



Student Service Updates

50th Anniversary Commemorative Edition

Letter from the Director

Greetings!

It is an honor to serve as your senior director during this special time in TRIO's history. As you know, we are celebrating 50 years of the Federal TRIO Programs. TRIO has made an incredible impact on the lives of young people all around the country. Therefore, we have devoted the majority of this commemorative edition to that milestone. In this issue, you will find success stories from TRIO alumni, photos from our Student Outreach Forum, as well as instructions on how to view our upcoming symposium.

Student Service staff would also like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all that you do to implement these important programs. In order to continue to provide hope and opportunity to our student population, we have been very fortunate to have a committed group of project directors and staff to lead this effort. As we move forward with program implementation in the next 50 years, we believe that we can provide more innovative approaches to delivering services to our students and not compromise how we touch, change, and expose them to options for a brighter future.

Thank you again for your continued support and tireless dedication to the cause of TRIO!

Sincerely,

/signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Student Service

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Celebrating 50 Years of Providing Hope and Opportunity for Success

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed legislation establishing the first of the Federal TRIO Programs under the *War on Poverty* initiatives. This year will mark the 50th anniversary of that bold legislation designed to assist low-income and first generation college students.

As we look back to the inception of the Federal TRIO Programs, with the Upward Bound Program being the first, the mission remains relevant today. To commemorate half a century of changing lives through education, we are encouraging your support in the following ways:

- **Symposium:** The U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Student Service Area is coordinating a half-day symposium to celebrate, review and discuss the impact of these federal programs. The theme for the 50th anniversary is *TRIO: Celebrating 50 Years of Promoting Excellence by Providing Hope and Opportunity for Success*. The symposium will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Eastern Time). Because we do not have funds to cover travel costs for the community of TRIO grantees, and because we are aware that many TRIO professionals will be traveling to Washington, DC in early September for COE's National Conference, we are only inviting institutions within close proximity to the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Therefore, we have made arrangements for this event to be broadcasted live via the internet so that all of our grantees from around the country will be able to witness this historic discussion. During the live event, you will be able to submit questions by emailing to: 50yrsofTRIO@ed.gov

The link for the event can be found on our Web site at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/student-service.html>

Live Stream can be accessed at:

<http://edstream.ed.gov/webcast/Play/bd2f5780b05c49f59af795a0d6398f3c1d>

For those grantees on the west coast and in the insular areas, the event will be stored and you will be able to listen to the symposium at a more convenient time.

- **Social Media:** Follow us on Twitter [@EDPostsecondary](https://twitter.com/EDPostsecondary) and help us celebrate 50 years of TRIO by sharing your success story using the hashtag [#TRIO50](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TRIO50) or by emailing it to: 50yrsofTRIO@ed.gov
- **Community Outreach:** We are encouraging each of you to plan or to use an event already scheduled to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs. You may share pictures, press releases, use social media or forward your summary to our email address listed above.

Please join us in celebrating this historic milestone!

Student Outreach Day: Celebrating 50 Years of the Federal TRIO Programs

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs, the staff members of the Student Service Area recently hosted a Student Outreach Forum. The event was held on July 30, 2014 and served as a kick-off event for those to be held across the country.

A total of thirty-one students, representing five projects, being served by the Upward Bound, Student Support Services and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement programs, participated in this event. The students spent the first portion of the day learning about the importance of and creating vision boards. The students also had an opportunity to share their vision boards and network with other peers with similar dreams.

After lunch, the students were able to engage in dialogue with Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director,

Student Service; Dr. James T. Minor, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs; and Ms. Lynn Mahaffie, Esq., Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

The students also participated in a roundtable discussion with The Honorable Ted Mitchell, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education. Under Secretary Mitchell was able to hear firsthand from students about the positive impact that the Federal TRIO Programs are having on their lives and the lives of their family members. The students were able to receive answers concerning the future of, and their roles in, the Federal TRIO Programs.

The charge is now being passed to all TRIO projects to host an event that honors TRIO's 50th Anniversary.



