

Upward Bound Scholars Honored at the 2026 Governor's Scholars Recognition Program

The Kansas State University Salina Upward Bound program proudly celebrates three outstanding graduating seniors who were honored by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly at the 2026 Governor's Scholars Recognition Program on May 3 in Topeka, Kansas. This prestigious statewide ceremony recognizes students who rank in the **top 1% of their high school graduating class**, celebrating their academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to public education.

This year, Upward Bound scholars, **M. Castaneda**, **S. Lutes**, and **J. Martinez** were among the distinguished honorees. Their achievements reflect not only their personal dedication but also the transformative impact of TRIO Upward Bound's mission to prepare scholars for lifelong learning and postsecondary success.

The Governor's Scholars Recognition Program is coordinated by the **Confidence in Kansas' Public Education Task Force**, a coalition of educational organizations committed to elevating academic achievement across the state. Being selected for this honor places students among Kansas' most accomplished young scholars and highlights their perseverance, intellectual curiosity, and leadership within their schools and communities.

Upward Bound at K-State Salina and Office of Student Belonging extends heartfelt congratulations to M. Castaneda, S. Lutes, and J. Martinez. Their accomplishments embody the ideals of achievement, resilience, and aspiration that define our program. We are incredibly proud of their success and excited to see the impact they will continue to make as they transition into their postsecondary journeys.



