



# Student Service Updates

## Letter from the Director

Greetings,

As we look back, 2014 was filled with a lot of excitement and hard work. I am pleased to announce that Eileen S. Bland is serving as the Acting Senior Director, Student Service, while I complete a detail as the Acting Chief of Staff, Higher Education Programs. ReShone Moore is serving as the Acting Division Director, Undergraduate Programs Division during this transition. Eileen and I have been and will continue to work closely together to ensure the overall success of Student Service.

Included in this edition are memorable moments from 2014. We have photos highlighting the overwhelmingly successful 2014 celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs. Being able to share this momentous event with supporters and colleagues throughout the country made the celebration even more special. The power and legacy of the Federal TRIO Programs were on display via social media; a DVD presentation from current students and graduates; an Educational Outreach Forum and other exciting activities. The continued importance and the enduring impact of TRIO Programs toward making a difference in the lives of our participants continues to be appreciated by the administration, ED staff and the TRIO community.

In addition, other relevant information regarding upcoming competitions and items that may be of interest to you is included in this edition. Our fiscal year (FY) 2015 will contain a major competition for the Student Support Services Program and a smaller competition for Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN).

Thank you for your continued support and know that we appreciate all that you do to implement these programs.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.  
Acting Chief of Staff  
Higher Education Programs

/signed/

Eileen S. Bland  
Acting Senior Director  
Student Service

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We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Dr. James T. Minor**, who joined the U.S. Department of Education officially in March of 2014 as the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Higher Education Programs (HEP). Most recently, Dr. Minor served as a Senior Program Officer and Director of Higher Education Programs for the Southern Education Foundation in Atlanta, GA. Other positions he has held include a tenured associate professorship at Michigan State University's College of Education, Department of Educational Administration. Dr. Minor received a B.A. from Jackson State University, a M.A. from the University of Nebraska, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is an accomplished author of many scholarly articles, reviews, national reports, and book chapters. For more information on Dr. Minor, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/jamesminor.html>

*"I want future generations to know that we are a people who see our differences as a great gift, that we are a people who value the dignity and worth of every citizen - man and woman, young and old, black and white, Latino, Asian, immigrant, Native American, gay, straight, Americans with mental illness or physical disability. Everybody matters."*

-President Barack Obama

2015 State of the Union Address

[<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sotu>]



Photo accessed via: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sotu>

Did you know that February 2015 is **National African American History Month**?

On January 30, 2015, President Barack Obama signed a Proclamation establishing that this month would commemorate the "unending journey toward a more just, more equal, and more perfect Union" (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month-2015>).

Check out the following link for some African American History facts that you might not know: <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-facts>



The Symposium held at the U.S. Department of Education on August 21, 2014, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs was a huge success! Pictured above are some of the many current and former TRIO participants who were able to participate in the event. See page 5 for a recap of the Symposium and other 50th Anniversary activities.

<b>Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Student Service Award Summary</b>			
<b>Program</b>	<b>Number and Amount of New Awards</b>	<b>Number and Amount of Non-Competing Continuation (NCC) Awards</b>	<b>Total Number and Amount of All Awards Made in FY 2014 and #/Participants Served</b>
<b>Upward Bound</b>	7 new awards <sup>1</sup> \$2,533,973	807 NCC awards \$262,044,986	814 total awards \$264,578,959 61,458 participants
<b>Upward Bound Math and Science</b>	n/a	162 NCC awards \$43,083,035	162 total awards \$43,083,035 10,034 participants
<b>Veterans Upward Bound</b>	1 new award <sup>1</sup> \$341,000	48 NCC awards \$13,365,511	49 total awards \$13,706,511 6,566 participants
<b>Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement</b>	2 new awards <sup>1</sup> \$521,074	149 NCC awards \$35,079,249	151 total awards \$35,600,323 <sup>2</sup> 4,293 participants
<b>Educational Opportunity Centers</b>	1 new award <sup>1</sup> \$449,511	125 NCC awards \$46,427,018	126 total awards \$46,876,529 189,733 participants
<b>Student Support Services</b>	n/a	1,027 NCC awards \$288,631,903	1,027 total awards \$288,631,903 <sup>3</sup> 202,492 participants
<b>Talent Search</b>	n/a	450 NCC awards \$134,613,873	450 total awards \$134,613,873 310,747 participants
<b>TRIO Training</b>	8 new awards \$1,524,998	n/a	8 total awards \$1,524,998 <i>Participants n/a</i>
<b>GEAR UP</b>	41 new awards \$82,684,128	87 NCC awards \$212,252,468	128 total awards \$294,936,596 <sup>4</sup> 551,000 participants
<b>College Access Challenge Grants</b>	31 new awards \$68,895,896	n/a	31 total awards \$68,895,896 <i>Participants n/a</i>
<b>Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need</b>	6 new awards <sup>5</sup> \$1,303,165	154 NCC awards \$26,531,835	160 total awards \$27,835,000 863 Fellows <sup>6</sup>
<b>Javits</b>	n/a	33 NCC awards \$1,458,000	33 total awards \$1,458,000 52 Fellows <sup>7</sup>
<b>CCAMPIS</b>	28 new awards <sup>8</sup> \$6,407,767	58 NCC awards \$8,726,233	86 total awards \$15,134,000 <i>Participants n/a</i>

