Student Service Updates

Letter from the Director

Happy New Year! We started the new fiscal year on furlough, so we thank you for your continued patience and support during this time. Our program specialists have been working hard to review and approve budgets, reconfirm approved participant numbers and provide any technical assistance necessary, so that you can successfully complete and submit your required annual performance report.

We accomplished a great deal during fiscal year (FY) 2013 and look forward to doing even more this program year. We have undergone several transitions but hope we have not compromised our service to you on our support of these programs. We are including a summary chart for FY 2013 highlighting the new and non-competing continuation awards made. A number of upcoming important dates that you should be aware of are also included in this edition.

The Student Service staff commends Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem for his tireless dedication and for 40 years of exemplary service to the TRIO community! His efforts to provide a pathway to higher education for low-income and first generation college students have changed generations. Best wishes to Dr. Mitchem for a wonderful future!

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

/signed/   /signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.   Eileen S. Bland
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary   Acting Senior Director
Higher Education Programs   Student Service

In This Edition

Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS

Updates? Please send an email to
ReShone.Moore@ed.gov

Fiscal Year 2013 Student Service Award Summary			
Program	Number and Amount of _New_ Awards	Number and Amount of _Non-Competing Continuation (NCC)_ Awards	Total Number and Amount of _All_ Awards Made in FY 2013
Upward Bound	39 new awards [1] $15,305,628	777 NCC awards $234,220,138	816 total awards $249,525,766
Upward Bound Math and Science	18 new awards [1] $4,568,220	144 NCC awards $35,951,013	162 total awards $40,519,233
Veterans Upward Bound	8 new awards [1] $1,919,237	42 NCC awards $11,117,650	50 total awards $13,036,887
Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achieve-	17 new awards [1] $3,647,625	135 NCC awards $30,412,757	152 total awards $34,060,382
Educational Opportunity Centers	4 new awards [1] $2,136,858	122 NCC awards $41,926,735	126 total awards $44,063,593
Student Support Services	n/a	1,027 NCC awards $274,739,441	1,027 total awards $274,739,441 [3]
Talent Search	3 new awards [1] $903,471	449 NCC awards $127,213,073	452 total awards $128,116,544
TRIO Training	n/a	6 NCC awards $1,326,776	6 total awards $1,326,776
GEAR UP	n/a	125 NCC awards $275,397,241	125 total awards $275,397,241 [4]
College Access Challenge Grants	25 new awards $59,584,950	n/a	25 total awards $59,584,950
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	18 new awards [2] $3,846,264	136 NCC awards $21,422,796	154 total awards $25,269,060
Javits	n/a	51 NCC awards $3,756,617	51 total awards $3,756,617 [5]
CCAMPIS	58 new awards $9,081,780	55 NCC awards [6] $5,812,786	113 total awards $14,894,566 [7]

[1] No competition was held in FY 2013; new awards were made to grantees that were successful under the FY 2011 (TS and EOC) or FY 2012 (UB, UBMS, VUB, and McNair) competitions, but that had one or more years remaining on a previous grant award before commencing their new grant cycle.

[2] No competition was held in FY 2013; new awards were made by funding down the FY 2012 slate.

[3] Does not include $6,966,280 in forward-funding to 25 SSS grantees, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2014.

[4] Does not include $10,914,361 in forward-funding to eight GEAR UP grantees, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2014.

[5] Does not include $267,043 in forward-funding to five Javits grantees, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2014.

[6] NCC awards under the CCAMPIS Program include 20 NCCs that were successful under the FY 2013 competition, but have one year remaining on their previously-funded awards; 23 NCCs that were unsuccessful under the FY 2013 competition, but have one year remaining on their previously-funded awards; 8 NCCs that did not reapply under the FY 2013 competition; and 4 NCCs that submitted ineligible applications under the FY 2013 competition.

[7] Does not include $105,104 in forward-funding to two CCAMPIS grantees, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2014.

TRIO Training and GAANN Competitions Update

Continued uncertainty with the budget leaves us uncertain of new competitions. However, in an effort to keep you informed, we offer the following:

- We anticipate holding a competition for *The Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs* in late spring of 2014. Through this competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education and other public and private nonprofit institutions and organizations to support training to enhance the skills and expertise of project directors and staff employed in the Federal TRIO Programs. Funds may be used for conferences, seminars, internships, workshops, or the publication of manuals. Training topics are based on priorities established by the Secretary of Education and announced in Federal Register notices inviting applications. If this competition is held, we believe no more than eight grants will be awarded.

