

The Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS) has an amazing staff that is passionate and committed to UMass' thousands of students. One of these passionate staff members is Tyson Rose, an admirable individual whose mission is to help students of color break barriers in a modern world where racism is very much still an issue. Tyson is from New Bedford, Massachusetts and a third generation Cape Verdean, whose grandparents were immigrants. He has three older brothers and although his parents are separated, he is still close with both of them. His parents' work ethic was something that inspired Tyson and helped foster his own self-discipline.

Growing up with a diverse group of people composed of Cape Verdeans, Irish, Portuguese and Puerto Ricans, Tyson's life has never lacked any sense of culture. His first elementary school was Carney Academy, a great school for him with decent resources and the opportunity to be in "gifted" courses. Although his principal was very stern, his message that you can be whatever you want as long as you work hard resonated with Tyson at a young age.

Eventually, his family was forced to move, but a letter a family friend sent to his school allowed him to continue going to Carney Academy, but he had to walk a long distance to school. However, he inevitably had to move to a new school where the teachers were mostly white, strict men. Tyson's grades started to drop and he felt like his teachers did not want to actually teach.

During high school, he had a racist history teacher, which was a rough reality to face as a teenager, but it only heightened his desire to succeed. He became involved in the Upward Bound program through a friend who had done the program.

Tyson was determined to attend college and he earned his Civil Engineering degree, focusing on environmental engineering, from UMass Dartmouth. It was while he was in college that he became involved in progressive student groups which focused on social justice issues on campus. Tyson loves to give back to his community so he became a tutor/mentor for Upward Bound while he was in college.

An internship for the Massachusetts Department of the Environmental Protection Agency led to a job in private consulting. He worked sixty to eighty hours a week for eleven months. Later on, he helped create Third Eye Unlimited, a Hip-Hop based community activist group in New Bedford. During this time, Tyson became passionate about education.

Tyson moved to San Diego, California in 2003 where he continued work as an engineer. He was also looking into graduate schools for social justice education. Tyson found what he wanted at UMass and moved to Amherst. He became a graduate assistant for the United Asia Learning Resource Center (UALRC), where he learned a lot working

with the campus' Asian-identified students. "In fact, Yuri Kochiyama and Malcom X worked together," Tyson stated.

While working with the UALRC, in 2010, all of the academic support systems for ALANA students were merged together under one umbrella into what is now known as CMASS. Tyson was hired as graduate assistant for CMASS and it was during this time that UMass received funding for the Upward Bound Program. Upward Bound was reinstated in 2012 at UMass. "I have a list that I made around the year 2002, and one of the goals I had written was to be director of the Upward Bound Program," Tyson says. He applied and got the directorial position.

Upward Bound is housed in CMASS so Tyson is a staff member of CMASS and director of Upward Bound. He started full-time in January and had to put together a program, build bridges with the partner school, hire staff, and had a lot to learn about the intricacies of federal grants.

"By the time I was hired in January, there was a lot of work to do to secure our position and how we would do all the work necessary to start a new program, such as recruiting and creating all the applications and advertisement materials. We had to come up with the admission process and make sure these matched the intentions of the program. This was the most important part because the building on top of a foundation reflects the intentions of the foundation. Even in the hiring process, we needed to find people who are social-justice minded, critical thinkers, who understand the challenges of our students. We needed to create a space that supports the development of student skills and also recognizes the capacities that they have and nurtures the student" Tyson stated. This encourages and helps students to do their best while in school. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which students complete high school and attain post-secondary education.

Tyson believes that the privilege that he has is something that you need to share. "It's just me doing what others have been doing for me and with me," Tyson stated. "Let's not talk about our communities as problems but as places to make change that is collaborative and inclusive. It's about having a problem solving mindset because we can get caught up in negative mindset. We all have the capacity to be better than what we are right now, through a process of self-reflection and reflection on the world," Tyson stated.

Tyson also worked at the A Better Chance House - Amherst serving as the Assistant Residential Supervisor supporting young men of color who attend Amherst Regional High School. This is a nationwide program that has different locations and provides students the opportunity to attend a good school.

Ultimately, Tyson's desire is to leave a self-sustainable program that has a critical and transformative capacity and to have planted some seeds for young people to be allowed to be the wonderful human beings that they are. He hopes to accomplish the outcomes the program aims for and the building of a stronger community.