your Math classes!

Tuesdays 4:30pm	May 5th, May 12 <sup>th</sup> , May 19 <sup>th</sup> , and May 16th
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[meet.google.com/hcu-ffpd-qvi](https://meet.google.com/hcu-ffpd-qvi)

### PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

This workshop will teach you what problem-solving skills are, the importance of them, and how to build this skill up.

Saturday, May, 23rd 11:20am	Wednesday, May 27th 4:30pm
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Saturday: [meet.google.com/kvy-rber-vmt](https://meet.google.com/kvy-rber-vmt)      Wednesday : [meet.google.com/bmv-jywr-qne](https://meet.google.com/bmv-jywr-qne)