- The *Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program* provides fellowships, through academic departments and programs of IHEs, to assist graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study at the institution in a field designated as an area of national need. Grants are awarded to programs and institutions to sustain and enhance the capacity for teaching and research in those designated areas. Please see our Website for updates on FY 2014 activities.

"If America's students are to remain competitive in a knowledge-based economy, our public schools must greatly accelerate the rate of progress of the last four years and do more to narrow America's large achievement gaps. It is an urgent moral and economic imperative that our schools do a better job of preparing students for today's globally-competitive world."

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan on the *2013 NAEP Reading and Mathematics Report Card*
November 7, 2013

Please see the following link for the full article and to access the full Report Card:
http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/statement-us-secretary-education-arne-duncan-2013-naep-reading-and-mathematics-r

TRIO Training Dates and Locations

Training can play an important role in the success of your TRIO project. Are you are aiming to improve recruitment efforts of hard-to-reach students, the reporting of student and project performance or assessing student needs? Do you need training in budget management and the legislative and regulatory requirements or information on student financial aid and college admissions? Participating in one of the trainings offered by grantees funded by the Department of Education could prove beneficial to project performance. Whatever the need, we believe it can be met by one of the training courses provided by the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs.

The training opportunities for the 2013-14 year are posted on the TRIO website at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotrain/opportunities.html

Update on New 2012-13 Annual Performance Reports (APRs)

Upward Bound programs (UB, UBMS, VUB) and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (McNair) program

The shutdown of the Federal government for two and half weeks in October significantly impacted the Department's schedule for the 2012-13 APR data collections for the UB/UBMS, VUB, and McNair programs.

The second public comment period for the revised McNair APR ended September 30, 2013. Sixteen (16) commenters submitted approximately 42 individual comments (i.e., multiple comments from individual commenters). Most of the commenters were very pleased to see that the Department had taken the time to address their concerns as well as, where applicable, incorporate many of their suggestions. The Department made a few additional changes to the APR based on the second round of comments, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the McNair APR on November 8, 2013. Further, the McNair program's Tier 1A data verification process was completed in early November. Staff has now begun the development of the new APR Web application. While we do not anticipate having the online Web application for the APR tested and ready for use until early spring 2014, we plan to have the final text version of the OMB approved APR available for your information on the TRIO pages of ed.gov in early or mid-December 2013.

The second of the two public comment periods for the revised UB/UBMS APR closed October 4, 2013 during the Federal shutdown. We received 41 responses, many of which contained comments on more than one issue. Staff are reviewing the comments and preparing responses. While we do not anticipate having the online Web application for the APR tested and ready for use until spring 2014, we plan to have a final text version of the report available for your information on the TRIO pages of ed.gov in late January 2014, once we have approval from OMB. We estimate that the "go live" date for the UB APR will be early to mid-March with a due date in early to mid-April.

The first notice requesting public comments on the revised APR for the VUB program was published in the Federal Register with comments due September 23, 2013. The subsequent 30-day comment period will occur early in 2014, after the Department has reviewed and responded to comments from the first period. The VUB "go live" date is tentatively scheduled for early summer. Prior to that date, TRIO will conduct a "Tier 1A" process, with grantee involvement, to ensure that data on postsecondary enrollment cohorts for 2007–08 through 2011–12 (used in calculating the postsecondary completion objective) will be as accurate and comprehensive as possible. Projects funded during the 2007–12 grant cycle should look for a special e-mail message about the Tier 1A process in early spring 2014.

APR Information

December 13, 2013: Student Support Services (SSS) Program Annual Performance Reports (APRs). The online Web application that SSS grantees will use to submit their APRs for the 2012–13 reporting period became available November 12, 2013; the due date for submitting the APR is December 13, 2013. Changes to the APR submission process first implemented with the 2011-12 APR will allow SSS projects to receive their prior experience scores for the 2012-13 assessment year upon successful submission of their 2012-13 APRs.

UB Evaluation of Promising Practices

Congratulations to Upward Bound (UB) projects for their great cooperation with the first phase of our evaluation of promising practices! About 95 percent of grantees completed the UB Project Director Survey, which is helping us better understand how UB is implemented and is setting the stage for a research demonstration project we will launch later this fall. We want to test out a special college advising strategy that we think -- and some preliminary research tells us -- could really improve outcomes for UB students. We will be asking projects to volunteer to participate in this exciting research demonstration, and all of those who do will be able to get the materials and training that could really make a difference in where and how students go off to college. Stay tuned for more information about the demonstration, including specifics about the advising strategy and the benefits of participating.

