



Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Tutor Orientation 2019

An opening thought...

*Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events... Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth **a tiny ripple of hope**, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."*

Robert Kennedy

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

A presentation in two parts

- Upward Scholars Overview
- Upward Scholars Tutoring Program



Group Introductions

- Dr. Linda Prieto, Executive Director
- Milena Miyashiro, Program Coordinator
- Elizabeth Weal, Founder & Board Member
- Please introduce yourself and tell us why you're interested in this program.



Upward Scholars Mission Statement

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults, mostly immigrants, by providing them financial assistance, academic support, and career development so they can continue their education, get better jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

BAY AREA

Why ESL?

English language mastery is the single most widely-cited skill barrier among organizations working with low-wage workers.





**Upward
Scholars**

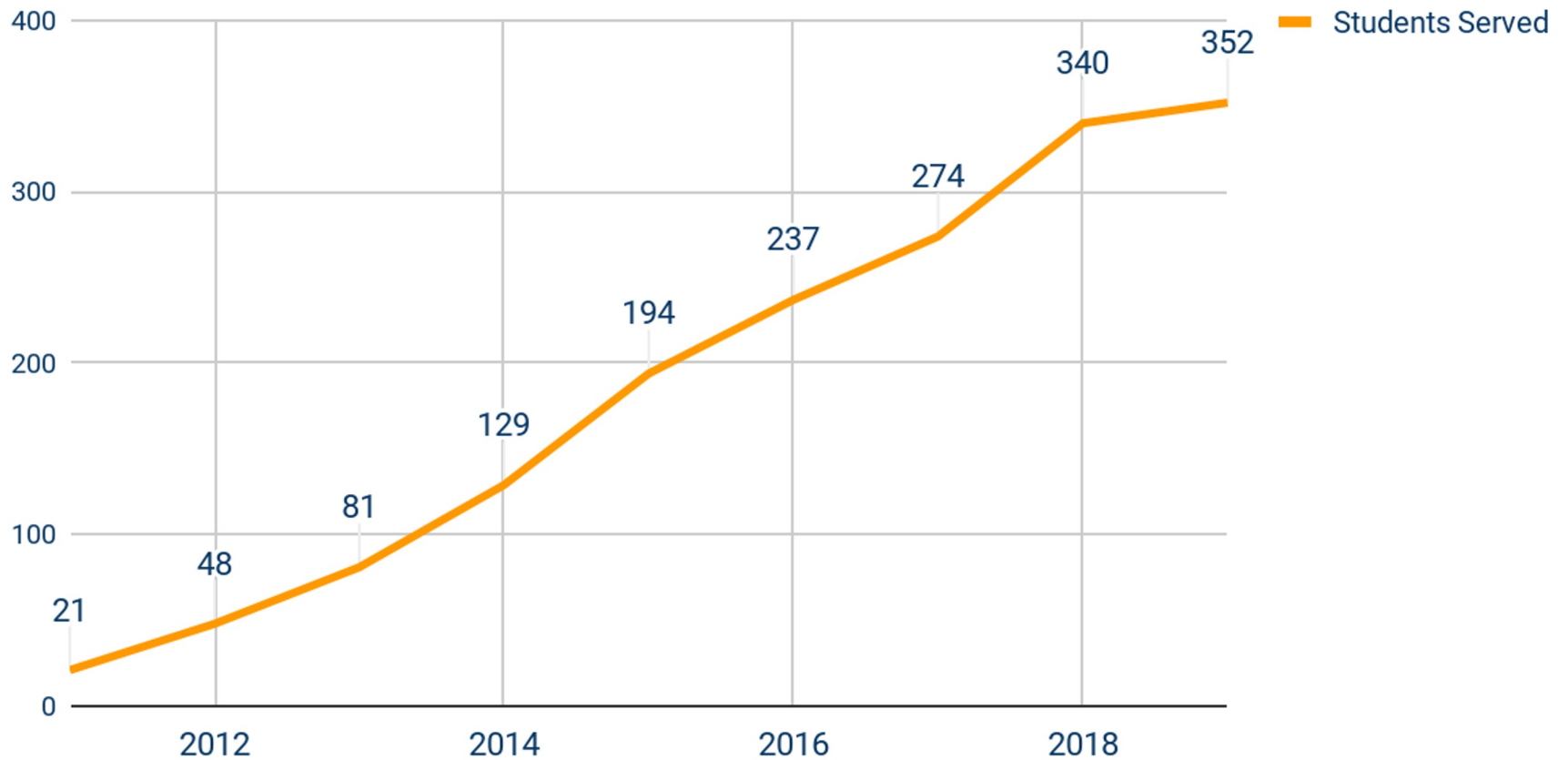
FORMERLY SEQUOIA
ADULT SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Upward Scholars Students Tell their Stories

