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Upward Bound, SWOCC, Coos Watershed Association partner for high-schoolers



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COOS BAY — Two summer programs helped 38 North Bend and Marshfield high-schoolers get a leg up on college credits.

Southwestern Oregon Community College's Upward Bound program, in partnership with The Ford Family Foundation, ran its 10th annual "Summer Academy," a six-week program for local freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

Coos Watershed Association, in partnership with SWOCC, Upward Bound, Talent Search,

The Pacific Power Foundation and The Ford Family Foundation, piloted an eight-week "Natural Resources Summer Bridge Program" for eight current and recently-graduated high school students.

About 30 students lived on the SWOCC campus for Summer Academy. They took classes in English, history, math, oceanography, fish biology, dance, sign language, leadership, study skills and SAT prep. Afternoons included study time and extracurricular activities, so students had good support to keep up academically while also bond with fellow students and have fun.

Summer Academy students took a week-long field trip to Ashland, where they watched a Shakespearean production of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" — which they had read in English class, and later performed in a talent show — visited and volunteered at Science Works Hands-On Museum, toured Southern Oregon University and joined Konaway Nika Tillicum student campers at SOU to learn about Native American drumming from elders.

Students also learned about Polynesian dancing and enjoyed a Samoan pit-roasted pig by attending a luau in Bandon, hosted by the Bandon High football team. Silia Polamalu, the football team's head coach and Summer Academy's oceanography teacher, discounted ticket prices for Summer Academy students, and Coos Bay's The Green Spot purchased tickets for all students.

Summer Academy suffered financially from the 2013 federal sequestration, and this year had to seek outside private support from the Ford Family Foundation.

This summer's students decided to fundraise for the 2015 Summer Academy in their summer leadership project, bringing in \$1,000 by the end of the summer.

Summer Academy students earn three college credits. Instead of participating in Summer

Academy, high school seniors in Upward Bound can take summer classes at SWOCC — also at no cost — to get a head start on prerequisites and college freshman-level classes.

Eigh local students also got a head start on the school year in math, writing, and science through the Natural Resources Summer Bridge Program, a new partnership program formed by Coos Watershed Association, SWOCC, Upward Bound and Talent Search. Students earned 12 college credits through SWOCC courses and earned a \$500 stipend for future educational or career-building endeavors.

Students took math and writing weekly, an introduction to forestry course, and interned on Fridays with Coos Watershed. Students visited logging sites and local mills, practiced timber cruising and tree identification, monitored salmon with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife through snorkel seining surveys and fish identification, learned about renewable resources and sustainable building with SolCoast in Coos Bay and Cob Cottage in Bandon, conducted a field experiment on mosquito predation, and gave professional presentations on what they learned to a group of 40 peers, teachers and community members.

For parents or students interested in learning more or enrolling, contact Talent Search/Upward Bound Program Director Sharilyn Brown at sbrown@socc.edu or 541-888-7317, see an Upward Bound or Talent Search specialist in your local high school, or visit <http://www.socc.edu/ub/> and <http://www.socc.edu/ts/>.

For more information about Coos Watershed, contact outreach and education coordinator Alexa Carleton at acarleton@cooswatershed.org or 541-888-5922, or visit www.cooswatershed.org.

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matson creek



Students break from macroinvertebrate sampling at Matson Creek Wetland Preserve during their internship with Coos Watershed Association this summer. The Natural Resources Summer Bridge program encouraged students to consider resource management careers and academic pathways, in part through weekly Friday internships with CWA.

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