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Press Release

Upward Bound students visit City police, fire-EMS departments

Program assists college students from low-income, disadvantaged families

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (June 26, 2015) — Students participating in Cowley College's Upward Bound program paid a visit Wednesday, June 24, to the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department and the Arkansas City Police Department, where they were treated to tours and ride-alongs.

Students hailing from Argonia, Arkansas City, Cedar Vale, Dexter, Oxford, Wellington and Winfield participate in the Upward Bound program, which is designed to help them to be more successful in college. To be accepted into the program, they must be from low-income families or working to become the first generation of college students in their families, meaning neither parent has a bachelor's degree.

High school students between the ages of 13 and 19 are eligible to participate in the program.

The students divided into two tour groups Wednesday. One went to ACFD and the other to ACPD, then the two switched places so each group was able to experience both stations.

At the fire-EMS department, the students learned what the duties of firefighters and paramedics are. They also were able to take a tour of the facility.

When the students visited the police department, Police Chief Dan Ward talked them for a while about what it takes to become a police officer and the kind of values that ACPD prioritizes.

First and foremost, Ward said, he wants people who are smart and have a good moral code.

Then Ward led the students on a tour of the facility, showing them the offices, interview room, fingerprinting room, holding cell and more. As the tour progressed, groups of two or three students were able to ride along with patrol officers for part of their work shifts.

For immediate release

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Both groups enjoyed the visit, and a few students said they were interested in becoming a police officer someday. They also talked about their experience with Cowley College's Criminal Justice use-of-force simulator, which allows students to see what it would be like to be in a life-or-death scenario.

About Upward Bound

Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their pre-college performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.

Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families, as well as high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which those participants complete secondary education, and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Upward Bound projects provide academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature and foreign languages.

Tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment, work-study programs, education or counseling services are designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students.

These programs and activities are designed especially for students who are limited in English proficiency, students from groups that traditionally are underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system, or other disconnected students.

At Cowley College, Upward Bound members must commit to preparing themselves for post-secondary education before being accepted into the program. In return for that commitment, Upward Bound provides the participants with a wide range of free services, including tutoring, counseling, classroom instructions, college and career guidance, and improving their academic skills and their motivation and determination to pursue a postsecondary education.

Participants are expected to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to those goals by continually striving for self-improvement.

Program participants with any grades of a C or below in their core classes will be required to attend tutoring. There also are two Saturday Academies per month throughout the school year and a six-week Summer Excellence Camp.

After they complete high school, Upward Bound participants make the transition to college by taking part in the Summer Bridge Program and earning up to six hours of college credit at no expense to themselves or their families. Students also live in the college's dormitories during that time.