

## 2019 Year in Review

### \$19.65 GIVING CAMPAIGN

In Honor of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
and  
National TRIO Day



**February 2019** – To commemorate the milestones of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) and to honor National TRIO Day, 2018–2019 COE Board Chair Kristian Wiles and the Resource Development Committee created the \$19.65 Giving Campaign – a week of giving to celebrate the success of Federal TRIO programs.



**March 2019** – During COE's Annual Policy Seminar, several hundred TRIO educators and alumni gathered to advocate for increased funding and to voice concerns relating to the upcoming HEA reauthorization. The 2019 Policy Seminar included remarks by Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12) as well as an HEA reauthorization staffer panel featuring representatives from the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Prior to the Policy Seminar, COE also hosted the TRIO Alumni Leadership Forum, National College Opportunity Programs Leadership Summit, and Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education.



**April 2019** – The Teaching Through Technology (T<sup>3</sup>) Alliance, a hands-on curriculum designed through a collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), and TRIO college access programs across the country, was featured in the publication *Getting Smart*. The goal of the T<sup>3</sup> Alliance is to increase students' STEM identity and prepare them for successful STEM career trajectories. The article may be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/T3GettingSmart>.



**May 2019** – The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education (Pell Institute) and the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy at the University of Pennsylvania (PennAHEAD) released *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States — 2019 Historical Trend Report* on May 23, 2019 at the National Press Club. The 2019 report is the fifth in a yearly series that shows persisting inequity in higher education opportunity based on family income, race/ethnicity, parent education, and geographic location. The 2019 release was particularly notable as it featured TRIO students who shared personal stories that illuminated the data surrounding challenges related to stratification, financial aid, and degree attainment.



**May 2019** – On May 9, 2019, then-COE Board Chair-Elect Kyle Ethelbah, Director of TRIO Programs at the University of Utah, testified before the House Subcommittee on Higher and Education and Workforce Development at a hearing entitled “The Cost of Non-Completion: Improving Student Outcomes in Higher Education.” In his testimony, Mr. Ethelbah shared his own experience as both a TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO Student Support Services student and the transformative power of education in his own life. During the hearing, several Members of the Subcommittee positively referenced their own experiences meeting TRIO students in their Districts.



**June 2019** – The Pell Institute hosted the Student Financial Aid Research Network (SFARN) Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from June 6-7, 2019. The SFARN Conference is the prime venue for leading financial aid researchers to network, seek input, and share expertise with colleagues from colleges and universities, state and federal agencies, membership associations, and other non-profit organizations. There were over 70 participants in attendance.



**June 2019** – COE and its partners were awarded a \$1.2 million, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to implement a project entitled iStronG (Inclusive, Strong and Green), a student-centered systems thinking, place-based and technology driven curriculum. The iStronG pilot curriculum kicked off in June in the form of a five-week summer course and attracted over 175 students from TRIO Upward Bound pilot sites at the University of Massachusetts Boston; University of Kansas; Family Centered Educational Agency in Chicago; and the University of Georgia. Following three cycles of implementation, testing and improvement, the iStronG Curriculum will be made available to more than 1,000 TRIO Upward Bound projects nationwide.



**June 2019** – COE brought nearly 200 Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math/Science students to Washington, DC to participate in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) at Georgetown University. While in DC, the students attended workshops on diversity and public speaking and participated in a Mock Congress. The students also visited the offices of their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. A highlight of the event was the closing dinner, which took place on a cruise around the Potomac River. That same evening, the winners of the Mock Congress were awarded laptop computers and six months of free internet service from event sponsor Internet Essentials by Comcast.



**July 2019** – For the 20th year, COE sponsored the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program. The short-term study abroad opportunity took place this summer in The Hague, Netherlands with 19 TRIO college students and two TRIO professionals, who served as group leaders. The group studied courses related to the UN Millennium Goals at The Hague University of Applied Sciences and took part in site visits, lectures, and other activities sponsored by COE partner ECHO Center for Diversity Policy. Five of the 19 students won federal Gilman Scholarships to support their participation. To date, more than 400 TRIO college students have studied abroad through COE.



