

Archived Information

LET'S TALK TRIO – SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Seamless Services

The federal TRIO projects across this country all support the shared goal of enrollment in and completion of college for students who are low-income, first generation, or with disabilities. In striving towards this shared goal, it follows that our working more as coordinated parts of a single program, rather than as disconnected pieces will more fully meet that goal.

Through federal TRIO dollars, we are making a substantial investment in our students. Just as a personal investment account needs to be managed to maximize its return, the investment in students who participate in TRIO projects needs to be managed as well. By program directors working hand-in-hand, the entire federal TRIO program benefits, as do each of the components. Shifting the mindset from individual programs to the concept of a unified program results in greater coordination of services and, potentially, a higher return on the program dollars invested.

The aim is to cultivate a culture of service that includes transition from one component to the next. For example, some of the students who are identified and served by Talent Search (TS) should be transitioned to Upward Bound (UB). Students identified and served by TS, Educational Opportunity Centers, or UB then should be assisted in transitioning to Student Support Services. Many of these same students then could move into a McNair program and achieve the end goal of not just an undergraduate college degree, but a higher degree as well.

The skills and expertise of TRIO personnel are enhanced and the effectiveness of TRIO programs increased, by means of the training and the dissemination program components that provide ongoing support services to the other TRIO program elements. By improving these indirect services, we can better the direct services that meet our students' needs.

Accountability in education has moved from input to output measures. Moving to a seamless system of services not only makes sound fiscal sense, but also should result in a higher level of success for the students who are served by our federal TRIO programs.

QUOTES

“We've learned a new equation: accountability plus high expectations plus resources equals results. We must stay the course.”

—Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

—Aristotle, Philosopher

Education is not the filling of a bucket, but lighting a fire.

—William Butler Yeats, Poet, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923

Do you want to make a difference, or do you just want to make a living?
—Arnold L. Mitchem, President, Council for Opportunity in Education

Message from the Director

Ensuring the integrity of TRIO grant competitions is vital. Therefore, to support the fairness, validity, and reliability of the competitions, quality controls are in place. Every application is reviewed to verify that it is received by the deadline, that it meets the eligibility criteria, and that it is complete, thus conforming to the application requirements. Next, eligible applications are read and scored by three-member panels of nonfederal readers. Finally, scores are tallied, and prior experience (PE) points are verified and totaled. The total amount available for funding determines how many grants are awarded, thereby establishing the cutoff score.

Statistics from the most recent Student Support Services competition are found on Page 4. This listing is provided because we want to be transparent with both the competition process and the results of each round of applications and awards. In so doing, you can know that each grant process is conducted in an equitable, sound manner, thus ensuring a fair competition for all.

Ideas into Action

Upward Bound (UB) provides opportunities for participating students to succeed in pre-college and higher education pursuits. In providing services to students, UB assists in increasing the rate at which participants complete high school and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Residential summer components offer UB students the opportunity to gain insight into and direct experience with the college climate, including living in a residence hall, use of college facilities, and relating to diverse members of the college community. The Community College of Baltimore County-Dundalk Campus (CCBC Dundalk) in Maryland has developed a creative way to implement its UB summer residential project, while networking with two other colleges within the county. Participating students attend classes at CCBC Dundalk and are provided tutors by the Community College of Baltimore County-Essex Campus. The nearby College of Notre Dame in Baltimore City provides the residential aspect of the summer project.

Efforts such as these by CCBC Dundalk demonstrate the benefits of collaboration, providing the incentive for other nonresidential campuses to find inventive ways to provide residential experiences. For more information on this project, contact Pamela Jackson at (410) 285-9469.

Department Highlights

Literacy levels fluctuate widely across all ages. Much of the reading research has focused on young children, ensuring that every child can read and read well by the end of the third grade. Striving Readers is a new discretionary grant program aimed at improving the reading skills of middle school- and high school-aged students who are reading below grade level. The goals of this program are to:

* Raise student achievement in middle and high schools by improving the literacy skills of struggling adolescent readers; and

* Help build a strong, scientific research base around specific strategies that improve adolescent literacy skills.

Striving Readers programs will include three key components: 1) research-based literacy interventions, 2) classroom-based strategies for improving student literacy, and 3) a rigorous experimental evaluation component.

Public or private institutions of higher education are eligible to apply as part of a partnership. There is \$24 million available for awards. The application for Striving Readers grants is expected to be available summer 2005, with grants expected to be awarded in fall 2005.

More information on the Striving Readers program may be found at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders/index.html>.

Tough Problems/Smart Solutions

Question: Many of the reservists and National Guard members who are deployed to Iraq and other campaigns often complete their active duty in 179 days or less. How can my Veterans Upward Bound project serve soldiers returning from the current war in Iraq if they have not met the 180-day eligibility rule?

Answer: According to Section 402A(g)(4) of the Federal TRIO Programs legislation, "The Secretary may waive the service requirements . . . if the Secretary determines the application of the service requirements to a veteran will defeat the purpose of a program. . . ." Veterans who have served fewer than 180 days can be approved on a case-by-case basis. Project directors need to submit requests to their program specialists for review.

