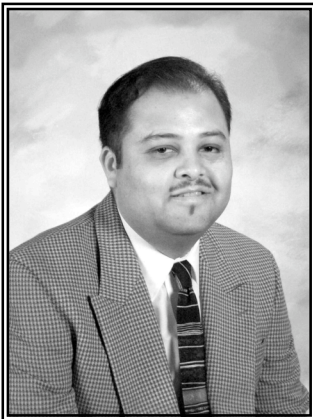


Grant News 2001-2002

Upward Bound Helps High School Students Choose College

Long Beach City College is one of only a few colleges in the nation to have earned two Upward Bound grants; the first one established the outreach program in 1997 and the second expanded its scope. The grants have a combined annual allocation of approximately **\$450,000** from the U.S. Department of Education. The program serves students between the ages of 13 and 19 who are low-income and/or potential first-generation college students from Long Beach area high schools. The program focuses on preparing and encouraging the student participants to complete their high school education and pursue a postsecondary education.

The Project Director, **Jesus Salvador Solano**, is responsible for overseeing the project's budget for federal and LBCC compliance; planning academic program activities; organizing summer residential college experiences; recruiting and working with students; and promoting the program to LBCC colleagues and high school teachers and staff.



Jesus Solano

“This year, 26 of our students (out of 100 program participants) graduated high school,” Mr. Solano said. “Thus, we were busy finishing up at the end of the school year and working with the seniors in completing their admissions to the various colleges. Most of our seniors will attend the following colleges in fall 2002: LBCC, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis. We are definitely sad to see them go, but we are extremely happy that each student will continue in her/his pursuit of a higher education,” he said.

The mission of Upward Bound is to generate the skills and motivation necessary for success in education beyond high school. Statistics show nationally that students in Upward Bound are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree than students from similar backgrounds who did not participate. Ninety-nine percent of all Upward Bound students graduate from high school and 92% go to college.

Director of Grants Paul Creason said, “Activities include after school academic programs, cultural events, and a summer residential program at a local university. Helping high school students prepare for college is the focus of this grant. The LBUSD staff was excited when the program was established, because many of their students needed help to prepare themselves for postsecondary education. The results have been incredible and many students from our program are now at LBCC and at various colleges and universities in the U.S.”

For more information about the Upward Bound program, call Mr. Solano at (562) 938-3179.
