



**Outstanding Alum  
Nicholus Cox**

**Nicholus Cox** was an active member in Communication Upward Bound (CUB) from 2008-2011. Nicholus credits his aggressive drive to the encouragement he received from the CUB staff as the reason he is where he is today. He relays that the CUB summer residential program was the opportunity he needed to prepare for the college experience. Currently, Nicholus is employed with Westar Energy as an electrical power distribution system engineer that serves west Wichita, Hutchinson, KS and Newton, KS.

Nicholus credits former CUB staff Teja Veeramachaneni as the mentor who indirectly influenced his career path. “Teja was so passionate about her major in electrical engineering. She influenced my decision to choose the same major. I graduated with a BSEE from Wichita State and I’m currently enrolled at WSU in the master’s of science degree program in electrical engineering. I plan to graduate in 2018.”

He is a native of Wichita and graduated from South High School. His long-term goals include earning a master’s in electrical engineering, pursuing an MBA at WSU next fall, and eventually acquiring a PhD in electrical engineering. Nicholus shared that his mission in life is to utilize all of his capabilities in leadership, education and to inspire and teach others how to live in such a way that when one leaves this world, it’s a better place because of one’s contributions.



**Rising Star  
Caitlin Riordan**

**Caitlin Riordan**, a senior at North High School, represents the best and brightest in CUB. Caitlin has been an active participant since her freshman year. Despite the rigor of advanced placement and a myriad of extracurricular activities, Caitlin has maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

In Caitlin’s words, “CUB has allowed me to blossom and grow. I was excited to participate in the program and learn more about the process of applying to college. CUB allowed me to see the possibilities of attending college despite my financial restraints. I was enthused to visit colleges and universities in St. Louis, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City. I am actually applying to several of them. The staff at CUB has influenced me to grow as a person and student. The program forced me to break out of my shell and develop social communication skills.”

Caitlin learned a great deal about volunteering through CUB. She indicated that the most influential component was the public speaking course where she grew to enjoy sharing her ideas and developing skills as a public speaker.

This past summer, Caitlin interned at Prochaska, Howell, and Prochaska law firm. “The internship helped me to narrow down my career path to either criminal or immigration law. I really want to advocate for those who have no voice.” Caitlin intends to major in political science and her long-term goal includes pursuing a law degree.