Question: If a student is determined to be eligible for participation in a local TRIO project and then moves, does that student have to go through the eligibility process again?

Answer: In accordance with federal TRIO regulations, a grantee does not have to revalidate a participant's eligibility for the same program after the participant's initial selection. Therefore, once a student has been determined eligible to participate in a local TRIO project, that student is eligible to receive services if he or she moves to another location that has the same local TRIO project. Eligibility for each program only has to be determined one time. However, for audit and site visit purposes, the new project director must obtain documentation of eligibility from the previous project.

Upcoming Key Dates

June

TS/EOC application workshops – check TRIO Web site for exact dates and locations

6 – Anniversary of D-Day, in 1944

14 – Flag Day
19 – Father's Day
21 – The summer solstice, marking the beginning of summer
27 – James Smithson, scientist and founder of the Smithsonian Institution, died in 1829.

July

TS/EOC application workshops – check TRIO Web site for exact dates and locations
CCAMPIS grant applications due – date to be determined (TBD), watch TRIO Web site

1 – Midpoint of the year, at noon
4 – Independence Day; the poem “America the Beautiful” was first published, in 1895.
15 – Dutch painter Rembrandt was born, in 1606.
20 – Astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, in 1969.

August

TS grant applications due – date TBD, watch TRIO Web site
EOC grant applications due – date TBD, watch TRIO Web site
CCAMPIS grant applications read

1 – Francis Scott Key, author of “The Star Spangled Banner,” was born, in 1779.

Mark Your Calendar

CCAMPIS grant awards will be made in September.

1, 2, TRIO

UB / UBMS / VUB – All 2005–06 continuation grants have been mailed. A profile of the Veterans Upward Bound program 2000–01 is due to be published by late summer

TS / EOC – Applications for new grant projects will be due in August. The schedule of application workshops will be posted on the TRIO Web page as soon as the application packages have cleared. The workshops will be held in:

- * Washington, D.C.,
- * Boston,
- * Chicago,
- * New Orleans,
- * San Francisco,
- * Denver,
- * Seattle,
- * Phoenix,
- * Miami, and
- * San Juan, P.R.

SSS – SSS grant aid is part of the FY05–06 awards that were made in April. A profile of the Student Support Services program 1998–99 through 2001–02 will be published by the end of June.

McNair – Continuation and new awards will be made in May. A profile of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program 1997–98 through 2001–02 was published in May.

Dissemination – Continuation awards were made in May.

CCAMPIS – Grant applications are due in July. Applications will be read in August and awards will be made in September.

Training – Continuation awards were made in May.

Resources

For a wealth of information on adolescent literacy, the Web site <http://www.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders/resources.html> provides links to the Adolescent Literacy Research Network, The Partnership for Reading, and other organizations.

A Profile of the American High School Sophomore in 2002: Initial Results From the Base Year of the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 is a new report that covers students' sociodemographic and education characteristics; examines school experiences; explores extracurricular activities; studies time spent in reading for pleasure, doing homework, working for pay and using the computer; examines tested achievement in reading and math; and looks at students' values, expectations, and plans. Copies of this report (Publication ID#: ERN3808P) can be ordered by calling (877) 4ED-PUBS [(877) 433-7827]; via e-mail at edpubs@inet.ed.gov; or via the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>.

There have been many of you interested in the Realizing the College Dream (RTCD) curriculum and training provided last fall by the federal TRIO office and the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation. The ECMC Foundation is interested in working with TRIO to provide additional training opportunities through TRIO's regional conferences. ECMC will put the training team together, pay trainers' honoraria and travel, and provide RTCD curriculum binders to all attendees. TRIO's regional associations must provide the following:

- * A guarantee of at least 100 attendees,
- * The conference room,
- * All audiovisual equipment needed for the training,
- * Lunch, and morning and afternoon food and drink breaks for all trainers and attendees, and
- * Registration and check in arrangements for attendees.

For more information or to schedule training, contact Jenny Wise at (505) 428-2122 or at jwise@ecmc.org.

NAME RECOGNITION

When new TRIO awards are made, be sure to include “TRIO” and the TRIO component in your project's name, e.g., TRIO Talent Search. Building name recognition of the

federal TRIO program and its parts will lead to greater community identification and understanding.

DID YOU KNOW?

You had an opportunity to comment on the revised UB annual performance report. Be sure to check the “News and Information” section of the TRIO Web site, www.ed.gov/ope/trio, at least monthly to stay updated and informed.

COMPETE

TRIO participants are high-level scholars. Lake Michigan College's TRIO Student Support Services project includes a first-generation college student named to the All-Michigan Academic Team who will compete in the All-USA Academic Team Competition for two-year students. Encourage your students to compete with the best and be the best!

RESULTS OF THE FY 2005 SSS COMPETITION

- * 1364 – applied
- * 1327 – submitted electronically
- * 37 – submitted in hard copy
- * 41 – not eligible
- * 948 – funded (471 two-year institutions and 477 four-year institutions)
- * 99.33 – cut score out of a maximum of 115 points total
- * 13.6 – average PE points
- * 93.33 – cut score without PE points and a maximum of 100 points total
- * 55 – current projects not refunded
- * 76 – new (first-time) projects

Summer 2005