A BANNER DAY FOR TRIO IN WASHINGTON!

First, the Senate voted 72-26 to approve the FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill. With the final passage of the bill through Congress, it has now been sent to President Obama for signature. The TRIO community is now assured of receiving $42 million in restoration funds during the 2014-2015 program year, enough to restore 95% of the cuts to TRIO grants due to sequestration.

Meanwhile, the issues of college access and success took center stage on both Capitol Hill and at the White House. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hosted a roundtable, “Strengthening Federal Access Programs to Meet 21st Century Needs — A Look at TRIO and GEAR UP,” which featured testimonies from COE President Maureen Hoyler as well as 2013 National TRIO Achiever Cornelius Griggs and Hibbing Community College Upward Bound Director Tallie Sertich. The work of TRIO advocates in the field was evident as several Members of the Committee expressed strong knowledge and support of TRIO programs in their lines of questioning. This roundtable serves as a starting point for the consideration of both TRIO and GEAR UP issues in the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. (A video of the roundtable and copies of panelists’ remarks are available here.)

Later that day, COE President Maureen Hoyler went to the White House to participate in a convening of college presidents, non-profit and philanthropic organizations, private sector partners, and others to discuss promising models for increasing access for low-income students. In their remarks, both the President and the First Lady emphasized their personal commitments to the issue of low-income student success. In an accompanying report, Increasing College Opportunity for Low-Income Students (.pdf), the White House cataloged the commitments of COE and other stakeholders to this mission. Additionally, in their statements of commitment (.pdf), several institutions highlighted the work of TRIO programs on their campuses as examples of ways that they are already succeeding in the areas of college access and success.

All in all, these events represent a strong recognition of the critical work of our programs and students.
President Level Funds TRIO and GEAR UP in FY 2015 Budget Request to Congress

On Tuesday, March 4, President Obama released his FY 2015 budget request to Congress, in which he requested $838.8 million in funding for TRIO, which is equivalent to the funding appropriated by Congress in FY 2014. (The President also requested level-funding for GEAR UP at $301.6 million.) In contrast to the President’s budget request, the TRIO community will be fighting for an increase of $52 million to support an overall appropriation of $890 million in FY 2015. This will support a 10% increase in the number of students served in the Student Support Services grant competition, which will take place this year, as well as a 3% overall increase for all existing programs. However, this will be an uphill battle as the House Budget Committee recently released a report entitled The War on Poverty — 50 Years Later (.pdf), which criticizes several key programs of that era, such as Head Start and TRIO, as “ineffective” and duplicative. As this report will formulate the basis of the House Republican budget plan for FY 2015, the entire TRIO community must arm itself with data about their programs’ effectiveness. In preparation for the Policy Seminar, all participants are strongly encouraged to pull data from their most recent annual performance reports and be prepared to share information not only about how many students they are serving and where, but how those students are performing (e.g., good academic standing, persistence from year to year, etc.); enrollment, transfer, and completion rates; and other relevant information.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

SPRING 2014 IN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

SSS Staff attended the ASPIRE state conference at SLCC during spring break. It was refreshing to connect with colleagues and get updates on what is happening with TRiO programs throughout the state.

Our department is working on digitizing our files and archives through DataImage. It has been an interesting process and we are excited to be able to store files electronically. We were very pleased to meet our retention target for the APR this year as it was set unusually high.

Our connections with students have paid off in continuing to serve students in our program. We are looking forward to seeing several of our students graduate in April. Some will be moving on to graduate school.

The grant cycle is coming to an end and Eddie will be attending grant writing training to be informed on changes for the new grant cycle. Writing a new grant affords us the opportunity to evaluate our program and put in place more effective targets to meet objectives.

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Student Support Services / Talent Search / Upward Bound / Veterans Upward Bound
TALENT SEARCH HAS BEEN BUSY

Spring brings lots of activities to the TRIO Talent Search Program. We began implementing College Greenlight in January; we expect to have more students signed up for this program next year as we will have time to implement it sooner for Seniors and Juniors. This is an amazing online program that helps match students to scholarships based on the information they fill out, as well as track award amounts as a whole (per school and/or program) and additional information as well.

I also wanted to recognize our high school Advisors Alejandro Valquito, Marisol Velasco, and Nick Berg for their hard work with our admissions (almost 100%) and FAFSA completion rates (over 75%); these numbers are much higher than this time last year. FAFSA Feb always helps us get the word out about how students can receive pell grants and other funding to make college possible.

We completed our Southern Utah Campus Tours on April 3-5. On Thursday, April 3rd, we started out with a long trek exploring the UVU campus in Orem. We then drove to Snow College where all the kids got a t-shirt or beanie, and a yummy dinner! We didn't get to our condos until close to 11:00pm that night; the students loved the condos we stayed in! The next day we went to SUU in Cedar City (where they had an all you can eat buffet), then Dixie State, followed by swimming, pizza, and a movie that night.

