



July 17, 2020

PCI Management Team

Cynthia D. Park, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /TRIO DIRECTOR
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

Rochelle Hancock

FISCAL SPECIALIST

Tomaso Mauricio, M.S.

DIRECTOR OF SUMMER RESIDENTIAL
PROGRAMS UB/HCOP

Christina Ortiz, B.S.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Nadia Rohlinger, M.A.

PCI DIRECTOR OF SERVICE LEARNING

Halan Stanfield

EVALUATION RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Nada Stevens, M.A.T.

TALENT SEARCH
ADVISING COORDINATOR

Executive Office,

Alpert Center (DAC)
Room 100
4283 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92105
Phone: (619) 594-2349

F-SMP Undergraduate

Research Lab/Office

North Education 75
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-1103
Phone: (619) 594-4223
Fax: (619) 594-4217

Website:

<https://education.sdsu.edu/pci>

Facebook:

@SDSUPCI

Instagram:

@sdsuprecollegeinstitute

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the San Diego State University Upward Bound/HCOP program regarding my support for the continuation of peer/mentor tutors for Upward Bound/HCOP students during the 2020-2021 school year. I have worked with Upward Bound/HCOP for more than a decade as the summer residential program's Economics Teacher. I have experienced the many advantages for students and teachers alike due to the support of mentors/tutors/instructional assistants. In all my years, I have never seen a greater need and benefit for this support than that provided during the 2020 Upward Bound Summer Academy held entirely online. It would be a phenomenal support to teachers to have this kind of support during the 2020-2021 academic school year during which instruction is also scheduled to be conducted online because of the health hazards connected with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

So that the substantial learning and enrichment students have gained from their participation in the 2020 Upward Bound/HCOP online summer academy may be sustained and enhanced, it is imperative that students and educators are provided as much online support as possible during the academic year follow-up. This summer during my Economics class, I had the benefit of four peer mentor/tutor/instruction assistants every day during classroom instruction. This is a ratio of one adult for every 5.6 students. Neither I nor my students could have been as successful as we were without this support. As a result of the unique challenges and circumstances created by online distance learning during 2020, my students in Upward Bound/HCOP are far better supported and successful as a result of this added support; I only wish this could have been provided to all my SDUSD students during the Spring 2020 semester.

This support allows students to have more opportunities to participate, receive one-on-one as well as small-group instruction and feedback every day of class. In addition, this allowed me as an educator to meet the various learning and personal needs of all my students. This is what we value above all else as educators, the success of all our students, but especially our disadvantaged students.

The San Diego Unified School District must continue this support for all students who participated in this program throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Resources for similar tutor/mentoring support may be arranged through the Pre-College Institute's Pathways Office for careers in STEM Education under the aegis of Dr. Cynthia Darche Park (cpark@sdsu.edu). Should you require or desire any additional information about my online experience as a teacher in Upward Bound/HCOP please contact me at cberg@sandi.net or 619-417-7781.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this critical matter for the learning of our students and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Christi Berg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Christi Berg

Economics Teacher SDSU Upward Bound Program