

USF Upward Bound Golden Anniversary Showcases
Achievements, Longevity, and Life Changing Opportunities



The University of South Florida Upward Bound Program (USF UBP) celebrated a momentous 50 year milestone (1966-2016) of Pride, Service, and Success during the weekend of September 30-October 2, 2016. Upward Bound emerged from legislation enacted by the U.S. Congress as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It is a federal TRiO program designed to help economically disadvantaged students complete high school, prepare to enter postsecondary education, and achieve success at the postsecondary level. USF UBP under the groundbreaking leadership of Dr. Richard Pride, Mr. Bob Davis, Dr. Sharman McRae, and current director Raymond Cabrera has a proven track record of breaking barriers in college enrolment and completion locally and nationwide.

The historic 50th Anniversary luncheon took place from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Marshall Student Center Ballrooms on Saturday, October 1st. All ticket sales were donated to the Dr. Richard F. and Eva L. Pride Endowment Scholarship. The event was made possible through support of the Office of the USF System President, USF Alumni Association, USF Housing and Residential Education, Student Affairs and Student Success, and Aramark. The banquet opened with Mr. Cabrera and current students welcoming attendees, which included Hillsborough County school board member Ms. Doretha Edgecomb, veteran TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) directors Ms. Reba Garth of USF and Mr. Derrick Brown of HCC, and numerous high level university, government, and national leaders described below. USF Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal spoke on behalf of system President Dr. Judy Genshaft, as he reinforced university support and highlighted the impact of Upward Bound both at USF and in the community.

TRIO proponent Kathy Castor, US representative for Florida's 14th district, spoke about her invaluable advocacy that protected USF UBP from losing funding in the face of severe budget cuts in 2008. Congresswoman Castor recognized USF UBP's past, present, and future successes that continue to contribute to progress nationwide. UBP Student Government President Joel Phanord described how USF UBP has helped him build confidence, excel academically, and prepare him for success in postsecondary education. Mr. Alvin Phillips, Vice

President of Membership and Human Resources at the Council for Opportunity in Education, credited the program's longevity to the relentless commitment of program staff and students in partnership with government, university and community advocates.

Program director Cabrera spoke of major program achievements and individual contributions. Current students offered a dance and spoken word performance to demonstrate the uplifting power of USFUBP to motivate and enable students to achieve their goals. Next a brief but detailed video documented a half century of achievements interweaved with the words and legacy of Dr. Richard Pride. Mr. Cabrera then recognized the lifetime achievements of former program coordinator Christine Scourtes, past Polk site manager and residential coordinator Don Williams, longtime residential and pageant coordinator Pat Solomon, program alumnus and former Director's Mr. Bob Davis and Dr. Sharman McRae. Ms. Chloe Coney, District Director for Congresswoman Castor, was honored as distinguished alumna as she shared memories of Dr. "Papa" Pride and urged attendees to "Keep the Legacy going and knowing that we are going to do great things in the community." USF UBP alum and SSS student Tracy Vilvert shared how she was rewarded a USF Foundation scholarship due to her involvement and achievements in both programs. There were also numerous prestigious alumni in attendance. To close out, Chloe Coney's fellow 1960s alumni shared how they transcended their circumstances as a model for generations to come. Photo and video highlights are available on the program Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USFUBP1) as well as the USF Upward Bound website (www.usf.edu/undergrad/ub).