The kids were very well behaved overall (yes there was still late night giggling...from the girl condo), listened when we asked them something, and were very respectful to one another and said they enjoyed getting to know students from the other school. The best part? It was a close contest between Snow and Dixie for the campus/experience the kids liked best. With Snow they learned their pell grant would cover tuition and living costs, but many loved the feel of Dixie (who wouldn't in warm St. George)?

Next we have our Northern Utah Campus Tours on Friday, May 23rd. TRIO Talent Search students will also be participating in "College Transition Nights" on May 7th & 8th, as well as our Senior Recognition Night on Tuesday, May 20th where our Seniors will be recognized for accomplishing Rigor coursework in high school and where we will announce Tuition Waiver recipients.
UPWARD BOUND

SENIORS ARE READY FOR COLLEGE

It is a busy time in Upward Bound! We are helping seniors with financial aid, ensuring all of our students are caught up in their high school credits, preparing for our academic summer field trip, and hiring summer staff.

As high school graduation approaches, the Upward Bound seniors have been working hard to make sure they are ready for college!

**Alma Brizio** (Ben Lomond) received word in late March that she has been accepted into Colgate University! Alma participated in Princeton’s LEDA program last summer and has had her sights set on Colgate ever since. Alma will receive $61,000 from Colgate to make her attendance possible. She will leave for New York in June.

**Agustin Godinez** (Ben Lomond) is planning to attend the Crazy Horse Summer Program at the University of South Dakota this summer. Crazy Horse is a 9 ½ week bridge program for Native American high school seniors. Participants enroll in up to 14 credit hours and are offered paid internships of up to 20 hours a week.

**Jesus Velasquez** (Ben Lomond) was recently awarded a full-ride scholarship to Utah State University! Jesus has an interest in Engineering and has always wanted to attend Utah State, but he wasn’t sure if it would be economically feasible. Jesus has worked hard throughout high school maintaining a great GPA and being involved in the community. He plans to study electrical engineering.

**Taylor Leota** (Clearfield) was recently awarded the Daniels Scholarship! The Daniels Scholarship is a four-year scholarship that will cover any unmet financial need at any four-year, nonprofit university in the United States. Taylor is planning to start at Weber State University this fall and would like to go into forensic science.

As of the first week in April, the Upward Bound seniors have received **$257,500** in scholarships!

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COE Brings Alumni and Students Together to Celebrate Upward Bound’s 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary of Upward Bound is a cause for great celebration. This is our opportunity to commemorate the proud history of TRIO’s “First Program” and assert our accomplishments. This is an occasion for Upward Bound projects across the country to share with their institutions and communities the valuable contributions that Upward Bound has made in the lives of low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

DAVE TRUJILLO RETIREMENT

By Carl Porter—Executive Director of ASCP at WSU

This year is the 50th Anniversary of Upward Bound—TRIO’s “first program” to emerge out of the legislation of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Because of this, 2014 will be a year of celebration in UB programs across the country and in areas of poverty served by UB programs. However, hopefully you will excuse Weber State University and some seventy postsecondary disadvantaged students who make up the UB program that resides on its campus if they find a little mixed emotion during the summer of 2014. Its director, one of TRIO’s favorite sons and most enthusiastic champions, Dave Trujillo will retire after 41 years of devoted TRiO service.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work with Dave over the past several years. I have witnessed firsthand Dave’s special ability to guide and change the lives of some of Ogden, Weber and Davis school district’s most at-risk students and see these same students go on to receive prestigious scholarships, to complete college degrees and to enter into fulfilling careers. One of the high water marks of my career is the summer I tagged along on the program’s summer field trip. I witnessed Dave and his staff transform a field trip into a true learning experience—not only of the “content” of the field trip but also of the “self.” It was the type of transformation that a piece of legislation hoped to foster fifty years ago.

Dave had originally scheduled his retirement for December of 2013 but the staff of UB and his “bounders” convinced him to continue through its summer program. Dave agreed and postponed his retirement to the end of August 2014 with the commitment to himself that he will keep this retirement date and begin September 2014 by splitting his time between golf and coaching junior high basketball. I wish Dave all the best in his future endeavors and know he will step up when “future bounders” come calling.
When Support Services Exist, Veterans Fare Well in Class, Report Says

November 21, 2013 By Libby Sander

When the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect, in 2009, some observers worried that veterans might not succeed at college. But new research shows that where support services for veterans exist, those students do well in the classroom.

The new analysis, which is being released this week, looked at 741 student veterans at 23 colleges. It found that, during the 2011-12 academic year, the veterans stayed enrolled, posted solid grade-point averages, completed nearly all of the credits they pursued, and counted more than a few aspiring engineers and businesspeople among them.

What's more, every college reported having an on-campus veteran coordinator and a student-run veterans club or association. More than 80 percent give credit for military training and have a website or web portal for veterans.

Among the services on the rise, the report says, are having an on-campus counselor who is trained in treating students suffering from traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder.

