



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

SUMMER

RECESS

PACKET

2019



July 15, 2019

Dear TRIO Colleagues:

It's time to show our strength! Over the next several weeks, all TRIO personnel, students, parents, alumni, and other supporters must demonstrate that TRIO Works! To do this, we must make our voices heard. COE is challenging the TRIO community to host as many local visits with Representatives and Senators as possible between now and September 1!

To help you achieve this goal, this Summer Recess Packet includes the following:

- Tips for planning a successful local visit with Members of Congress (Page 3)
- list of local events hosted by Members of Congress (Page 4)
- sample meeting request letter (Page 8)
- examples of outreach efforts by the TRIO community (Page 9)

We encourage you to take advantage of the resources of this Summer Recess Packet, and to use the contact information for all education staffers and schedulers, which is available under the Advocacy Tools portion of the COE website (http://www.coenet.org/advocacy_tools.shtml). Let us know if you are planning or have already met with your representatives in Congress so we can highlight your advocacy! Just send a quick report including your name, title, TRIO program, state, type of meeting (site visit, one-on-one, townhall, etc.) and the name of the Representative or Senator to stephanie.salvador@coenet.org. Any questions? Feel free to contact Stephanie Salvador or Kimberly Jones (kimberly.jones@coenet.org) via e-mail or phone (202-347-7430).

Let's prove that TRIO WORKS!!!

Help Turn Your Member of Congress into a TRIO Champion!

Follow these simple steps to plan a successful on-site visit and allow your Member of Congress to see TRIO programs and students in action!

PLANNING THE VISIT

- **Talk to your institution's Government Relations/Public Affairs Office about inviting your Member of Congress to Campus.** Be sure to involve your institutional officers to ensure campus buy-in and support of your idea. Quite often, they will want to assist in the planning to ensure a successful visit by your Member of Congress.
- **Find out when your Member of Congress is available to visit.** Be flexible. Members of Congress' schedules fill up quickly while at home. Take care to plan your event based on the legislator's availability. Contact your legislator's congressional scheduler to find out precisely when your Member of Congress might be available to visit. (COE can help with this, too!)
- **Send an official invitation to your Member of Congress.** E-mail a letter inviting your Member of Congress to visit. ([A sample letter is available here.](#)) COE can provide you with the contact information for the scheduler of your Member of Congress. COE can also assist you in following up with the legislator's Washington, D.C. office.
- **Follow up, follow up, follow up!** If you haven't heard back in a few days – a week at most – be sure to follow up on your request to finalize a time and date for the big day!

DURING THE VISIT

- **TRIO, TRIO, Everywhere TRIO!** Be sure to outfit all of the students in TRIO hats, pins, stickers, etc. You may even want to present the Member of Congress with his/her own "TRIO Works" button!
- **Make the Member of Congress feel welcome.** Be sure to have students greet your legislator when he or she arrives on campus and to escort him/her to the day's event site. You may even wish to have the students prepare signs or a banner to welcome your guest to the program. Also, legislators often bring their own staff members to accompany them to such events. Be certain to treat them with the same respect as the legislators themselves—for the staff often play a critical role in whether a legislator supports an issue or not!
- **Have an agenda.** Craft a formal program agenda that prioritizes the legislator's time. Ideally, the Member of Congress should speak first. The program should also include remarks by any institutional officials and program participants.
- **Showcase students and alumni.** Now is the time to let your students and their stories shine! Hand-pick student and alumni representatives to share testimonials about their experience in TRIO. Be sure to limit each student to two to five minutes. If at all possible, allow time for the Member of Congress to speak directly *with* the students and alumni.

AFTER THE VISIT

- **Publicize the event.** Share pictures from the event with COE and on social media using the hashtag #TRIOWORKS. Be sure to "tag" your Member of Congress and to thank him/her for visiting your program.
- **Send a thank you letter.** Be sure to send a follow up letter thanking your Member of Congress for taking the time to visit your program. (You may even want to have students hand-write thank you notes for the legislator.) It would be wonderful to include pictures from the event with your message(s).
- **Share any media coverage with COE.** Let us highlight and celebrate your work! We will be sure to feature your efforts in our Weekly Summary and social media outlets.

- **Keep the relationship going!** After a successful visit, be sure to maintain contact with your Member of Congress and his/her staff. Provide the office with periodic updates on student successes and other events happening at your program. Remember, it's better to make a friend before you need a friend!