A few of the students, project staff, and U.S. Department of Education staff who participated in the event (clockwise from top left): participants from the Community College of Baltimore County-Dundalk and Morgan State University Upward Bound projects; University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh McNair project; and Montgomery College Student Support Services project

The Federal TRIO Programs: 50 Years of Success

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs, Student Service posted a request on the Department of Education Web site asking TRIO alumni to “Be a Part of the Story,” by submitting information on how TRIO has affected their lives. We received almost 200 responses. We are honored to share just a few of the stories we received.

The Drexel University Upward Bound program provided exposure and visibility to a higher quality of life centered around academics and scholarship. Not only did I have the opportunity to see and live life differently, I was able to quench a thirst for the attainment of knowledge -- one I never knew I had. I still remember June 1979, during the summer orientation. I sat there with my mother not knowing what to expect. The Upward Director, Mr. Michael B. Hill, welcomed the parents and students. Following the welcoming, he closed with six words that galvanized me. He simply stated, “Conceive it, believe it, and achieve it!” **Otis Wilson, Office of the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Excellence In Government Senior Fellow 2011**

My oldest brother and I entered the Upward Bound program at St. Francis College. Our positive experiences and the commitment of our parents led to seven members of the Mickens Family from Johnstown (Conemaugh), PA attending the program. Fast forward more than thirty years later, we are two lawyers, one college president, two social service administrators, one for-profit administrator, and one entrepreneur. **Charlene Mickens Dukes, President, Prince George's Community College, Largo, Maryland**

I would have never attended college if it wasn't for help and support from TRIO (SSS) and more importantly the faculty. I was provided with a lot of academic and counseling support to help me meet my goals. My counselor Christopher Weiss was always there for me; even now, when I'm attending graduate school, he still finds time to meet with me and is very helpful. I'm proud to be a part of TRIO and thankful for all the opportunity and help I have received. **Piotr B. Madej, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Syracuse University Class of 2013. M.S. Engineering Management, Syracuse University Class of 2015. Founder and President of Polish Cultural Club at SU. Polish Federal Credit Union Scholarship Recipient**

Texas State (formerly Southwest Texas State University) in San Marcos was one of the four pilot Upward Bound programs initially funded in the state of Texas and I was fortunate to have been selected as an Upward Bound participant in the first cohort. When I became the Director of Upward Bound in 1977, I was one of the very few women in the nation to hold that position. May 2014 marks 43 years of continuous full-time service to Upward Bound. **Jacqueline O. Dansby, Ph.D., Executive Director, Upward Bound Pre-College Program, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX**

My name is **Kadyn Velez**. I was an undergraduate participant in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars program at SUNY College at Buffalo, from 2006-2008. Currently, I am a sixth year, **tenured teacher of students with special needs in New York City's Department of Education** and was just rated as a highly effective teacher for the 2013-2014 school year, in the city's first year of Danielson's Framework for teacher observation! Being Latina and coming from an impoverished background, I don't think I would've had the opportunities and achievements I've had if it weren't for the McNair Scholars program. It was through my McNair research project that I discovered my interest in working with students with special needs, thus shifting my career focus and setting me on the career path that I am currently on. Thank you TRIO Programs!

I participated in the Tarleton State University Upward Bound program from 1993 - 1996. I earned my BA and MA in English from Tarleton State University in 2001 and 2003. I earned my Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Texas Woman's University in 2009. As a first-generation college student growing up in a mobile home in rural, central Texas, I know that a college education is a privilege that many cannot afford. Fortunately, I was referred to and accepted into the Tarleton State University Upward Bound program in the fall of 1993 – a place that became an academic haven. **Dr. Rochelle Gregory, English Instructor and Honors Program Coordinator, North Central Texas College**

