



## **KSU TRIO PROGRAMS – HHS UPWARD BOUND'S JILLIAN RODRIGUEZ NOMINATION AUGUST 6, 2019**

### **Local Kennesaw State University Hiram Upward Bound Student Jillian Rodriguez Nominated for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, MA**

Kennesaw State University TRIO Programs are proud to announce that Jillian Rodriguez, a Senior at Hiram High School, was a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Lowell, MA on June 23-25, 2019. The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. According to the Congress, the purpose of this event was to honor, inspire, motivate, and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan, and resources to help them reach their goal.

Jillian's nomination letter was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Hiram High School based on her academic achievement, involvement in programs like Upward Bound, leadership potential, and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine. During the three-day Congress, Jillian Rodriguez joined students from across the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witnessed stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

KSU Hiram Upward Bound located at Hiram High School is excited to work in conjunction with The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to provide a great support system for STEM students like Jillian to provide her the tools needed to make a bright future. Christine Smith the Upward Bound Academic Advisor at Hiram High School, states that “This opportunity not only helps Jillian, but also the program as a whole as we focus on gaining national attention and encouraging our members to dream big and challenge themselves (2019). In addition to the academic guidance and support KSU Upward Bound provides, Jillian will now have access to the

National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists' services and programs offered to students who want to be physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks through which future doctors and medical scientists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance and much more.

Jillian states that "The Hiram Upward Bound program has not only allowed me to broaden my knowledge on college access, but also has paid my full tuition to the Future Medical Leaders Conference. I am honored to be a part of a program that believes I can be great as a Hispanic female. Thank you, Upward Bound, for giving me this opportunity to change my family legacy." For students like Jillian, KSU Hiram Upward Bound can make the difference between uncertain dreams and real futures.