> **Check out this inspirational video trailer produced by the Marquette University TRIO programs! The full-length film is coming in the fall of 2014.**
> **https://vimeo.com/74026519**

College Affordability and Transparency

The U.S. Department of Education updated its College Affordability and Transparency Lists as part of the Administration's ongoing effort to increase transparency about the cost of college. The updated lists highlight institutions with the highest tuition prices, highest net prices, and whose costs are rising at the fastest rates.

"With so much information out there, it's important that students and their families are equipped with the tools they need to make informed decisions about where to go to college," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Everyone has a role to play in keeping college affordable, and these lists help consumers compare the costs of higher education institutions."

In addition to the College Affordability and Transparency Lists, the Administration has also released other tools to help families as they pursue higher education. The College Scorecard and Financial Aid Shopping Sheet are two of the Administration's latest resources that provide consumers with easy-to-understand information about institutions and affordability. These tools are all part of the Administration's continued efforts to hold colleges accountable for cost, value, and quality so that students choose schools that are well-suited to meet their needs, priced affordably, and are consistent with their education and career goals. To view the lists, visit: http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/Default.aspx.

College Cost Reduction Forums

To gather public input on President Obama's plans for making college more affordable, particularly the development of a college ratings system, the Department of Education will be hosting open forums around the country. The first of these forums was held on Wednesday, November 6th, at The California State University-Dominguez Hills in Carson, CA. Those unable to attend the forum in person, submitted testimony online, to collegefeedback@ed.gov, or by mail to 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 7E313, Washington, DC 20202-0001.

For full information on the forums, including how to register to attend future sessions, please see: http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/10/ed-announces-first-open-forum-on-the-administrations-college-value-and-affordability-plans/

For details on the Administration's college affordability plans, please see: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/22/fact-sheet-president-s-plan-make-college-more-affordable-better-bargain-

Shining Stars at Boston University Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science

Participants in the TRIO Upward Bound (UB) and Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) projects at Boston University (BU) are shining examples of how hard work can lead to academic accomplishment. In fact, a UB or UBMS student was the valedictorian or salutatorian at five of the projects' six targeted high schools. These five achievers aren't resting on their laurels, but are going on to begin postsecondary studies at top institutions like Harvard University, Bryn Mawr College, and BU and will participate in programs like the Posse Scholars and BU's Thomas M. Menino Scholars program. The students credit UB and UBMS with exposing them to rigorous academic opportunities, cultural activities, meaningful friendships, and the challenge to face new adventures and conquer their fears.

For more information, please visit: http://www.bu.edu/today/2013/meet-the-valedictorians/

BU Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science students who graduated in June at the top of their high school classes (from left): Ms. Brankely Garcia, Ms. Lejla Skokic, Mr. William Phung, Ms. Blanca Lopez, and Ms. Mariama Bah.
Photo by Chitose Suzuki and accessed via http://www.bu.edu/today/2013/meet-the-valedictorians/

Student Service Updates are Section 508 Compatible

Did you know the *Student Service Updates* are posted online in a format compatible with the Section 508 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and are available for individuals with visual disabilities? Section 508 helps eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. You can find the 508-compatible (Microsoft Word) version of the *Student Service Updates* at the following link: http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ssnewsletters.html. For more information about Section 508, please visit http://www.section508.gov/.

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.

Please send an email to ReShone.Moore@ed.gov with any submissions!

Attention all current and future non-Federal grant reviewers:

The Field Readers System (FRS) is no longer in use, and all functions have been migrated to G5. For more information, please visit: https://www.g5.gov/ssoINT/wps/myportal/!ut/p/b1/04_Sj7S0sDCzNDS0MNKP0I_KSyzLTE8syczPS8wB8aPM4o0MnA0MDLyDQ82DXM0NPE3dTLwCvEONTNwMgAoigQoMcABHA0L6_Tzyc1P1c6NyLADY9zJZ/dl4/d5/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS80SmtFL1o2X1FKR1ZJQTkwMDhBQ

Student Service staff rang in the holidays with a festive gathering.   In attendance were several of our retired colleagues. Seated left to right: Patricia Lucas; Maxine Gibson. Standing left to right: Deborah Walsh; Sharon Tabb; Shirley Johnson; Virginia Pinkney; Carlos Stewart.

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation."

- C. Everett Koop

Warmest Thoughts and Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday and a Very

Happy New Year!

From Student Service

2013