Dear TRIO Project Directors:

In recent months, you have brought to our attention a new challenge in verifying income eligibility for students participating in TRIO programs, including Student Support Services and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement programs, that arose after the Department allowed “prior-prior” year income to be used in completing the FAFSA.

We would like to thank you for effectively communicating this issue to us and recognize the difficulty it presented as you seek to serve students. Throughout her time in office, Secretary DeVos has fought to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden so that organizations like yours can spend less time on paperwork and more time providing students with the skills and supports they need to be successful. We are therefore pleased to announce the following change:

Beginning in fiscal year 2019, the Department of Education will allow the most recently completed FAFSA, based on prior-prior year information, to document income eligibility for participants in the TRIO programs.

We hope that this change will support you in your efforts to serve students. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your assigned program specialist.

Sincerely,

Diane Auer Jones

Principal Deputy Under Secretary

Delegated to Perform the Duties of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education