Local Events Hosted by Members of Congress

Below you will find a list of information about various events that will be sponsored by Members of Congress during the August recess. If your legislator is not listed, please be sure to contact them and ask where s/he will be appearing locally over the next several weeks. Contact information for all Members of Congress is available via the COE website at http://www.coenet.org/congress_web.shtml#/legislators. A real time list of all local events can be found at the Town Hall Project's website (<https://townhallproject.com>).

Don't forget to wear your TRIO hats, buttons, t-shirts, and other paraphernalia!

COLORADO				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)	Tele-Town Hall Meeting	July 30, 2019	Tele-Town Hall (303) 274-7944	7:00 to 8:00 pm
FLORIDA				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Donna E. Shalala (D-FL)	Town Hall Meeting	July 31, 2019	City of Coral Gables Adult Activity Center 2 Andalusia Ave Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305) 668-2285	06:00pm
GEORGIA				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. A. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)	Tele-Town Hall Meeting	July 25, 2019	https://vekeo.com/repdrewferguson/?fbclid=IwAR1rKABa-C2i6O446Tm0nv7sE6ikprmXWjhb8f5C6huq-sPHTOMUbY0ul50# (Register and you will be called)	6:00 PM EDT
ILLINOIS				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL)	Town Hall Meeting	July 13, 2019	Lake Bluff Village Hall 40 E Center Ave Lake Bluff, IL 60044	10:00-11:00am
KANSAS				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time

Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Leisure Years Center 422 N. Topeka Ave Ness City, KS 67560	4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Melven O Kuder Senior Center 410 Broadway Ave Tribune, KS 67879	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM MDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Wichita County Business Care Center 102 W. Broadway St Leoti, KS 67861	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Bryan Conference Center 416 S. Main St Scott City, KS 67871	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Lane County Courthouse 144 Lane St Dighton, KS 67839	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 5, 2019	Golden Belt Telephone 103 Lincoln St Rush Center, KS 67575	9 AM - 10 AM CDT
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)	Town Hall Meeting	July 6, 2019	Larned City Hall 417 Broadway Larned, KS 67550	8 AM - 9 AM CDT

NORTH DAKOTA

Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	What's On Your Mind - RADIO	July 3, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Rick Jensen - RADIO	July 4, 2019	Radio	10:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Jarrold Thomas Show - RADIO	July 4, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 10:30 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	What's On Your Mind - RADIO	July 10, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Jarrold Thomas Show - RADIO	July 11, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 10:30 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Rick Jensen - RADIO	July 11, 2019	Radio	10:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	What's On Your Mind - RADIO	July 17, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Rick Jensen - RADIO	July 18, 2019	Radio	10:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Jarrold Thomas Show - RADIO	July 18, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 10:30 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	What's On Your Mind - RADIO	July 24, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Rick Jensen - RADIO	July 25, 2019	Radio	10:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT
Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	Jarrold Thomas Show - RADIO	July 25, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 10:30 a.m. CT

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	What's On Your Mind - RADIO	July 31, 2019	Radio	10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT
OREGON				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Deschutes County Fairgrounds Middle Sister Room 3800 SW Airport Way Redmond, OR 97756	8:00 a.m. PT
Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Culver Fire Station 200 1st Ave Culver, OR 97734	11:00 a.m. PT
Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Port of Cascade Locks Marine Park Pavilion Building 395 Portage Rd Cascade Locks, OR 97014	4:00 p.m. PT
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Town Hall Meeting	July 6, 2019	Sherman County Courthouse County Court Room 500 Court St Moro, OR 97039	10:30 AM PST
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	Town Hall Meeting	July 6, 2019	SAGE Center, Theater 101 Olson Rd Boardman, OR 97818	2:30 PM PST
TEXAS				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Fisher County Courthouse 112 N Concho St Roby, TX 79543	9:30 AM
Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)	Town Hall Meeting	July 3, 2019	Anson Public Library 1137 12th St Anson, TX 79501	11:00 AM
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)	Across the Aisles	July 20, 2019	Kroger Grocery Store 6055 N. Fry Rd Katy, TX 77449	1:00-2:00 PM
VIRGINIA				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)	Town Hall Meeting	July 30, 2019	Culpeper County High School 14240 Achievement Dr Culpeper, VA 22701	6:00-7:00 pm
WISCONSIN				
Member	Event	Date	Location	Time