Luis

[Video clip](#)

Our Growth



Part 1: Upward Scholars Overview

- We started in 2010 with 2 students
 - Currently, we're supporting over 350 students across SMCCD.
- One-of-a-kind
- How we started

Who are Upward Scholars recipients?

- Came to the U.S. as adults
- 88% from Latin America
- Average age: 34
- 60% female
- 78% live in RWC, EPA, and Menlo Park
- Minimum wage jobs
- Students start ESL at adult schools and community-based organizations

What Upward Scholars provides

- Financial support
- Academic support
- Community support



Financial Support

- Books



Financial Support

- Bus passes
- Parking permits



Financial Support

- Food vouchers for on-campus meals



Financial Support

- Laptops for persistent students



For Upward Scholars recipients, college is almost free!

- **Tuition:** Paid for through a State of California program for low-income students
- **Books and transportation:** Paid for by Upward Scholars
- Students pay about \$35 a semester.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Academic Support

- Tutoring and mentoring



Community Support

- Upward Scholars Friday evening Conversation Club @ Sequoia Adult School

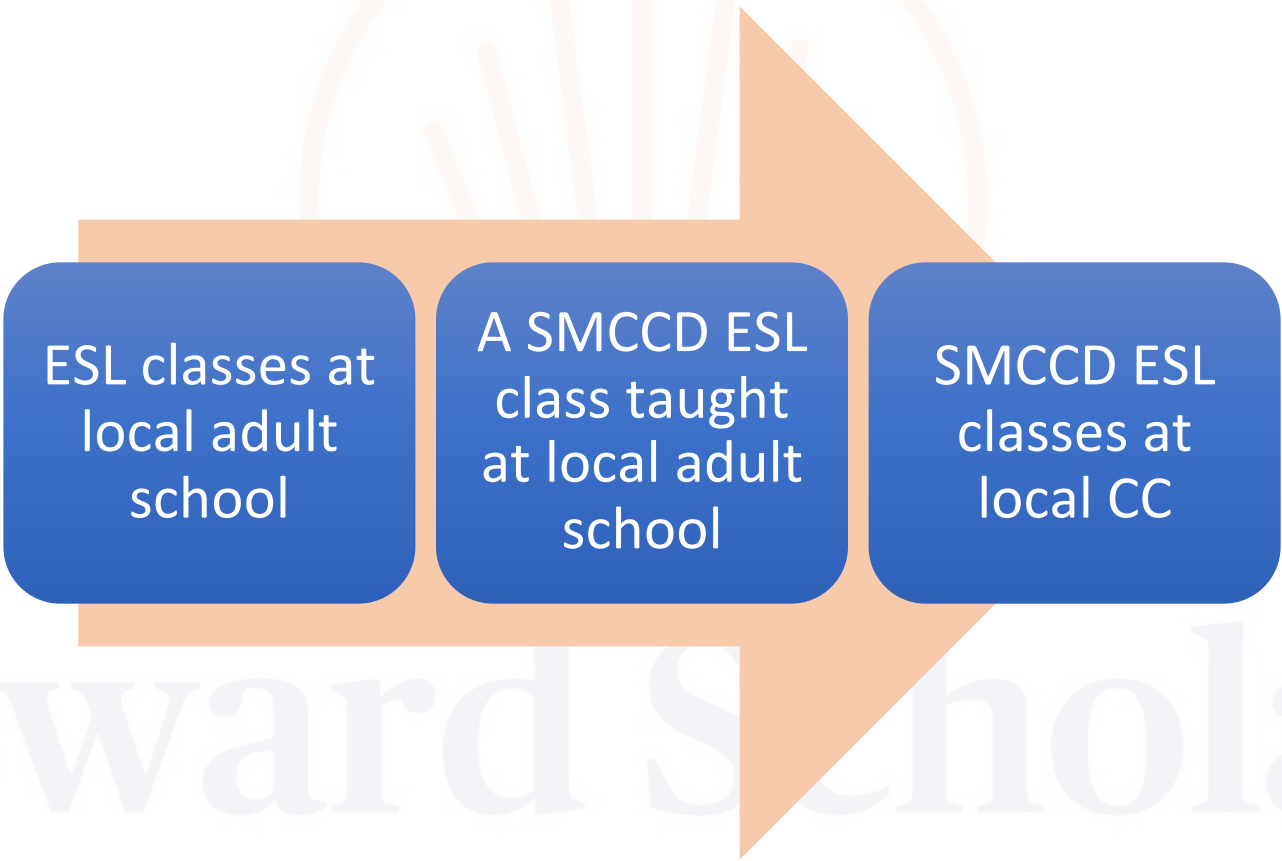


Community Support

- Upward Scholars Conversation Club at Cañada College



Student Recruitment



ESL classes at
local adult
school

