

ASHLEY WOOLEN

College Prep Coordinator

UPSM HIGH School

TIME AT U PREP: 2 YEARS

University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

# **CREW PROFILE**

Your work is so important to ensuring our students are prepared for the next step in their academic journey. Please describe a memorable experience you had with a U Prep student.

A memorable experience I had with a U Prep student was when I was able to help him get into his number 1 school of choice with a full ride scholarship. He got into the school but was unable to complete his scholarship application. He got accepted into every other school he applied to, but I knew his heart was set on his first choice. I love seeing my students' faces when they get accepted into the college of their choice. Right before graduation I got a call from his first choice asking can I recommend a student for the full ride scholarship program. They have one spot left and want a U Prep scholar. I recommended this student and he got the full ride! The joy on his face and his family reminded me of why I love what I do. Seeing our scholar's post-secondary plans come to reality!

## What advice would you give Middle School students so they are well prepared for college?

I would want them to know that every grade counts! When you get to high school hit the ground running. Your 9th grade year is the foundation of your high school career. Don't be shy and stand out!

### What advice would you give High School students so they are well prepared for college?

Know that you are going to mess up more thasn once but also know that there is more than one way to get to achieving your goals. It's about your journey that makes achieving your goals that much more exciting. Your journey isn't going to look like everyone else's and that is okay because your journey is worth it!

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing our scholar's post-secondary plans come to reality!

### What do you love most about working at U Prep Schools?

I like that U Prep is a family! I like that each scholar will always have a community behind them.