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)	Town Hall Meeting	July 8, 2019	Watertown Municipal Building 106 Jones St Watertown, WI 53094	7:00PM
Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)	Town Hall Meeting	July 14, 2019	Menomonee Falls Village Hall W156N8480 Pilgrim Road Menomonee Falls, WI 53051	7:00PM
Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)	Town Hall Meeting	July 21, 2019	Slinger Village Hall 300 Slinger Rd Slinger, WI 53086	7:00PM

SAMPLE MEETING REQUEST LETTER
DO NOT SEND ON INSTITUTIONAL LETTERHEAD

[DATE]

The Honorable [SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE NAME]

U.S. [SENATE] or [HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES]

[ADDRESS]

Attn: [SCHEDULER NAME]

Dear [SCHEDULER NAME]:

My name is [NAME] and I am the [TITLE] for the [TRIO PROGRAM] at [INSTITUTION]. Over the years we have had a number of students come through our program and go on to earn college degrees. I would very much like to meet with [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE NAME] at [his/her] office on [DATE] and also bring along [STUDENTS/ALUMNI/TRIO SUPPORTERS] to discuss the impact of this program in their lives. I expect to bring about [NUMBER] individuals with me to the meeting.

I would appreciate your feedback to let me know if [SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE NAME] and/or a member of [his/her] staff would be able to meet with us during the requested time or any other time that is convenient. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

Examples of TRIO Advocacy from Across the Community

Specific examples of TRIO students and staff making the most out of everyday opportunities to promote TRIO!

SPOTLIGHT: IDAHO

COE Board Member Joshua Engler invited his new Congressman, Representative Russ Fulcher (R-ID-1), to tour his TRIO Upward Bound program at Caldwell High School. The students shared their experiences with the freshman Member of Congress and introduced him to TRIO. After the visit, Representative Fulcher shared the photo below on his official social media page. The caption read:

“Meeting with TRIO Upward Bound high school students at Caldwell High School. Upward Bound is a wonderful program that provides education and support to prepare low income high school students for college and other opportunities.”



COE Board Member and Boise State University Upward Bound Education Specialist Joshua Engler with freshman Congressman Russ Fulcher (R-ID-1) and students from the Upward Bound program at Caldwell High School.

SPOTLIGHT: NEW HAMPSHIRE



During primary season, presidential candidates always make their way to New Hampshire. Patti May, Director of Student Support Services at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire always tries to attend such gatherings to represent TRIO. Most recently, she had an encounter with Democratic hopeful, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey. *“He knew about TRIO and thanked us for all the work we do. I gave him a hug, as he so skillfully incorporated into our selfie, and included the Invitation Letter to join the TRIO Caucus. Hopefully, we’ll get him on board!”*

Democratic Presidential Candidate, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, and Patti May, Director of Student Support Services at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

SPOTLIGHT: OHIO

Each year, about 10-15 students from Kent State University participate in an “Alternative Spring Break Trip” where they conduct community service projects in a local community (usually out-of-state) and immerse themselves within the community that week. This year, the Kent State students traveled to South Bend, IN and had two unexpected surprises. On one of their volunteer days they were working with a gentleman from a local community organization. That day, the gentleman’s father paid them a visit and came to realize they were TRIO students. When they responded that they were TRIO SSS, he immediately began talking about his experience as a Past-President of EOA (formerly MAEOPP) and it turns out he was the first Latino-American appointed Chancellor of one of Indiana’s Ivy Tech regions in the history of the state! The students loved connecting with him and it was a wonderful coincidence that they were in the same place at the same time.



Kent State SSS students meet 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate “Mayor Pete” Buttigieg at a Café in South Bend, IN during their service project lunch break.

On another day of their trip, there was another surprise coincidence. While taking a break from their community service projects, they stopped to have lunch at a local café. While they were having lunch, “Mayor Pete” Buttigieg (2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate) happened to stop by. He interacted with the students, took photos, and helped create a lasting memory for the students who can now say they’ve officially met a Presidential Candidate!

These are just a handful of the examples of advocacy happening across the country! Please be sure to keep the Government Relations team informed of your efforts by contacting Kimberly Jones (Kimberly.jones@coenet.org) or Stephanie Salvador (Stephanie.salvador@coenet.org) by e-mail or phone (202.347.7430).

NOTE: The Council for Opportunity in Education is a non-profit, non-partisan organization and, as such, does not endorse any candidates or political parties. The piece above is for informational purposes only and should not be construed otherwise.