The diagram features a large, light orange arrow pointing to the right. Inside the arrow's shaft are three blue rounded rectangular boxes, each containing a recruitment strategy. The background includes a faint watermark of a hand with fingers spread, and the text 'Upward Scholars' and 'BAY AREA' are visible in the lower half of the image.

A SMCCD ESL
class taught
at local adult
school

SMCCD ESL
classes at
local CC

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Impact on Students

- Attending college in the U.S. → increase self confidence and self worth



Impact on Students

- Better prepared to help their children in school



Impact on Students

- Improve their English, and, as a result, improve their job prospects



Impact on Students

- Some attain vocational certificates (e.g., early childhood education, medical assisting, bookkeeping)



Impact on Students

- A few Upward Scholars recipients get AA degrees and transfer to universities



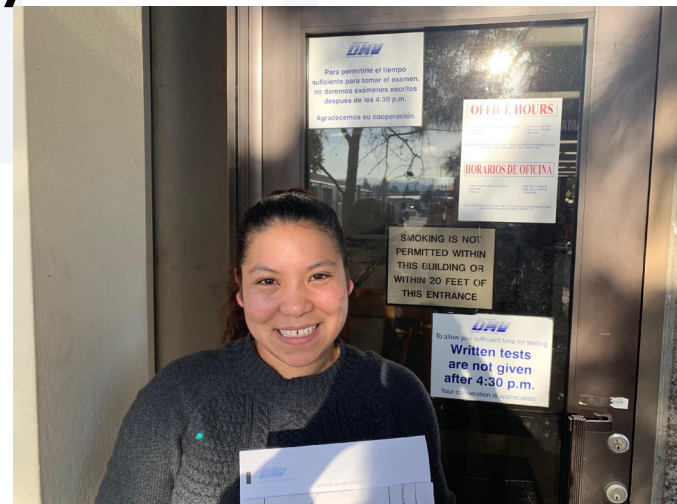
Effects of Immigration Laws

- Federal laws
 - DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
 - most Upward Scholars students don't qualify because they came to the U.S. after age 15



Effects of Immigration Laws

- State laws
 - Drivers licenses for undocumented residents
 - SB68: Undocumented students who get an AA degree can qualify for in-state tuition to CSUs, UCs

