

# Upward Bound Wichita Prep



**Mark Nola**

**Mark Nola**, alumni of Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) graduated from The University of Kansas in 2004 with a degree in chemistry. He said his experiences with Upward Bound motivated him to pursue the education field. He recalls that because of Upward Bound he was awarded a full ride scholarship to KU for which he remains forever grateful.

After working for General Mills as a chemist, he returned to Kansas to teach science at Wichita East High School and Cowley College. During this time, he also taught in Korea and was a tutor for Upward Bound. He received a master's degree in teaching from Wichita State in 2010.

Mark finished pharmacy school at the University of Minnesota in 2016 and is currently a pharmacist at Robert J. Dole Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Wichita. He says his experiences here and abroad made him realize that it's never too late to pursue goals and passions.



**Annai Loza**

**Annai Loza** joined Upward Bound Wichita Prep as a rising 8th grader. She states "Before I joined UBWP, I had no knowledge of the importance or the purpose of education. My perspective changed dramatically after my first year in the program. I learned how to study, focus, and to believe in myself. Without UBWP, I would not have found my desire to succeed."

Her GPA has risen and she's learned to balance a busy schedule, participates in multiple sports at Wichita West High School, and attends UBWP activities. Upon graduating high school, she will have earned a certification in phlebotomy and electrocardiography.

Annai has already been accepted to WSU. She states, "I plan to graduate with a bachelor's degree in bio-chemistry with a minor in Spanish. I will then apply for medical school at The University of Kansas to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric oncologist."