<sup>1</sup> No competition was held in FY 2014; new awards were made to grantees that were successful under the FY 2011 (EOC) or FY 2012 (UB, VUB, and McNair) competitions, but that had two or more years remaining on a previous grant award before commencing their new grant cycle.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include \$10,436,942 in forward-funding to 44 McNair NCCs, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$6,966,280 in FY 2013 forward-funding to 25 SSS NCCs, which was used to fund program activities in FY 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Does not include \$3,973,901 in forward-funding to three GEAR UP NCCs, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2015.

<sup>5</sup> No competition was held in FY 2014. New awards were made by funding down the FY 2012 slate.

<sup>6</sup> In FY 2014, 863 GAANN fellows were reported on the annual performance reports as being funded from the FY 2012 and 2013 cohorts.

<sup>7</sup> In FY 2014, Congress approved the use of funding for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program in support of Javits Program NCC fellowships. Fifty-two (52) Javits fellows were reported on the annual performance reports as being funded from the FY 2010 and 2011 cohorts.

<sup>8</sup> No competition was held in FY 2014. New awards were made to grantees that were successful under the FY 2013 CCAMPIS Program competition, but that had one year remaining on a previous grant award before commencing their new grant cycle (20 new awards; \$4,482,703). New awards were also made by funding down the FY 2013 slate (8 new awards; \$1,925,064).

## FY 2015 Student Support Services Program Competition Update

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**What is it?** The Student Support Services (SSS) Program provides grants to institutions of higher education that assist eligible students to persist in and complete college.

**What's happening now?** Every five years, a competition is held for institutions of higher education to apply to host one or more SSS projects on their campuses.

**How much will be awarded?** For FY 2015, Congress appropriated \$839,752,000 for the TRIO Programs. An estimated \$265,706,546 will be used for new SSS awards under this competition and \$23,966,448 for continuation awards.

**When will this happen?** The deadline for transmitting applications under the FY 2015 SSS Program competition was February 2, 2015. Preliminary analysis shows that over 1,700 applications were submitted. A peer review process will take place in the spring of 2015, with an estimated 1,026 award notifications expected to be made in the summer of 2015.

**For more information, please visit the SSS homepage at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/index.html>.**

## Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

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- The GEAR UP Program completed a competition in FY 2014 under the partnership and State programs.
- The U.S. Department of Education received 169 eligible applications for new partnership grant awards under the FY 2014 GEAR UP competition requesting over \$222 million. With the funds available, we were able to fund in rank order the top 31 partnership applications at a cost of \$51,420,120.
- The Department also received 17 eligible applications for State grant awards requesting \$52,550,421. With the funds available, we were able to fund in rank order the top 10 State applications at a cost of \$31,264,008.
- The Department also issued 87 GEAR UP NCC (State and partnership) awards at a cost of \$212,252,468 in FY 2014.
- The Department issued \$3,973,901 in forward-funding to three GEAR UP NCCs, which will be used to fund program activities in FY 2015.

## TRIO Training Program Update

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- The Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs completed a competition in FY 2014.
- The U.S. Department of Education received 23 eligible applications under the FY 2014 Training Program competition.
- With the funds available, we were able to fund 8 new awards under the 5 absolute priorities, at a cost of \$1,524,998.
- The FY 2015 training opportunities are posted on the TRIO homepage at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotrain/opportunities.html>

## FY 2015 GAANN Program Competition Update

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The Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program provides fellowships, through academic departments and programs of institutions of higher education, to assist graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their courses of study at the institutions in a field designated as an area of national need. The grants are competitive and are awarded to institutions of higher education to sustain and enhance the capacity for teaching and research in areas of national need.

We anticipate a competition for GAANN in the spring of 2015 with an estimated 130 new awards being made in late summer 2015. Look for an announcement in the [Federal Register](#) in early spring 2015.

## 50th Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs

The U.S. Department of Education's Student Service Area coordinated activities throughout 2014 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal TRIO Programs. The commemorative theme was *TRIO: Celebrating 50 Years of Promoting Excellence by Providing Hope and Opportunity for Success*.