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I come from a family of five that includes my younger brother, my grandmother, my Mexican immigrant father, and my Mexican-born Chinese immigrant mother. My SSS peer mentor was directly responsible for helping me stay in school after my freshman year. I felt out of place, unaccepted, and inferior to other students. Having a mentor that hailed from a similar background to my own did so much for me. She provided personal support and helped expose me to that feeling of validation. My mentor influenced me to become a mentor and I joined the SSS staff two years later. I chose to pursue counseling due to the amazing experience I had as a peer mentor. Without SSS, I know I would not be where I am today....I may never have completed my bachelor's degree at all! **Freddy Delgado-Wong, M.A., Assistant Director, OASIS - TRIO Student Support Services, UC San Diego**
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My name is **Matthew Keagan Arvin** and I am an alumni of Eastern Kentucky University's Upward Bound. My life would not be the same if it wasn't for Upward Bound. I had been harassed and bullied but that all stopped with Upward Bound. They have zero tolerance for bullying or self-hate. They literally built me from the ground up with self-esteem. There was always someone to listen, there was always a shoulder. I appreciate the respect, love and support UB gave me. I've now been accepted into my dream school, WKU and into the SSS program at WKU.
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TRIO gave me perspective and allowed me to explore other perspectives. While part of the McNair Program, I was able to focus on my future in Engineering and decide what to do with my life. Learning and teaching those that want to learn has always been the baseline for which TRIO has been such a big part. **Kimberly Anne Sisneros, Director of Training and Education for ChiroWrite Software, Masters in Industrial Engineering - Human Engineering and Ergonomics from the University of Central Florida**
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I participated in the Upward Bound program at Michigan State University through my high school career and loved every moment of it! UB kept me focused and gave me an incentive to want to learn more and go that extra step to keep my grades and study habits a priority. It taught me the rewards of what a great education can afford you in life as long as you strive for it! I began as a craft employee working in the field of telephone repair but after being there 7 years and keeping with the UB skills I learned of continuing your education, going that extra mile in all that you do and striving for more, I was promoted into management. I've now been with the company for over 14 years where I continue my education with my company's continued education program. **Eva M. Christian-Gordon, Wisconsin Northern Illinois Load Capacity Manager**
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I'm a graduate of the Bruce Wells Scholars Upward Bound program at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. As a male of color raised in a single-parent matriarchal family of four, within a neighborhood notoriously known for gangs, drugs, and prostitution, one could easily conclude that I was destined to fail. However, TRIO's Upward Bound program, coupled with my mother's unrelenting discipline and determination in the face of adversity, taught me that "demography doesn't define destiny;" that just because I grew up poor and Black, and lived in a downtrodden neighborhood, did not mean that a life of crime was a foregone conclusion, that I was predisposed to failure, or that I was incapable of going to college and pursuing a career of interest. TRIO programs were created to guide first generation and low income students to and through college. I am one example of this goal accomplished, and one example of this purpose found. **Damian L. Ramsey, M.S.W., Dean of Students at Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Middle School.**
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The TRIO program at Southern Vermont College connected me to positive adult role models. Professors, administrators, support staff, academic advisors and others devoted time to help nurture my passion for civic engagement and volunteerism. Caring adults from the Success Center gave me the gift of their time to mentor me to be successful in numerous leadership capacities. TRIO did not allow my deficits to define me. My role models inspired hope and resiliency when I had none. TRIO gave me the supportive environment to determine for myself what sort of person I was supposed to become. I reflect on my time at Southern Vermont College frequently. My guiding framework in life is based on the valuable lessons I learned from my mentors at TRIO. TRIO inspired me to work toward a world that embraces diversity, encourages resiliency, is strength-based and has the ability to adapt. Communities where all people are inspired and educationally empowered so they can make informed choices. **Zach Garafalo, Assistant Director: YOUTH POWER! Champion of Change Honoree.**
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“The environment created by TRIO staff was so extraordinary that nothing but success would be achieved. The final result was raising my GPA from 2.7 at the time I joined TRIO to graduating with a 3.49 and most importantly a college degree.”
-Robin Bailey, Student Support Services Program, North Central State College, Mansfield, OH

GEAR UP Update

The deadline for transmittal of applications for the FY 2014 competition for new awards under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Program was Monday, July 7, 2014. The program received 31 State applications and 231 partnership applications. The peer review process is scheduled for August 18-29, 2014.

GEAR UP program staff have been busy. Program specialists traveled to Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta to deliver technical assistance workshops for the 2014 GEAR UP competition. The GEAR UP community attended the National Council for

Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) annual conference at the Washington Hilton from July 21-July 23, 2014, in Washington, DC, celebrating 15 years of GEAR UP. Student Service staff presented workshops, met with grantees and learned about new developments in evaluation and performance measurements.