The report, "Completing the Mission II: A Study of Veteran Students’ Progress Toward Degree Attainment in the Post-9/11 Era," is slated for release on Friday. The participating institutions, located in 20 states and the District of Columbia, are four-year brick-and-mortar nonprofit colleges; all but four are public. They either have taken part in training services offered by Operation College Promise, a policy, research, and training organization in New Jersey that produced the research, or have teamed up with the Pat Tillman Foundation, which offers scholarships to military students and was a contributor to the report.

Among the students, 20 percent of whom were female, the average grade-point average was 2.98. Each student earned nearly 91 percent, on average, of the credits he or she pursued that year. And nearly all—97 percent—who started in the fall semester came back for the spring term. The most popular majors were engineering, business, psychology, criminal justice, biology, and history.

**RANDY WILSON ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS UPWARD BOUND**

Randy Wilson, Director of Veterans Upward Bound at Weber State University, became the Public Relations Officer, a Board of Directors position, for the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound during the March 2014 annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The position involves compiling the organizations newsletters, assisting with the organizations membership directory, publicizing the organization in widely dispersed publications, sitting on the Board of Directors, and other tasks assigned by the President of the organization. This position runs until the March 2016 annual conference.

This is not the first time Randy has served on the board. He has served previously for nearly 10 years as the Public Relations Officer and two years as Vice President. During times when he is not on the board, and even when he is on the board, Randy serves on one or more committees for the organization.
OBSERVATION: TRIO NEEDS EVERYONE’S HELP

If you go to http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html and click on any of the TRiO Programs, and then click on the “Funding Status” link for that program, you can see that ALL of the Federal TRiO programs are suffering losses from year to year in overall budget funding per program, average number of participants served and the average cost per participant. TRiO programs have suffered a heavy toll in the last two grant cycles.

While we are told the programs may receive some of the sequestration money back in the 2014-15 year, that will not be a retroactive reimbursement but simply will bring programs back to NEAR the level they were funded before sequestration. How this impacts the numbers of student TRiO can serve is still to be announced.

ALL TRiO programs need the support of citizens and school officials as they speak with their Federal Senators and Congressmen. Representatives need to be convinced that TRiO is not the place to be cutting funds because the result will be to lessen the opportunities for underrepresented populations to have equal opportunities to achieve a college degree. In my humble opinion, that weakens our country as we stand to lose many bright minds simply because the participants come from families that are unable to pay for college or do not even know to value college for their loved one’s futures.

Randy Wilson

TRIO HISTORY

TRIO is a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. 790,000 low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities — from sixth grade through college graduation — are served by over 2,800 programs nationally. TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention. TRIO programs provide direct support services for students, and relevant training for directors and staff.

Where Did TRIO Originate?

The TRIO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers to education in America. (Previously only college financing had been on policymakers’ radar.) TRIO began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. The Educational Opportunity Act of 1964 established an experimental program known as Upward Bound. Then, in 1965, the Higher Education Act created Talent Search. Finally, another program, Special Services for Disadvantaged Students (later known as Student Support Services), was launched in 1968. Together, this “trio” of federally-funded programs encouraged access to higher education for low-income students. By 1998, the TRIO programs had become a vital pipeline to opportunity, serving traditional students, displaced workers, and

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Who Is Served

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes at 150% or less of the federal poverty level and in which neither parent graduated from college. More than 2,800 TRIO projects currently serve close to 790,000 low-income Americans. Many programs serve students in grades six through 12. Thirty-five percent of TRIO students are Whites, 35% are African-Americans, 19% are Hispanics, 4% are Native Americans, 3% are Asian-Americans, and 4% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students. More than 7,000 students with disabilities and approximately 6,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO programs as well.

How It Works

More than 1,000 colleges, universities, community colleges, and agencies now offer TRIO Programs in America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. TRIO funds are distributed to institutions through competitive grants.

Why Are TRIO Programs Important?

The United States needs to boost both its academic and economic competitiveness globally. In order to foster and maintain a healthy economy as well as compete globally, the United States needs a strong, highly-educated, and competent workforce. To be on par with other nations, the country needs students, no matter their background, who are academically prepared and motivated to achieve success.

Low-income students are being left behind. Only 38% of low-income high school seniors go straight to college as compared to 81% of their peers in the highest income quartile. Then, once enrolled in college, low-income students earn bachelor’s degrees at a rate that is less than half of that of their high-income peers — 21% as compared with 45%.

The growing achievement gap in our country is detrimental to our success as a nation. There is a tremendous gap in educational attainment between America’s highest and lowest income students - despite similar talents and potential. While there are numerous talented and worthy low-income students, relatively few are represented in higher education, particularly at America's more selective four-year colleges and universities. While nearly 67% of high-income, highly-qualified students enroll in four-year colleges, only 47% of low-income, highly-qualified students enroll. Even more startling, 77% of the least-qualified, high-income students go on to college, while roughly the same proportion of the most-qualified low-income students that go on to college. (ACSFA 2005)