

USF Upward Bound Golden Anniversary Showcases Achievements, Longevity, And Life Changing Opportunities

The University of South Florida Upward Bound Program (USF UBP) celebrated a momentous 50-year milestone (1966-2016) of Pride, Service, and Success during the week-end of September 30-October 2, 2016. The festivities including a Friday night Meet and Greet at Lee Roy Selmon's Restaurant, an elegant Saturday alumni luncheon featuring local and national advocates, entertainment at Ybor Jazz House, and an inspiring church service on Sunday.

Upward Bound emerged from legislation enacted by the U. S. Congress as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It is a federal TRIO program designed to help economically disadvantaged students complete high school, prepare to enter postsecondary education, and achieve success at the postsecondary level.

USF UBP under the groundbreaking leadership of **Dr. Richard Pride**, **Mr. Bob Davis**, **Dr. Sharman McRae**, and current director **Raymond Cabrera** has a proven track record of breaking barriers in college enrollment and completion locally and nationwide.

The historic 50th Anniversary luncheon took place from 1 to 3 p. m. at the Marshall Student Center Ballrooms on Saturday, October 1st. All ticket sales were donated to the Dr. Richard F. and Eva L. Pride Endowment Scholarship.

The banquet opened with **Mr. Cabrera** and current students welcoming attendees, which included Hillsborough County School Board Member **Ms. Doretha Edgecomb**, veteran TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) directors, **Ms. Reba Garth** of USF and **Derrick Brown** of HCC, and numerous high level university, government, and national



From left to right: Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Chloe Coney, School Board member Doretha Edgecomb and Raymond Cabrera, current Upward Bound Director.

Human Resources at the Council for Opportunity in Education, credited the program's longevity to the relentless commitment of program staff and students in partnership with government, university and community advocates.

Program director **Cabrera** spoke of major program achievements and individual contributions. Current students offered a dance and spoken word performance to demonstrate the uplifting power of USF UBP to motivate and enable students to achieve their goals.

Next a brief but detailed video documented a half century of achievements interweaved with the words and legacy of **Dr. Richard Pride**. **Mr. Cabrera** then recognized the lifetime achievements of former program coordinator **Christine Scourtes**, past Polk site manager and residential coordinator, **Don Williams**, longtime residential and pageant coordinator, **Pat Solomon**, program alumnus and former director,

Mr. Bob Davis, and previous program director and **Dr. Pride's** daughter, **Dr. Sharman McRae**. **Ms. Chloe Coney**, District Director for **Congresswoman Castor**, was honored as distinguished alumna as she shared memories of **Dr. "Papa" Pride** and urged attendees to "Keep the Legacy going and knowing that we are going to do great things in the community."

USF UBP alum and SSS student, **Tracy Vilvert** shared how she was rewarded a USF Foundation scholarship due to her involvement and achievements in both programs. There were also numerous prestigious alumni in attendance. To close out, **Chloe Coney's** fellow 1960s alumni shared how they transcended their circumstances as a model for generations to come.

Photo and video highlights are available on the program Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USFUBP1) as well as the USF Upward Bound website (www.usf.edu/undergrad/ub).