

**AGENDA ITEM #X-C-1
AUGUST 17, 2021
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD**

**APPOINTMENT
COORDINATOR, UPWARD BOUND**

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT: That the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Ryan Shirley as full-time Coordinator, Upward Bound, beginning September 20, 2021, at an annual salary of \$39,799, plus appropriate fringe benefits. This is a full-time, exempt professional position and is within the FY22 Upward Bound grant budget. This grant-funded position is dependent on continued adequate grant funding

BACKGROUND: Mr. Shirley comes to us from Freeport Health Network (FHN) where he has served as a Maintenance Technician since 2012, and as the owner/operator of Lucy-Deen Parkside Grocery since 2016. In addition to owning and operating a business, Mr. Shirley has also founded It's Up to Us (IUTU), a grassroots non-profit organization created to promote positivity in the Freeport community by addressing such issues as cleanliness of neighborhoods, careers/jobs, education, parenting, and violence. Mr. Shirley's background in community service is highlighted through his continued dedication and experience as a Black Male Initiative Graduate Advisory Board Member for the past 15 years, Boys & Girls Club of Stephenson County Board Member for the last five years, and Freeport School District Equity Steering Committee Member for the past six years. It is of note that Mr. Shirley also previously served as a Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Board Member for a period of four years, as well as a CONTACT Board Member for seven years. The amount of time and dedication Mr. Shirley has given to his community and the many different organizations illustrates the true passion that drives him forward.

Mr. Shirley was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Management, with an emphasis in Human Resources from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Mr. Shirley's vast experience in community service, with an emphasis surrounding educational and youth opportunities, makes him an ideal candidate for this position.

BOARD ACTION: _____