



JOHN JOHNSON

**COLLEGE PREP
COORDINATOR**

**UPAD HIGH
SCHOOL**

**TIME AT U PREP:
5.5 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

Please describe your role as a College Counselor or College Prep Coordinator.

As the College Coordinator, I help students achieve their postsecondary goals by serving as a bridge from high school to college. I oversee the school's college-going culture. This includes programming, college-planning, initiatives, resources and advocacy for students

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.

I love seeing my students win or accomplish their goals. In 2019 we surprised 5 students by telling them they were the recipients of the Dream Scholarship for the College for Creative Studies. This opportunity is a full ride scholarship to CCS and our students wait in full anticipation every year on who will receive the award. This year we decided to surprise the students and record them and their parents getting the news. We told them one at a time and each time they screamed and cried in excitement/joy on their accomplishment. Our students spend their high school tenure working so hard to get this opportunity. It was a good feeling to see our students "win" and achieve their goals.

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

It is never too early to start thinking about college and careers. If there is something that you are passionate about, that you love doing and that brings you joy, explore that and identify how you can turn your passion into a career. Once you find your passion, explore every possible opportunity you can to build on that skill. Find ways to be the best there is at what you want to do.

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

Choose your long term goals over your short term goals. Your short term goal of working at Starbucks may profit you \$9 an hour but your long term goal of owning a fleet of Starbucks can profit you \$9000 a day. Getting good grades is important and will get you into college but finding a goal that you are passionate about will build you the resilience you need to get through college.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I believe I have a career that has purpose and meaning for not just me but for so many young people. Every year I have a parent who tell me how grateful they are that we helped their child graduate and make it to college. Every time I see a student get accepted to college, win a scholarship or cross the graduation stage I am reminded of how powerful the work that we do as educators. Every year I get to help students reach a goals that will ultimately change their lives and lead them down a road of success.

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

I love the people at U Prep Schools. I get to work with some of the most dynamic and transformative educators in Detroit. They support, motivate and encourage me to be better educator. Last but not least, I love the students at UPAD. Every day they make me proud or give me something to laugh/smile about. They are great kids with tons of talent and the potential to change the world.