Hello Upward Bound parents/guardians, partners, friends, and students! I want to thank each of you for your flexibility and support during this difficult time with the COVID-19 pandemic. According to state officials, Wisconsin schools are closed ‘indefinitely’ or ‘until the end of the health emergency.’ Our staff are working diligently under circumstances that are quickly changing day by day. Please know that things may change by the end of the day or week. Regardless, we want to maintain contact with you and provide an update on our efforts during this time.

As you may have heard, UWL and the La Crosse community has taken measures to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this current time, UWL campus is closed and college students will be starting their online courses next week until the end of the semester, not allowing us to have face-to-face tutoring. Thus, UB has cancelled all activities and will move tutoring to online using our Cyberbound system (also known as Canvas).

We will do our best in servicing students knowing that each high school is formulating their own instructional plans for students. With that said, UB students are still required to participate in the weekly tutoring sessions starting Monday, March 30. All students must create an account in order to have access to Cyberbound. (Information about creating the account is on our website.) Like any tutoring night, students are required to fill out the online Study Guide. Students will choose a tutors’ conference room link to enter as their “tutoring room” for the night but are not expected to stay in one room the entire time. Like any tutoring night, they are allowed to go to the tutor(s) who can help based on their subject material. Students are to report to tutoring on these nights but may attend another night if it does not work with their schedule. They are also allowed to attend multiple nights but attendance is only counted once p/week.

- Mondays 5:30-8:30pm (Brookwood & Holmen)
- Wednesdays 4:30-7pm (Sparta & Tomah)
- Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm (Onalaska & La Crosse)

Each week, a reminder will be sent to students to instruct them to log into their tutoring session. Please make sure students check their emails, our Facebook group and site pages for updates and announcements about tutoring. Students are expected to spend at least two hours per week in a tutoring session in order to earn their stipend.

Advising will also be through but not limited to our online Cyberbound system. Students are still required to meet with their advisor, Lee (all but Tomah students) or Yeng Houa (Tomah students), twice a month. Lee will be meeting with students right before or during their tutoring sessions (Mondays 3:30-5:30pm; Wednesdays 3:30-5:30pm; Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm). Yeng Houa will be meeting with Tomah students during their Wednesday tutoring time (4:30-7pm). Advisors may also be reaching out to students outside these advising times if necessary.
Unfortunately, that is all the required components we are providing at this time. All other programming has been cancelled for everyone’s health and safety. We are currently looking for online alternatives to our Saturday Event programming and college visits and will update everyone when finalized.

We are proceeding with Summer UB at this time however, cannot confirm if it will be residential at this moment in time. We are still taking applications (Summer Consent Forms and Residential Survey can be found on the website) and will push back the application deadline to April 24 ($50 bonus) and May 8th ($25 bonus). We will provide more information when necessary. Should we not be able to proceed with the residential program we WILL move our summer program to an online version and will hold off on any travel. Due to this, we may not be able to have our Senior Trip this summer if the travel ban continues through August.

Again, we want to serve our students but want to ensure everyone’s health during this time. Please practice social distancing in order to keep yourself and others safe. This is also a vulnerable time for everyone. Please be careful of any person door-knocking for house inspections or in-home COVID-19 test kits or giving personal information through email or phone to unknown parties trying to scam people.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Upward Bound office at 608-785-8539 with any questions or concerns you may have. This is an unprecedented and dynamic situation—we will not have all the answers right away, but we will continue to do our very best to find them for you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Yang
Upward Bound Director
Lyang2@uwlax.edu
Http://www.uwlax.edu/upward-bound

PREVENTION MEASURES
Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water.
Covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing.
Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
Staying home from work when sick.
If children are sick, keeping them home from school or daycare.
Avoiding those who may be sick whenever possible.
Contact a health care provider with any questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
La Crosse County Health Department updates: http://bit.ly/33cWKHP