

### From the Director

What a crazy year it has been! Despite the challenges, chaos, and uncertainty we have faced, I'm proud of what you (and we) have been able to accomplish this semester. I continue to be inspired by how amazing, focused, and resilient you are, and we're so lucky to have you in Upward Bound!

As you look over this newsletter, take a moment to pause and give yourself credit-this year has been hard, but you've also accomplished so much and have so many more goals to achieve. Keep your eye on the future, keep working, and have fun along the way!

See you in Spring 2021,

Landon



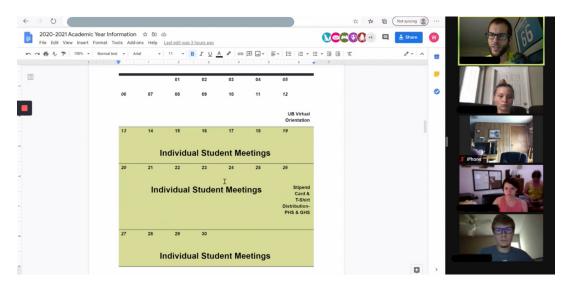
### **Virtual Orientation**







In September, students and families attended a Virtual Orientation. They welcomed each other, completed a survey, and discussed program expectations, virtual services, program stipends, schedules, and the Back to School Drive-In event later that month.





## **College Exploration**

Throughout the semester, students had a variety of opportunities to explore colleges including a COE selective college fair and Virtual College Exploration sponsored by CFWV and WVACRAO.







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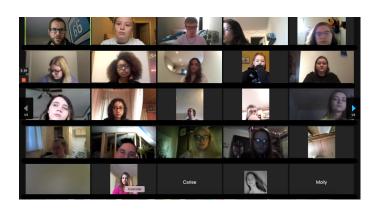
In October, students participated in various local and regional colleges' virtual open house events. In December, they participated in a virtual admissions presentation from Rice University.



### First Gen Student Panel

In November, students celebrated National First Generation College Student Day by defining first generation student, reflecting on what it means to be the first in their families to go to or complete college, and asking questions to a panel of first gen students from WVU.







Chat

how hard was it transitioning from high school to college?

From bsmccar2 to Everyone:

if you are a first gen how confusing was it to fill out applications

From Aaron to Everyone:

How did you best adapt to moving out-of-state?

From Catherine to Everyone:

what was it like when you were picking your college and how did your family feel when you told them you were coming here?

From Brittany to Everyone:

what things should you look for and ask when deciding what college to apply for?



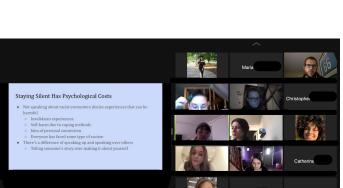
# Defining First Gen

In November, students discussed and typed statements describing what it means to be a first generation college student. Below is a word cloud that shows what the group wrote and how important a college education is for them.



## **Diversity & Inclusion**

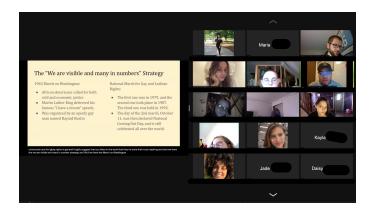






In November, students also attended a diversity and inclusion workshop with student ambassadors from WVU's LGBTQ+ Center.

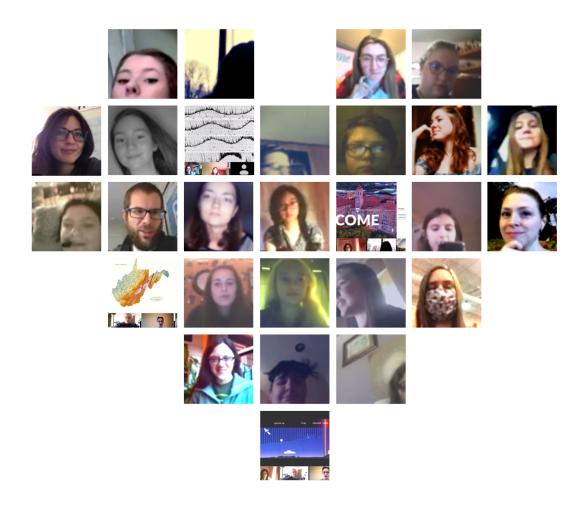
Students learned important definitions, language, and information about anti-racism and gender-inclusivity.



They discussed ways to make Upward Bound, their school, and their community more inclusive.

## **Green Bank Observatory**

In December, students spoke with Luci Finucan from the Green Bank Observatory (GBO) in Pocahontas County. After learning about research conducted on-site with four powerful telescopes, students had the opportunity to calculate star movements based on radio frequencies observed in space.



Dig Lon Knoms



GBO is in a 13,000-square-mile area called the National Radio Quiet Zone. High-wave frequencies, including cell phones and wi-fi, are restricted to prevent interference.

## **Upward Bound Services**

Throughout the fall semester, Upward Bound provided the following virtual resources and services to UB students:

#### • Individual Student Meetings and Assistance

Once per semester and as needed

#### • Grade-Level Group Meetings

- Twice per month
- UB Staff and WVU Honors College Mentors

#### • Saturday Programs

Once per month

#### Tutoring

- 24/7 through Tutor.com
- By appointment with WVU Honors College Tutors

#### SAT/ACT Test Prep

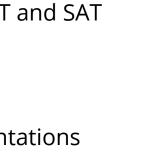
- Princeton Review Self-Paced Courses for ACT and SAT
- Khan Academy SAT
- Testive Coaching for ACT and SAT

#### • College Exploration

- Virtual Open Houses and Admissions Presentations
- CFWV and WVACRAO College Exploration
- COE Selective College Fair

#### • STEM Activities

- Greenbank Observatory
- Berea College STEM event



See you next semester!