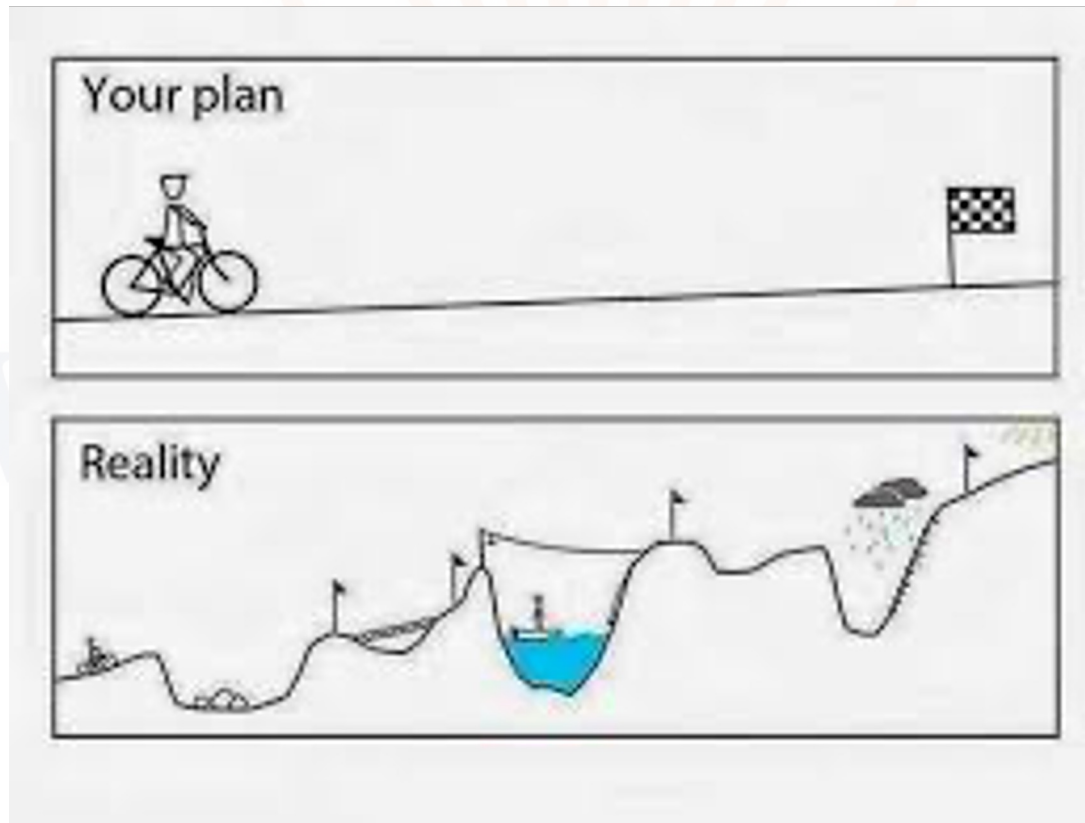


Part 2: The Upward Scholars Tutoring Program

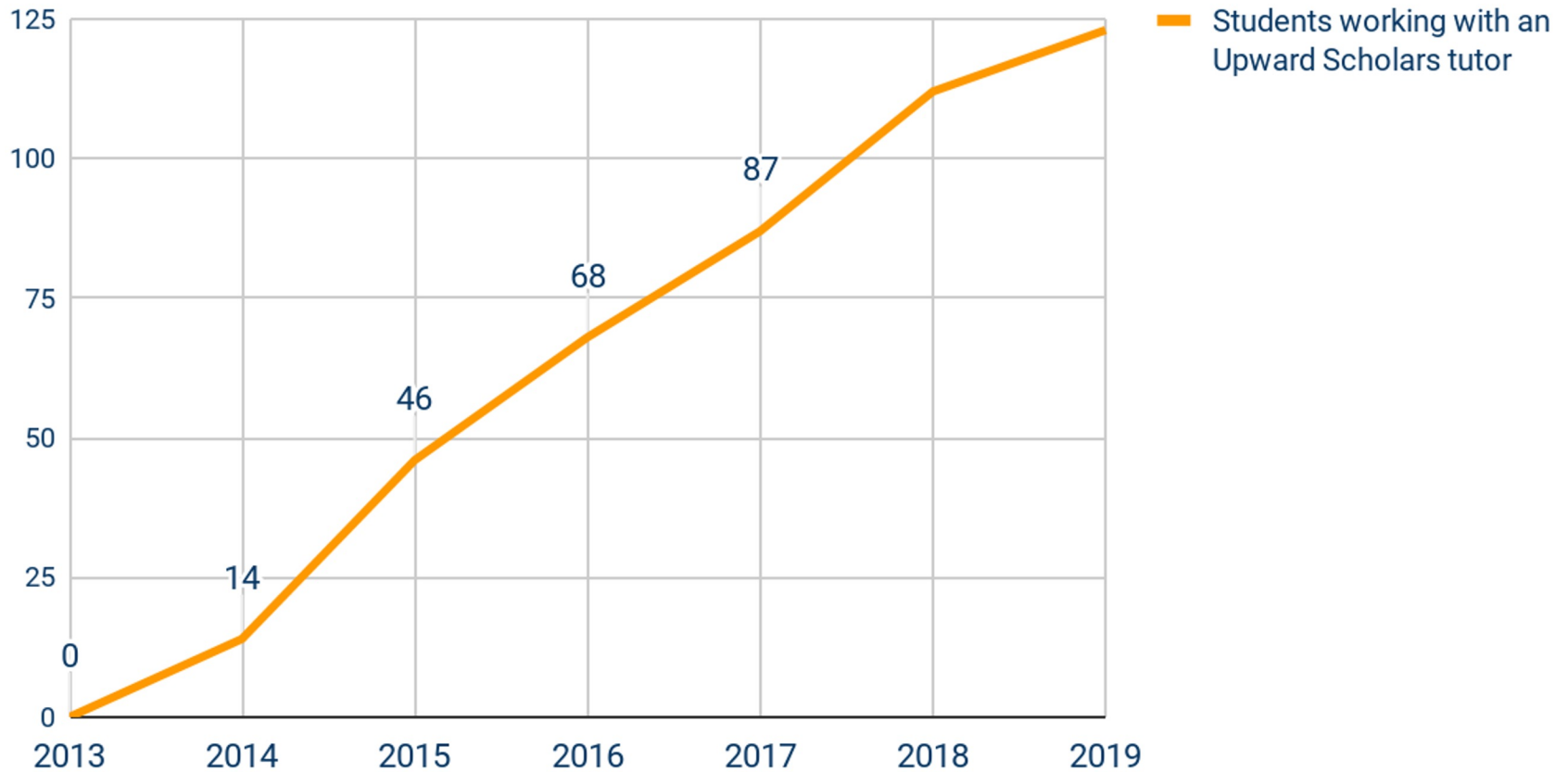


Mindset

- You can transform a life, but there may be bumps along the way



Tutoring Program Growth



Why a Tutoring Program?

- Students' schedules often don't allow them to take advantage of tutoring resources on campus.
- Students can benefit from consistent one-on-one help.
- Students (and tutors) benefit from connecting with others in our community.
- Students with tutors are more likely to stay in college than those without.

Tutoring Program Referral

- Self-referral
- Progress reports completed by students' professors
- Some are A students; other are struggling



Focus of Tutoring Sessions

- Most tutoring sessions focus on coursework, usually homework assignments for ESL classes
- ESL classes are from a 5th to 12th grade level
- Many students also like to practice English conversation

ESL Course Content

- Reading, Listening and Speaking classes
 - Reading comprehension
 - Presentations
- Grammar and Writing classes
 - Grammar exercises
 - Paragraphs/essays

