

## MEET OUR 2023 SUMMER PROGRAM STAFF

**Oran Alex “Spoons” Marsh** is our **SUMMER COUNSELOR**. He is currently a senior at West Virginia University. He is majoring in all technicalities in the business and economics department. He commented Beethoven is fine and may make a guest appearance this summer. He graduated from Liberty High School in 2020 and is a **Salem University Upward Bound Alumni!!!** He participated in the program from 2018 through 2020. Oran also participated in the **UB BRIDGE Program in 2020**. Oran loves to be involved with community service and socializing with everyone. This will be his **third summer** with us!!! When Alex was asked, why do you want this position? He commented, “I wish to make an impact on other futures who have been in a similar situation to me, brightening their path even if it’s just for the duration of the summer, or even longer”. We’re looking forward to another **FANTASTIC** summer with you, Spoons!!!

**Alex Black** comes to us as a Junior at West Liberty University. 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 **second** year as an SA. She’s majoring in Sociology. She’s involved in the student government on campus and is currently the Vice President. She loves to be involved in campus activities and fund raising. Alex participates in her sorority and is very active. 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!!

**Gracie Tennant** is presently studying at Glenville State University. She is majoring in Criminal Justice. Gracie graduated from Liberty High School in 2020. She is an active member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society. Although Gracie did not participate in Upward Bound at Liberty High School, she is still a part of our TRIO family because she is an active member of Student Support Services at Glenville State University!!!! Gracie comes to us with lots of experience in working with college students since she is a Resident Assistant at Glenville State too. Gracie enjoys reading and being outdoors. This will be her **first** year with us. When asked, why do you want this position? She commented, “I want to use my experience to help make a positive impact.” We **CAN’T WAIT** for you to be a part of our team this year, Gracie!!

**Shayla Hodge** comes to us as a sophomore 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 **first** year as an SA, but 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 this summer, Shayla!!

**Cayleigh Pennington** has been attending West Virginia University for the last year. She will be a Sophomore 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 a part of our team, Cayleigh!!

**Tyson Perkins** is a Sophomore 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 **first** 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!!!!

**Brody Byrd** is currently a Sophomore at West Liberty University. He will be transferring from Garrett College in Maryland. He is majoring in Sports Management and minoring in Business and Administration. He graduated from Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg where he played football, baseball, wrestling and was the Freshman Class Secretary. He currently plays baseball and wrestles for Garrett College. I think he’ll be a great inspiration for us at the Upward Bound Olympics this summer! Brody enjoys fishing, hunting, sports and traveling. Although he has not participated in Upward Bound, he is the first in his family to attend college! This will be his **first** year as an SA!!! When Brody 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 again for an **AWESOME** summer, Brody!!

**Aidan Connors** is currently a Junior at West Virginia University Honors College in Morgantown, WV. He’s majoring in Philosophy and History with a minor in French. He is originally from Massachusetts and attended Wachusett Regional High School. He was never involved in an Upward Bound Program but has a great passion for working with high school students. He spends his time at WVU participating on the WVU Boxing team, Philosophy Club and being an Eberly College Student Ambassador. Aidan is full of energy and enthusiasm!! This will be Aidan’s **first** year as an SA!!! But hope he comes back for more!! When Aidan was asked, why do you want this position? He commented, “I am passionate about mentoring and inspiring others. This program will give me that amazing opportunity.” We love your energy and we’re looking forward to a **TREMENDOUS** summer with you, Aidan!!.