

What I Wish I Would Have Known When.....

Start Smart! Tips for New TRIO Professionals

1. TRIO is Bigger Than Your Program – You Are Not Alone!

Welcome to the TRIO family! Although you may feel new and lost in the sea of everything you need to know (the federal regulations alone are enough to scare even the heartiest of hearts!), you are not alone. In fact, you are standing on the shoulders of community activists who molded TRIO out of the civil rights era and into the present day. That legacy was built on the hearts of people who care about the students we serve, just like you. So, take some time to get to know your TRIO family in your state and region. It's always warm in the TRIO home.

2. Get and Be Involved – At Your OWN Pace

The TRIO community is vibrant and active! You can get involved by connecting with your local TRIO leaders in your state and region. Connect and see what others are doing to keep that TRIO spirit alive. From attending conferences and professional development trainings to virtual events to engage with TRIO participants from across the country or just joining a listserv - it pays to be involved! Here are a few resources to get you started:

TRIO Listserv

<http://www.coenet.org/trio.shtml>

COE's Professional Development Website

http://www.coenet.org/professional_development.shtml

State and Regional TRIO Associations

<http://coenet.org/affiliates.shtml>

3. Become an Expert at Your Institution

You and your team were hired because you have expertise working with low-income and first-generation students. Let your organization know that you are there to be successful not only for the students, but the institution. Be a part of committees, be a part of crucial conversations about low-income, first-generation students and be a part of your institution/agency. Sometimes, TRIO programs isolate themselves and consider themselves a "stand-alone." Don't fall into this trap! You are a resource that adds value to your institution and community.

Start Smart for New Professionals Strand at COE's 39th Annual Conference



Water Me! Surviving and
Thriving as a New
Professional – Monday,
September 21 at 3:15pmET

Newcomers Networking
Event – Monday, September
21 at 7:15pmET

Tips and Tricks for New
Professionals – Wednesday,
September 23 at 12:15pmET

First Year in the Field: Tips
and Strategies for New Pre-
College Advisers –
Wednesday, September 23
at 3:15pmET