

Outstanding Alum

Amanda
Griffith



Communication Upward Bound (CUB) alumni Amanda Griffith, class of 2011, recently graduated from Johnson & Wales University. She attained her bachelor's degree in culinary nutrition with a concentration in clinical dietetics and preparation.

While pursuing the degree, Griffith's program gave her the opportunity to travel and live in six states while studying at three sister campuses.

CUB recognizes Griffith for being the embodiment of the CUB mission and becoming one of the first program students to graduate from a four-year college. She currently works as a food and nutrition supervisor at HCA Wesley Medical Hospital.

She says CUB helped her develop and transfer skills into college living and a new way of life away from home.

She advises graduating seniors to find themselves while focusing on basic and general education courses in case a change of major is later desired, Griffith goes on to say, "Most (students) seem to change majors and it's best to transfer previous credits."

Rising Star

Brenda
Duran-Jimenez



Brenda Duran-Jimenez is a senior at Wichita High School South. She has been an active CUB participant for nearly three years. This past summer, Brenda spent her break refining her passion for activism and experiencing college life on the east coast with Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America. This experience led to her peaked interest in Ivy League schools; she is currently applying to sociology programs at Brown University, Princeton University, and several other prominent institutions.

Brenda deserves to be recognized for her dedication to her studies. As a student with a 3.9 grade point average and taking a challenging course load, she still finds time to be actively involved in CUB and mentors children through a student formed leadership organization. Brenda attributes her academic performance and development in school to CUB's tutoring services and residential program. Brenda emphasizes the importance of motivation to her peers as she says, "Motivation is one of the biggest reasons why I constantly challenge myself academically and socially, with constant volunteering and activism."

Goal oriented, determined, and caring, Brenda Duran-Jimenez has a bright and fruitful future.