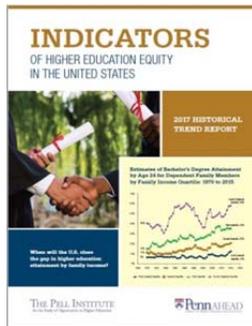


2017 Year in Review



March 2017 – COE hosted its 37th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. The 2017 Policy Seminar had record attendance when more than 700 advocates for college access and support programs took to Capitol Hill to fight for the TRIO and GEAR UP programs.



April 2017 – COE’s research arm, the [Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education](#), released its fourth edition of the [Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States](#) at the National Press Club. The Pell Institute also launched the [Equity Indicators Website](#) to provide access to data files used to produce each of the figures included in the 2017 *Indicators Report*.



May 2017 – Congress passed the final FY17 appropriations bill, which included a \$50 million (or 5.6%) increase in funding for TRIO for a total appropriation of \$950 million for the 2017-2018 Program Year. The legislation also directed the Department of Education to review the Upward Bound grant applications initially rejected for formatting errors.



May/June 2017 – COE sponsored the 18th annual Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program. This short-term study abroad opportunity allowed 15 TRIO college students to engage in a month of Spanish language and cultural immersion at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain.



June 2017 – COE brought nearly 200 Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math/Science students to Washington, DC to participate in the 2017 National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) at Georgetown University. While in DC, the students attended workshops on college applications and scholarships; participated in a Mock Congress, and visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The students also took to Capitol Hill to visit the offices of their congressional representatives.



August-September 2017 – COE received funding as a partner on two separate National Science Foundation grants. The first is a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, “GP:IMPACT: Interactive Simulations and Systems Thinking to Broaden Pathways into the Geosciences,” that is implemented among SSS programs. The second is a partnership with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Upward Bound, “Teaching through Technologies (T³) Alliance,” that is implemented among Classic Upward Bound programs using unmanned aerial systems (UAS), 3-D printers, and codeable digital devices to attract Upward Bound students to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.



September 2017 – [TRIO Champion Tom Cole \(R-OK\)](#) led a [bipartisan coalition](#) that included TRIO Caucus Co-Chair and TRIO Alumna Gwen Moore (D-WI) in speaking out against the “Jason Lewis CTE Amendment.” This amendment proposed to move \$60 million in funding from TRIO (and \$10 million from GEAR UP) to career and technical education programs. Because of the TRIO community’s efforts in outreaching to their legislators, the Amendment failed by a vote of 153-263.



September 2017 – COE hosted its 36th Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Noted political commentator Ana Navarro kicked off the four-day conference with a spirited keynote address. Conference sessions addressed topics like TRIO and higher education policy since 1965, the impact of trauma on underrepresented students, research and evaluation, and developing non-cognitive skills. A highlight of the conference was the annual Educational Opportunity Dinner, which honored the 2017 National TRIO Achievers.



September 2017 – COE announced the creation of the Thomas R. Wolanin Congressional Internship in honor of the late champion of postsecondary access and affordability. The paid internship will provide individuals who are in the first generation of their families to graduate from college with an opportunity to observe the federal policy-making process first-hand and to participate in that process.



September-October 2017 – Princeton University partnered with COE to host the first Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals. Approximately 60 leaders representing college access and success programs from across the United States participated. The four-day event included a variety of workshops designed to foster increased collaboration between college access and success professionals and strengthen participants' leadership skills within their respective institutions.



November 2017 – On November 8, the 52nd Anniversary of the Higher Education Act, COE and NASPA–Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, hosted the first annual [First-Generation College Student Celebration on Capitol Hill](#). Several Members of Congress—who were themselves first-generation college students—attended and shared their experiences: Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI-4), and Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24). Campus celebrations of first-generation college students took place at colleges and universities across the country.