The year-long activities demonstrated the power and the impact that these programs continue to have by providing the needed support to assist low-income and first generation college students, as well as students with disabilities, progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

Some of the highlights included the hundreds of testimonials received from social media, our Student Outreach Day at the Department (highlighted in the August 2014 edition of the *Student Service Updates*), and our Symposium on August 21, 2014 at the Department's Lyndon Baines Johnson Building that culminated all of the activities. We were pleased that you answered the call to coordinate local activities in your area, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary all around the country. See the *Student Spotlight* feature on page 8 for just one example of the many local celebrations that took place.

On behalf of Student Service, we would like to thank you for supporting the request for personal testimonial stories about how participation in the TRIO programs has affected so many students' lives. We were able to use various social media outlets such as Twitter, Web cast, and video broadcasts to educate others about the power of TRIO. We will continue to tell the TRIO story through its legacy.



**Pictured at left, Department and Federal TRIO Programs leadership at the Symposium.**

From Left: **James T. Minor**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education; **ReShone Moore**, Acting Division Director, Undergraduate Programs Division, Student Service, U.S. Department of Education; **Linda Byrd-Johnson**, Acting Chief of Staff, Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education; and **Lynn Mahaffie**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**Pictured at right, Department leadership and several Symposium expert participants.**

From Left: **Oscar Hernandez**, Tenured Executive Director, EOC and TS, Project STAY, Inc.; **Stan Salett**, President, The Foundation for the Future of Youth; **Arnold Mitchem**, President Emeritus, Council for Opportunity in Education; **Linda Byrd-Johnson**, Acting Chief of Staff, Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education; **Clytrice Austin-Watson**, Associate Dean for Student Success, Delaware State University, UB and SSS Alumna; **Wade Robinson**, Vice President, Campus Life and University Relations, Wichita State University; **Paul E. Pitre**, Dean of Academic Affairs, Washington State University, Everett; and **James T. Minor**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education.



## Update on Uniform Guidance

The Department and other Federal agencies worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to consolidate eight OMB circulars governing cost principles and administrative and audit requirements into a single set of guidance. Conforming changes were made to the Department's EDGAR regulations. For example, EDGAR 74 and 80 were merged into the new guidance. The new consolidated set of requirements is known as the "Uniform Guidance" and is codified at 2 CFR 200.

Uniform Guidance is new, but it is not that different. The purpose in developing the Uniform Guidance is to streamline and increase standardization in the requirements governing Federal awards for Federal agencies and grantees. The Uniform Guidance is intended to reduce administrative burden on grantees and to reduce fraud, waste and abuse by providing increased flexibility and an increased emphasis on outcomes and internal controls.

### **Key Changes include:**

- Threshold for a required Single Audit has increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000 (total Federal expenditures)

- Audits must be submitted electronically to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse
- Questioned costs of less than \$25,000 will no longer reported in Single Audits
- Indirect Cost rate - de minimis rate of 10% for new grantees who have never had a negotiated rate; however, TRIO program grants are considered training grants under EDGAR 75.562, and the maximum indirect cost rate of 8% will remain in effect.

New flexibility – grantees with a negotiated indirect cost rate may apply for a 4-year extension

### **When does this start:**

- Effective for ED on December 26, 2014

Applies to all new and continuation awards made on/after December 26, 2014

Please note the Department has created a new Web page for grantees dedicated to the Uniform Guidance regulations: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/uniform-guidance/index.html>. We encourage you to visit the site, which includes a variety of technical assistance resources.

*We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the need for coordination between and among Talent Search, Upward Bound, and GEAR UP projects. It is imperative that project directors ensure that procedures are in place at schools served by multiple programs to ensure that students are not being over-served to the detriment of other eligible students that could also benefit from the programs' services, per the applicable regulations and guidelines for each program.*

## First in the World Program Update

First in the World (FITW) is designed as a tiered evidence grant program in which higher levels of evidence supporting the proposed projects are required in order to receive funding. FITW aims to support a wide range of innovations at colleges and universities, and serves as a catalyst for the best ideas that will dramatically enhance student outcomes. The FITW Program awards four-year grants to eligible postsecondary institutions and organizations to: improve educational outcomes; make postsecondary participation more affordable by promoting productivity, including reducing or containing institutional or student costs; and implement strategies for improving student completion rates. The Department plans to release the Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications in early May and hold the grant award competition in late June. The Department plans to make awards in late September. Please note that these dates are tentative.



The **Reach Higher initiative** is the First Lady's effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university.

For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher#section-get-involved>.

Expect more on how TRIO and GEAR UP projects can get involved in this initiative.

"Education is the key to success for so many kids. And my goal specifically is to reach out directly to young people and encourage them to take charge of their futures and complete an education beyond high school."