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

ESL Sequence

Grammar & Writing I (taken at adult school)	Grammar & Writing II	Grammar & Writing III	Grammar & Writing IV	ESL 400	English 100 or English 105 (can be transferred to 4-yr college)
Reading, Listening & Speaking I (taken at local schools, RWC)	Reading, Listening & Speaking II	Reading, Listening & Speaking III	Reading, Listening & Speaking IV		

Options After ESL

Complete all ESL
classes

Leave the program

Vocational certificate (e.g.,
early childhood education,
bookkeeping, paralegal
studies)

Associate's degree

BAY AREA

Student Expectations

- Arrive on time
- Arrive with assignments complete or at least started
- Inform you in advance if they can't attend

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Tutor Expectations

- Meet once a week at a location you and your student agree to, usually a library or coffee shop
- Minimum session: one hour; most sessions are 90 minutes
- Commitment is through end of semester, though you can stop at any time

BAY AREA

Tutor Expectations (cont.)

- If you need to miss more than a week, contact our Program Coordinator, Milena Miyashiro, and she will try to find a sub for you.
- Complete a short form at the end of the semester about your experience as a tutor.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Common tutor frustrations

- Students don't have enough time to study
- Students cancel sessions, usually because they're working
- Irrelevant course material
- Classes move too quickly

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

First, allaying your fears...

- You don't need to be a grammar expert to tutor ESL
- ESL books for you to review are on display

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Resources for tutors

- [Upward Scholars Website](#)
- Tutors section of website:
WWW.UPWARDSCHOLARS.ORG/FOR-TUTORS
 - Recommended grammar books
 - Online grammar resources
 - Video of “Effective techniques for working with Cañada College ESL students” given by ESL faculty

Special documents

- Review handouts:
 - Important Dates
 - “Why ESL?”

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Getting started

At the first session...

- **Ask to see the syllabus for your student's class.** Every student should have this. It may only be available electronically, so bring a laptop to your session, if possible.
- **Ask your student to log in to Canvas and show you how it works.**

Tutoring tips (in no particular order)

- Don't be afraid to correct students' pronunciation.
- Check for understanding again and again. Students often say they understand when they don't.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Tutoring tips (in no particular order, cont.)

- Encourage your student to use the Internet as a resource:
 - Ask your student to bring their laptop to your sessions, if they have one.
 - Help the student search for answers online.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Tutoring tips (in no particular order, cont.)

- When teaching vocabulary, ask your student to use the new word in a sentence.
- If you can, use Spanish when it elucidates; avoid it other times.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

A word about grades

- If a student receives a D or F in an ESL class, he/she is required to repeat the class.
- A student can receive an Upward Scholars scholarship even if they fail a class and need to repeat it.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Don't hesitate to be a mentor on the side

- Ask students about their lives; they'll be flattered you're interested.
- Don't hesitate to refer students to community resources. (See the Tutors as Mentors presentation on the Upward Scholars Tutor Web page for food, medical, legal resources, et al).

BAY AREA

Resources for students

- Diana Viscarra, Upward Scholars Student Fellow, for college-specific concerns
- Milena, Program Coordinator, for tutoring and scholarship queries
- Linda, Executive Director, for general concerns
- College counselors
- College Learning Center

Getting assigned a student

- Classes start August 14th
- We anticipate more students requesting tutors after the semester begins
- When you've been matched, Milena will text or email you and your student to introduce you to your student and include each other's contact info

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Connecting with your student ...

- Text or call your student to introduce yourself and choose a starting date and location.
 - Avoid email, at least at first, unless your student emails you.

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Before your first session...

- Text your student again the day before your first session to remind them to attend.
- For your first session, plan to meet outside your meeting place. It's easier to connect that way.
- For the next several weeks, send reminders to your student prior to meeting.

Final requests

- Please let us know if
 - You are unable to connect with your student
 - Your student stops coming to tutoring sessions

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

Extra credit

- Like Upward Scholars on Facebook
- Donate to Upward Scholars to help us support 350+ students
- Volunteer in other ways

Upward Scholars

BAY AREA

**Thank you for your time and commitment to
our students!**



Photo!

