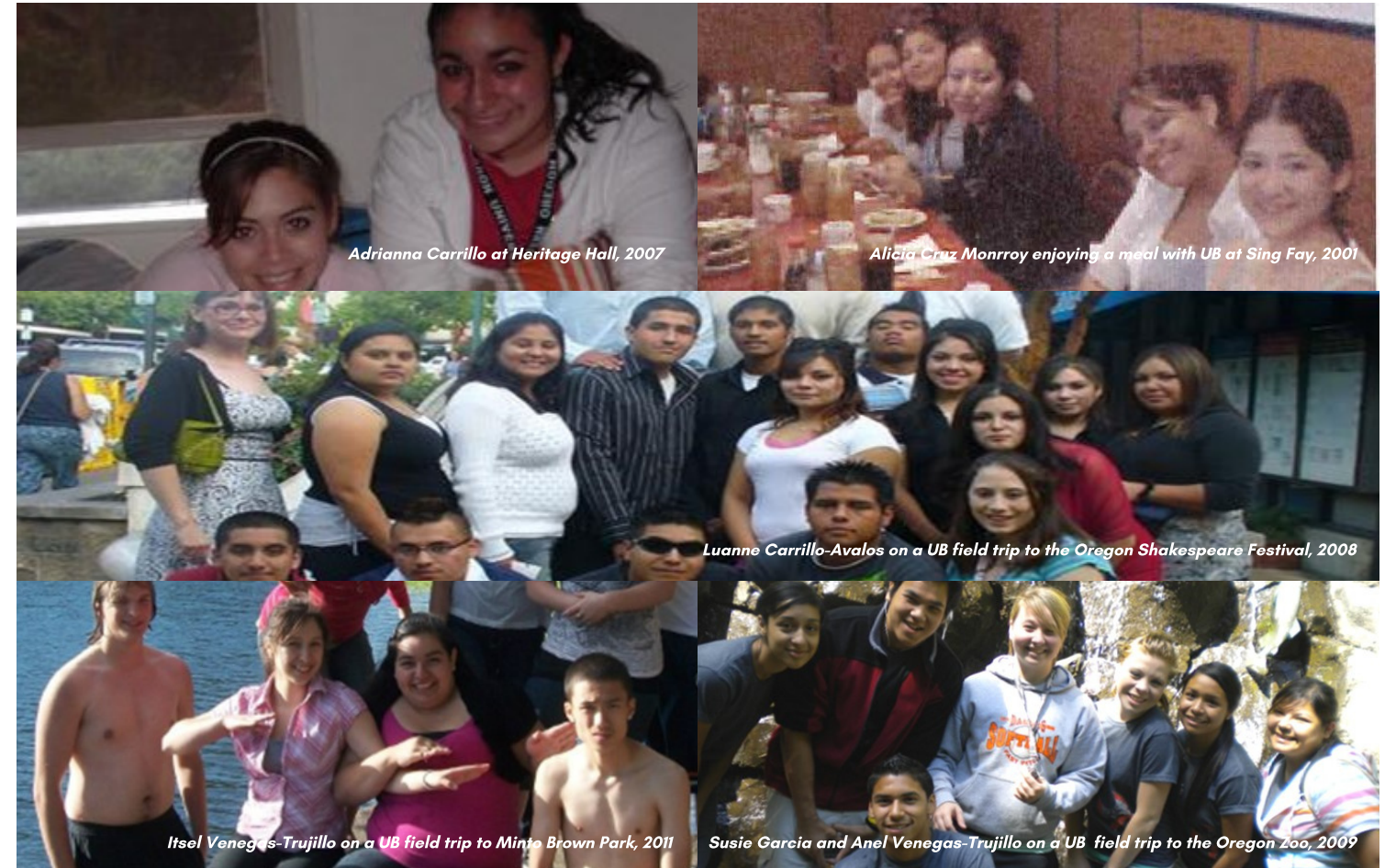


TRIO Upward Bound Alumni Contribute to WOU's Success

By: Shondra Russell, Director of TRIO Upward Bound

Student Affairs is home to several staff members who are alumni of WOU's very own TRIO Upward Bound Program! Upward Bound (UB) is a college prep program for high school students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds. UB provides participants with academic instruction, advising, tutoring, mentoring, field trips, and internship experience. A cornerstone of UB is the 6-week residential summer school. Students stay in the residence halls, eat meals in the dining hall, and take classes on the WOU campus.

It's great to see these Upward Bound alumni -who first started their journey with WOU as 9th or 10th graders- join WOU as staff, particularly in roles that are especially critical to WOU's enrollment and retention efforts. All six staff members are bilingual, with remarkable skills and lived experiences that we value as we work toward a more diverse and inclusive community at WOU.



UB Alumni photos from various Upward Bound yearbooks



Alicia Cruz Monrroy

Educational Advisor, TRIO Student Enrichment Program (SEP)
Upward Bound Class of 2002, Central High School

"UB made a significant impact on my educational journey!"



Luanne Carrillo-Avalos

Interim Director, Multicultural Student Services & Programs (MSSP)
Upward Bound Class of 2009, Dallas High School

"UB believed in me. They provided me with the support I needed as a 1st generation student. Today, if I've made it this far, it's because of UB."



Adriana Carrillo

Educational Advisor, TRIO Student Enrichment Program (SEP)
Upward Bound Class of 2008, Dallas High School

"I am thankful for the support I received from UB. As a first-gen/low income student, I was lost on where to look for resources and I wouldn't be where I am with the help and guidance from Shondra and Mona."



Susie Garcia

Receptionist/Application Processor, University Housing
Upward Bound Class of 2010, Dallas High School

"I am forever grateful for TRIO Programs like UB that exposed me to college experiences that I otherwise would not have had access to. As a first-generation student, UB showed me that college was possible, and their support meant a lot to me. It's great to be back at WOU working as a staff member with current and prospective students sharing my experiences."



Itsel Venegas-Trujillo

Admissions Counselor, Admissions
Upward Bound Class of 2012, Central High School

"UB taught me how to apply for scholarships to be able to financially attend college and provided me with great experience living on WOU's campus, which in turn has allowed me to ensure prospective students feel at home at WOU as I help them navigate their college application journey."



Anel Venegas-Trujillo

Bilingual Financial Aid and Scholarship Counselor, Financial Aid
Upward Bound Class of 2011, Central High School

"UB provided me with the resources that I needed to help me meet my higher education goals."