

## MEET OUR 2024 SUMMER PROGRAM STAFF

**Cayleigh Pennington** is our **SUMMER COUNSELOR**. She has been attending West Virginia University for the past two years. She will be a Junior next year and is excited about continuing at WVU! She is majoring in Hospitality and Tourism. She is the “Hostess with the mostess”. She graduated from Liberty High School in 2022 (with Shayla) and is a **Salem University Upward Bound Alumni!!** Cayleigh has participated in a lot of activities while in high school at Liberty such as: Student government – she was the secretary for the National Honor Society and Student Council, participated on the tennis team, Danceline, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Theatre Club and was head of the Prom Committee. When Cayleigh was asked, why do you want this position? She commented, “I want to give back to Upward Bound that has helped me get to where I am in my life.” With all her energy, there is never a dull moment with Cayleigh! We are **EXCITED** to have you as the leader of our team, Cayleigh!!!

**Alex Black** comes to us as a GRADUATE from West Liberty University. She will be attending West Virginia Wesleyan College in the Fall of 2024 to start work on her Master’s degree. She graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 2020 and **she is an Alumni of the Salem University Upward Bound Program!!!** This will be Alex’s **third** year as an SA. She majored in Sociology at WLU. She was involved in the student government on campus and was the class Vice President. She loves to be involved in campus activities and fund raising. Alex was an active participant in her sorority. When asked, why do you want this position? She commented, “The SA’s really made a huge difference in the program when I was in it. I learned a lot from them, and I think I have a lot to offer too”. We can’t wait for you to join our team again for an **INCREDIBLE** summer, Alex!!!

**Shayla Hodge** comes to us as a Junior at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, WV. She is currently majoring in Nursing (ASN). She attended and graduated from Liberty High School in 2022, and **she participated in our Upward Bound Program at Salem University!** This will be Shayla’s **second** year as an SA, and we know she’ll be coming back for more. She loves all outdoor activities, playing tennis, providing community service and spending time with friends and family. She spends some of her time on campus participating in all the activities Fairmont State provides. When asked about why she wanted a job with Upward Bound, she commented, “I love Upward Bound and the resource it can provide for others. I believe I can be an asset to the summer SA team. Most importantly, I believe that TRIO works!!!” We extend our **WELCOME AND EXCITEMENT** towards your decision to join us again this summer, Shayla!!!

**Tyson Perkins** is a Junior presently studying History at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV!! He graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 2021..... and **YEP!.... He’s another Upward Bound Alumni from Salem University!! Tyson also participated in our BRIDGE Program when he graduated.** While at WVWC, he participates in Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. He enjoys art, video games, history, fishing, hiking, guitar and he plays the Viola. This will be his **second** year as an SA!! When asked about why he wants this position, he commented, “I’m interested in giving back to the community that helped me so much in high school”. The team looks forward to a **SUPER, SUPER, SUPER** SUMMER WITH YOU, Tyson!!!!

**Mykaela Marple** is a rising Sophomore studying at Marshall University. She is majoring in Computer Science. Mykaela graduated from Liberty High School in 2021 and **she is an ALUMNI of our Upward Bound Program at Salem University! Mykaela also participated in our BRIDGE Program when she graduated!** She is an active member of Student Support Services (TRIO Program). She participates in many student activities through the Housing and Residence Life Committee, and she loves to support the Marshall University Theatre and Productions. Mykaela enjoys drawing, reading and being outdoors. This will be her ***first*** year with us. When asked, why do you want this position? She commented, “I would be overjoyed to work with students like me. Upward Bound’s Summer Program prepared me for so much more than I realized at the time, and I would love to do the same for other students”. We ***CAN’T WAIT*** for you to be a part of our team this year, Mykaela!!

**Kapone Barley** is currently a rising Senior at Salem University. He is majoring in Business Administration. He graduated from George Washington High School in Virginia where he played basketball. He currently plays basketball for Salem University and is the captain of the team! I think he’ll be a great inspiration for us at the Upward Bound Olympics this summer! Kapone enjoys gaming, art, sports, and longboarding. Although he has not participated in Upward Bound, his brother did in Virginia. He has 6 younger siblings and is used to being a good role model. This will be his ***first*** year as an SA!!! When Kapone was asked, why do you want this position? He commented, “I plan on being a coach one day and it will help me to be able to work better with kids from different backgrounds.” We can’t wait for you to join our team for an ***AWESOME*** summer, Kapone!!

**Alex Nichols** is currently a rising Sophomore at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. He’s majoring in Psychology. He is from Ravenswood, WV and graduated from Ravenswood High School. He was never involved in an Upward Bound Program but is currently very active in Career Services at West Virginia University. When he graduates with his bachelor’s degree, he has plans to go on to graduate school in School Psychology. When Alex was in high school, he was captain of show choir for 2 years. Alex is full of energy and enthusiasm!! This will be Alex’s ***first*** year as an SA!!! When Alex was asked, why do you want this position? He commented, “I want to be able to work with the students of Upward Bound”. We love your energy and we’re looking forward to a ***TREMENDOUS*** summer with you, Alex!!!