Welcome to Boise State University Veterans Upward Bound Newsletter. We plan to publish this newsletter quarterly so we can share information about our program, highlight the veterans served, and provide information about the services available in our area.

We plan to feature at least one veteran in each newsletter. It will allow us to celebrate their success and share some of their story.

Our primary purpose is to prepare veterans to successfully return to post-secondary programs of their choice. We offer refresher classes and tutor assistance in Math, English, Reading, Writing, and Computer Skills. We also offer a Spanish class and this fall we will be hosting a workshop series that will cover many subjects including financial literacy, study skills, and other topics our participants identify.

We now also offer online classes through the Skills Tutor program that will allow veterans to participate and benefit from our program if they cannot attend our scheduled classes or live outside the Treasure Valley area.

Our website provides more information about our program and the services we provide. Please take a look and let us know if we could add information that you think would be helpful.

education.boisestate.edu/vub

We are excited to offer this FREE program to veterans in our area. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for features, profiles, or resources that we could have in the newsletter.

We have moved...again...and again......

Veterans Upward Bound is a brand new program to a campus that is constantly building and growing. Veterans Upward Bound was originally given space on the Boise State University campus in the Mechanical Technology building. The program shared rooms and space with students from the International Program.

In March 2010, the Veterans Upward Bound program was moved, the first time, next door in Technical Services. Staff and veterans fell in love with the new space. With better lighting, more space, a classroom, and a comfortable couch, it wasn’t hard to get accustomed.

In the middle of July 2010, Veterans Upward Bound moved a second time. The new location is located at 1136 Euclid Avenue south of the BSU campus. It features more classrooms, tutor nooks, and more computers for veterans to study and refresh their academic skills.
**Veteran Highlight: Darryal Canada**

Darryal Canada is one of the program's first participants. He was born in Brunswick, Georgia but was raised in Pasadena, California. He moved to Idaho in February 2006 to get away from bad influences and to turn a new leaf.

He was in the Army for 3 years and was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado. His most memorable experience in the military? “I went back to school and completed 5 units to get my high school diploma.”

Darryal joined Veterans Upward Bound to work toward earning a Bachelor’s degree and says he is “willing to put in the necessary work to achieve his goal.” He is currently studying Math, Writing and learning new computer skills.

Darryal hopes to enroll into post-secondary education soon.

**Veteran Highlight: Jacob Wright**

Jacob Wright joined the Veterans Upward Bound program in March 2009. He has continuously studied Math and was accepted into Central Wyoming College for the fall of 2010.

Jacob is from Boise, Idaho. He joined the Army National Guard for six years. His most memorable experiences in the military was “touring Europe and being stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.”

Jacob joined Veterans Upward Bound to primarily focus on his math skills and he feels that the program has “prepared me in the subject of math in which I do poorly in.”

Jacob’s goals are to become a teacher, leader, or facilitator for the Children Are Our Future program.

**Boise Facts**

- Boise is less commonly known as **Boise City**
- 100th largest city in the United States
- Founded in 1863
- US Bank Plaza is the tallest building in with 20 floors

**BSU Facts**

- BSU was founded in 1932 by the Episcopal Church
- Began awarding degrees in 1965
- Has almost 20,000 students currently enrolled

**VUB Facts**

- Fully funded by the US Department of Education
- A division of TRiO Upward Bound program
- 48 projects currently funded nationwide
- Over 20 years of serving veterans to get ready to go back to school
Meet our Staff: Mark Heilman

Mark Heilman is the Project Director for Veterans Upward Bound and began in December 2009. He spent 3 years in the Army from 1972 to 1975.

After his discharge, he returned to school. Mark spent 1 year at a small liberal arts college in North Dakota before transferring to BSU where he earned his Bachelor’s in Social Work. He then earned his Master’s in Social Work at the University of Iowa.

Mark worked for the VA for the next 28 years. He worked at 2 Medical Centers and ran a Vet Center in North Dakota. In 1980, he returned to the Boise VA Medical Center as the Administrative Director for Behavioral Health. In September 2001, Mark assumed an additional role as the Chief of Social Work Services.

He retired from the VA in the fall of 2009 and was excited to join the VUB team at BSU because of his strong belief in education and the opportunity it provides to change lives and affect generations of families.

He enjoys spending time with his family. Mark loves sports (especially anything Bronco related), music, and riding motorcycles.

Meet our Staff: Jo Stensaas

Jo is the Education Coordinator and started in October 2009. She developed the academic program which provides pre-college classroom preparation in reading, writing, math, computer and beginning Spanish for the veterans.

She received her English teaching degree and a French minor from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Jo taught junior and senior high English and Social Studies in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Texas, New Jersey, and Idaho.

She became involved with adult education when she became an Adult Basic Education instructor, assisting adults in their preparation for GED exams. Jo and her family moved to Boise in 1989 and began her 18+ year career with TRiO programs. Initially she worked for BSU’s Educational Talent Search, then Student Success; and Upward Bound. Jo started the University of Idaho’s Educational Opportunity Center in Boise and taught English for BSU’s High School Equivalency Program (HEP) which is a GED program for migrant farm workers and their families.

Jo and her husband are Bronco fans. They like music, golf, and to travel but they especially enjoy time spent with their 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Meet our Staff: Stephanie Bradshaw

Stephanie Bradshaw is the Veterans Upward Bound’s Administrative Assistant II and began working in December 2009. She also teaches the computer basics and beginner Spanish classes to the veterans.

She is a graduate of Boise State University with a major in Business Administration and two minors in Spanish and Music in May 2009.

Stephanie has plans to return to campus to earn her Masters in Business Administration in the summer of 2011.

Stephanie comes from a military background. Both her grandfathers and her father spent their careers in the Air Force. She has lived in several states and countries including Italy, Spain, and England.

In her spare time, she loves to read, practice piano, go dirt biking, and snowboarding.

Her latest goal? To learn how to cook....without burning the food.
First Veterans Upward Bound Open House

Veterans Upward Bound celebrated Veterans Day and their first year of operation on November 10, 2010. It was a big success! Many Veterans Upward Bound community partners and Boise State University officials came to visit the new location on 1136 Euclid Ave. The staff and participating veterans were available to chat about the program, its benefits, and the classes and online courses offered as well as other services provided to veterans preparing to return to school.

Veterans Upward Bound is a new TRiO program within the Center of Multicultural and Educational Opportunities in the College of Education. It is a FREE pre-college program helping veterans prepare for and succeed in post-secondary education. Services include classroom instruction for basic skills improvement in Math, English, and using computers, individual tutor sessions as well as information assistance and referrals for financial aid, enrollment and Veteran Services on campus and in the community.