



**RYAN THOMAS**

**COLLEGE PREP  
COORDINATOR**

**UPAD MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

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:**

My role as a counselor is to work with students on finding their place along their educational journey while being their authentic selves.

## **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:**

This year has been particularly hard because what I enjoy most is seeing my students current and former outside in the community. Whether it is catching them at their job or just on the riverwalk, those connections beyond the building are what bring me joy.

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

My advice to middle school students would be to dream big and have an open mind. There are new jobs and opportunities being created all the time so do not be afraid to create your own lane.

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

My advice to high school students is there are many paths to success, so find what works for you. No one school or program guarantees you anything, so don't be afraid to take a chance and take the road less traveled.

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

The most rewarding part has been watching the formation of a true school community. When I started here, it was very clear there were a lot of great ideas that went into the formation of the school, but there was a lack of follow-through and execution. To see how far we have come and the impact it has on student and family lives motivates me to go that step further in pushing to be better.

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

I love working at Uprep Schools because I am surrounded by wonderful educators that are like-minded in their dedication to impacting students' lives and making a lasting impact on the community.