– First Lady Michelle Obama, January 16, 2014

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher>

## Upward Bound Evaluation: *Find the Fit*

The Upward Bound evaluation, *Find the Fit*, is underway. Those projects that volunteered and were selected should have received information from the Department and also from the contractor, Abt Associates. This is a research demonstration that will provide and assess the effectiveness of *Find the Fit*, a program of professional development, tools, and materials to help in advising Upward Bound students on why, how and where to apply to college.

## Sharing Student Service

**September 8-10, 2014:** Student Service staff made several presentations at the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) 33rd Annual Conference on September 8-10, 2014 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC. The theme for the event was *Achieving College Success through Vision and Action*.

In addition, Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Service was honored on September 8, 2014 with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the COE Annual Conference for her remarkable contributions to the lives of students whose future success depends on their ability to access and complete higher education.

**September – December 2014:** The U.S. Department of Education held 10 pre-application technical assistance workshops at locations throughout the country for prospective applicants under the FY 2015 Student Support Services (SSS) Program competition.

**December 9, 2014:** Student Service Program Specialists, Carmen Gordon and Ashley Hillary, attended The Atlantic Magazine's *Full STEM Ahead* event at The George Washington University. Russell Shilling, Executive Director of STEM Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Education; Anthony Fauci, National Institutes of Health Director; and other guests addressed their own experiences in STEM fields and emphasized paths critical to supporting students in overcoming barriers to entry, leadership and impact in STEM.

**January 15, 2015:** A technical assistance Webinar, attended by approximately 1,800 individuals, provided updated information to potential applicants under the fiscal year 2015 Student Support Services (SSS) Program competition.

**February 9-11, 2015:** Student Service staff attended the GEAR UP Capacity Building Workshop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This workshop convened over 1,300 GEAR UP and other college access professionals, as well as their partners, to address issues pertaining to STEM, evaluation, meeting the needs of rural schools, and parent engagement.

**February 20, 2015:** Dr. Katie Blanding, Director, Graduate and Special Focus Programs, Student Service, participated in the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Annual Meeting, held from February 19 to 21, 2015. Dr. Blanding made a presentation focusing on the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. The meeting was held at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington, VA. Student Service Program Specialists Carmen Gordon and Ashley Hillary also joined her at this meeting.

## Student Spotlight: Dr. Amanda Bailey

On November 1, 2014, an event, titled "Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Upward Bound," was held at West Virginia State University. Several TRIO alumni were honored during the event, including **Dr. Amanda Bailey**, an alumna of the Concord University Upward Bound project. The project was pleased to share Dr. Bailey's story, which is provided below.



**Dr. Amanda Bailey** is pictured with the Concord University Upward Bound Counselor, Mr. Michael Craighead, who is a graduate of the Concord University Upward Bound Program Class of 1994. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Concord University. He later received his Master's degree from Mountain State University. He has been working with the Concord University Upward Bound project for many years. Photo provided by the Concord University Upward Bound project.

*Dr. Amanda Bailey was a member of the Concord University Upward Bound project in Athens, WV during the years of 1996 through 1999, while attending high school, under the leadership of Pamela McPeak, Barbara Rush, and Mike Craighead, all TRIO alumni. She was a very shy student when she was accepted into the program. Upward Bound provided her the opportunity to learn during the summer as well as during the school year. The program motivated her to always want to continue learning. She was afforded the opportunity to visit many places, colleges, cities, etc., that her family would not have been able to afford, thanks to the Upward Bound program. The program also encouraged her love for travel and seeing/doing new things.*

*Not only was she a member of Upward Bound, but she was also granted the opportunity to work as a Tutor-Counselor during her college years, the experience of which is one she will keep in her heart forever. She stated, "Having young teens look up to you as their mentor and tutor is a feeling that is difficult to describe."*

*She graduated from Concord University in 2002 after only three years in college with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Psychology. She then went on to attend the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, class of 2006, in Lewisburg, WV and earned her medical degree. She did a Family Medicine residency in Altoona, PA at Altoona Family Physicians, graduating in 2009. She then went on Active Duty in the United States Air Force as a family physician, starting out as a Captain and was later promoted to Major. She was stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. While in the Air Force, she did two humanitarian missions: one was to Peru and one was to Suriname, South America.*

*She is currently working in Princeton, WV as a family physician at Mercer Medical Group. She has been working there since November 2012.*

The **2015-2016 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules** are available! These are used to determine Pell Grant award amounts. Please visit: <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1502.html>

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

Email  
[ReShone.Moore@ed.gov](mailto:ReShone.Moore@ed.gov)  
with any submissions!

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*.

**Questions, comments, or ideas for future SS Updates? Please send an email to [ReShone.Moore@ed.gov](mailto:ReShone.Moore@ed.gov)**