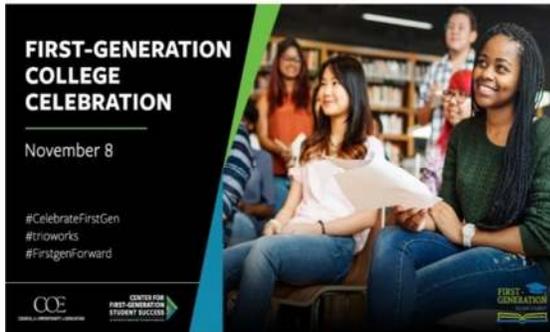
**September 2019** – COE hosted its Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois from September 8-11, 2019. More than 1,800 college access and success professionals, alumni, and supporters gathered to engage in thought-provoking workshops, inspiring plenary sessions, and heart-warming celebrations. During the conference, COE hosted an alumni reception, which drew more than 100 TRIO alumni. Other conference highlights included remarks by *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow and U.S. Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14); the Educational Opportunity Dinner, which honored our 2019 National TRIO Achievers; and a panel featuring Dan Porterfield, President and CEO of the Aspen Institute; Asahi Pompey, Global Head of Corporate Engagement and President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation; and Rebecca Arbogast, Senior Vice President for Global Public Policy at Comcast discussing the cultural narratives and corporate responsibility around “workforce preparation.”



**October 2019** – COE hosted its third annual Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals at Yale University in New Haven, CT. From October 6-9, 2019, approximately 45 upcoming leaders of state and regional educational opportunity chapters engaged in guided, in-depth discussions on topics such as institutional transformation, executive presence, and team building. During the Institute, participants had the opportunity to interact with both the University President and the Dean of Admissions as well as other campus officials, who illustrated the various financial and non-financial offerings the University provides to support low-income and first-generation students.



**October 2019** – A COE delegation, including COE President Maureen Hoyler and COE President Emeritus Arnold Mitchem, and 2019-2020 Board Chair Kyle Ethelbah as well as immediate past Board Chair Kristian Wiles and other board members, traveled to Ghent, Belgium for the 28th Annual Conference of the European Access Network. The COE group of 18 continued to discuss issues of access and success in an international context in meetings sponsored by partners in The Hague and Berlin.



**November 2019** – COE, in partnership with NASPA’s Center for First-generation Student Success (the Center), hosted the third annual First-Generation College Celebration on November 8, 2019. College campuses around the nation held rallies, panel discussions, listening sessions, and more in recognition of their first-generation students. Several institutions expanded the celebration to an entire week’s worth of activities. This year, for the first time, COE, the Center, and the Suder Foundation hosted a grant competition that drew applications from nearly 200 institutions in search of funds to help supplement their campus celebrations. Ultimately, 24 institutions were awarded a total of \$10,000 to support their activities.



**December 2019** – On December 5, 2019, COE co-hosted the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Student Aid Alliance on Capitol Hill. COE President Maureen Hoyer co-chaired the program and COE President Emeritus Arnold Mitchem offered reflections on the early days of the organization. Congressional speakers included long-time TRIO Champion Tom Cole (R-OK-4), who serves as the Ranking Member of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and Representative Marc Veasey (D-TX-33). With 85 member associations, the Student Aid Alliance was formed to ensure that the federal government lives up to the promises of the Higher Education Act of 1965. COE was an original co-founding member of the Alliance and remains a leading partner in the organization.



**December 2019** – In mid-December, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees finalized the spending packages for FY 2020. In this funding legislation, the Federal TRIO Programs received a \$30 million (or 3%) funding increase for a total appropriation of \$1.09 billion. The legislation also included report language directing the Department of Education to (1) provide increases in the continuation awards, (2) increase the number and size of grants awarded in the FY20 TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant competition and (3) take action to ensure that the results of the SSS grant competition are awarded as early as possible before the next academic year.

*The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host Federal TRIO Programs that help more than 800,000 low-income students and students with disabilities each year receive college access and retention services.*

*COE provides its membership services to institutions and organizations hosting college access and success programs, particularly the federal TRIO programs. TRIO programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program) help students to overcome economic, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. TRIO services include: assistance in choosing a college and tutoring; personal, financial, and career counseling; assistance in applying to college; workplace and college visits; special instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic assistance in high school or assistance to reenter high school or college.*