GEAR UP projects throughout the country will celebrate National GEAR UP Week during the last week of September 2014 to honor the signing of the original GEAR UP Act on September 29, 1998.

Sharing Student Service

June 20, 2014: Upward Bound projects from two campuses of Beville State Community College, as well as Bluegrass Community and Technical College and Prince George’s Community College, all held booths in the hands-on-learning expo at “National Summer Learning Day” in Washington, DC, on Friday, June 20. The event, which was held at the Department of Education’s Lyndon Baines Johnson building and facilitated by the National Summer Learning Association and the U.S. Department of Education, brought together high school students and education leaders from across the country to highlight the critical role summer learning plays in preparing young people for successful college entry and completion.

July 11, 2014: Members of the Student Service Area participated in the DC Consolidation of Educational Services’ (DMV TRIO Alumni Association) and the College Board’s Leadership Conference. Dr. ReShone Moore provided opening remarks; Craig Pooler, a TRIO alum, conducted a workshop on Public Service and Government Affairs; and Chaz Gipson, a TRIO alum, made a presentation to the students on *Moving Forward in TRIO*. The conference, which was titled 50 Years of TRIO, Creating Our Path to Success, was held at Howard University, and over 200 current TRIO students were in attendance. [See page 7 for a picture from this event.]

July 21-23, 2014: Student Service staff attended the 2014 GEAR UP Annual Conference, entitled *A Dream Realized*. The conference was held at the Washington Hilton and convened over 1,800 GEAR UP and other college access professionals, as well as their partners, for informative concurrent sessions, plenaries, and other valuable networking opportunities.

July 30, 2014: In conjunction with the Symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs, the Student Service Area hosted a Student Outreach Day. During the Student Outreach Day, area participants in the Federal TRIO Programs came to the Office of Postsecondary Education to participate in career exploration activities and share their experiences in TRIO.

TRIO Training Program Update

The Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards under the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs was published in the Federal Register on April 23, 2014 with a closing date of May 23, 2014. We received 27 applications and reviewed 23 eligible applications. All new grants will be awarded by the end of September. Training opportunities for 2014-15 will be posted on our website by November 3, 2014.

Don't forget: The homepage for the *Student Service Updates* can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ssnewsletters.html>, and interested parties can also visit this page to request to be added to the distribution list for the *Updates*.

Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928 - May 28, 2014

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.

"I will always remember UB for the hope, opportunity, community, and passion for education it provided me."

-Frederick H. Dow, Upward Bound Program, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 1966 - 1968



TRIO alumni stand during the DC Consolidation of Educational Services' and the College Board's Leadership Conference on July 11, 2014, at Howard University. Please see page 6, under "Sharing Student Service," for a description of the event.

International and Foreign Language Competitions

The Office of International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) will be conducting several competitions in FY 2014. More information on the FY 2014 Grant Opportunities in IFLE can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/competitionflyer2014.pdf>

FY 2015 Student Support Services Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshop

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) will hold a pre-application technical assistance workshop for prospective applicants under the FY 2015 competition for grants for the Student Support Services (SSS) Program.

Title: SSS Pre-application Technical Assistance Workshop
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time)
Location: [Marriott Wardman Park Hotel](#)
2660 Woodley Road, N.W. (Salon 3)
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 328-2000

Attendance at this pre-application technical assistance workshop is free of charge. Although registration is not required, we ask that you **register with one of the contacts listed below** so that the Department may have sufficient materials/handouts available for all attendees.

Charity Helton, 202-219-7064, charity.helton@ed.gov
Princess Uzzelle, 202-502-7737, princess.uzzelle@ed.gov
Venus Blount, 202-502-7529, venus.blount@ed.gov

NOTE: There will be additional SSS pre-application technical assistance workshops held later in the fall. A complete listing of the dates and locations for the subsequent SSS workshops will be posted on the TRIO homepage (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>), as the information becomes available.

Tell us about your notable activities and shining stars!

We would love to hear about student or alumni accomplishments, interesting or notable project activities, or other project success stories.

Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS Updates? Please send an email to ReShone.Moore@ed.gov