A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TRIO Works!

By Maureen Hoyler, President, COE

(Jul. 16, 2021) We're on the way! Yesterday the House Committee on Appropriations voted out the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations bill, which includes money for education programs. It included a $200.8 million increase in TRIO, the largest in history and the down payment to double TRIO funding over five years. This means more McNair, more Upward Bound, more Veterans Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math/Science programs in the 2022-23 academic year. It could also mean more Educational Opportunity Centers and Talent Search programs as early as February 2022. The bill will go to the full House for a vote the week of July 26, 2021. In the coming months, the Senate will develop its bill for Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (L-HHS-ED) that includes TRIO funding. Here are the key members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for L-HHS-ED that will decide whether TRIO receives a $200.8 million increase in its bill as well. Exactly when that bill is brought up for a vote in Subcommittee is not yet clear: hopefully in September. We're asking TRIO students, staff, and alumni from those states to make sure these Senators know that TRIO works! Email your Senators’ education staff members here and ask them to include the $200.8 million increase for TRIO in the upcoming Senate spending bill.
INTERNATIONAL ACCESS

Keith Sherin Global Leaders 2021
By Holly Hexter, COE

International exchange and global competence remain a vital part of all students' education and is perhaps more essential than ever, speakers addressing the first Keith Sherin Global Leaders virtual program said earlier this month. Dawn Michele Whitehead, vice president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, said global learning opportunities must be available to all students to make them competitive in a globalized workforce.

Whitehead, Yang, and others spoke during the program, which COE sponsored with partners ECHO Center for Diversity Policy and The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Taking part were TRIO alumni, TRIO professionals, and TRIO college students, as well as faculty and administrators from Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Croatia, and Germany.

COE's Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program provides study abroad and Washington, D.C. Congressional internship opportunities for TRIO college leaders. It is named for former General Electric Chief Operating Officer Keith Sherin, a generous supporter of the program. To date, about 400 TRIO students have participated in the program.

Facilitators stressed that experiential learning—having access to international experiences—is an essential part of acquiring global competence.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

National Student Leadership Congress 2021

In June, over 200 TRIO pre-college students participated in COE’s virtual 32nd annual National Student Leadership Congress. Students participated in workshops, alumni panels and took virtual tours of Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and the Kennedy Center. Today, state team leaders chaperoned participants during their virtual Hill meetings with Members of Congress and students were connected to over a dozen selective colleges during our virtual college fair.

COE thanks the counselors, team leaders, and students who participated in its virtual mock Congress and helped make it a resounding success! Check out some of the tweets from the Congressional meetings at #NSLC2021.

Counselors and student participants pose on Zoom during this year’s virtual program.

Congresswoman Susie Lee’s Legislative Director Ryan Shay met with NSLC students.

Senator Mitt Romney and staff hosted a virtual Hill visit.
Virgil Rambeau is a first-generation graduate. He was raised in a low-income, single-parent household, which experienced substance abuse and mental health struggles. As a youth, he never had any dreams of becoming anything when he grew up. After dropping out of college, Virgil restarted his academic journey through TRIO’s Educational Opportunity Center in Las Vegas in 2009. It was here that he met Kyle Ethelbah, who at that time was the Director of University of Nevada, Las Vegas’ (UNLV) Adult Educational Services (AES) program.

Virgil’s academic journey started with one goal, which was to complete what he had started years ago at the community college level. In 2013, he graduated with a Social and Behavioral Sciences Associate in Arts from Sierra College, in Rocklin, California. In 2016, he graduated from the California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Social Work, and a minor in Native American Studies. In 2019, he graduated from Sac State with a Master of Social Work, at the age of 43.

Today, he is employed as an Associate Clinical Social Worker (ACSW) at the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) where he provides mental health services to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth, between the ages of 10-24, and their families. Hear Virgil tell his full story by clicking the link below.

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#EQUITYINDICATORS2021

New Equity Indicators Report Reveals Systemic Barriers To College Access And Success For Low-Income And Non-Traditional Students
EFFECTIVE PRACTICES
Promoting Accessible Employment and Workforce Opportunities for First-gen Students
By Diane Schorr, Center for First-generation Student Success

How can administrators, staff, faculty, or students advocate for first-generation students in employment- and workforce-related matters?

First-generation students work more hours than their continuing-generation peers, with a greater percentage employed in off-campus positions that pay lower wages (RTI International, 2019). Recognizing the power of all work experiences is a starting point in highlighting the value first-generation students bring to the labor market. They are developing skills even if their work experiences differ from internships, fellowships, or other resume-enhancing experiences traditionally associated with college students. Advocacy efforts that benefit first-generation students in workforce-related matters include:

1. Tailoring communications when advertising on-campus employment opportunities.
2. Lobbying career services offices to offer pre-event tours or special hours at career fairs.
3. Joining state or local advocacy efforts to raise wages.
4. Recognizing the value of all work experiences and creating accessible opportunities for first-generation students to showcase their skills can improve their future career opportunities.

APPLY FOR A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY GRANT BY AUGUST 8

These funds are intended to extend your ability to reach more first-generation students, engage more members of the community, launch a new program or event, or to provide additional services surrounding the First-Generation College Celebration.

Application deadline is August 8

ON NOVEMBER 8, AMPLIFY YOUR SUPPORT FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

#CelebrateFirstGen at coenet.org
Georgia TRIO turned the volume up high on the voice of underrepresented Georgians in November and January when it sent two TRIO alumni to Washington. Congresswoman Nikema Williams, an alumna of TRIO Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and McNair Scholars at Talladega State University, won former Congressman John Lewis’s congressional seat, representing Georgia’s 5th district. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock, alum of the Savannah State University Upward Bound program, became the first TRIO alumnus elected to the U.S. Senate and first black senator to represent the state of Georgia.

Both newly elected members assure the TRIO community that they are focused on paying it back and forward by keeping the door open to education for the underserved through TRIO programs.

“What’s more important than making history is making a difference,” Warnock said. “My commitment is informed by my own experience.” He says he graduated through low-interest student loans and Pell Grants and is concerned about younger student generations saddled with debt.” Our children too often have to mortgage their future to have a future,” he said.

Williams, who admits that the interest rate on one of her college loans is higher than the loan amount, shares with Warnock the belief that investing in people is part of investing in our nation’s core infrastructure. “If we don’t have people who are educated and ready to enter the workforce after college, if we don’t address the high cost of education and people don’t have opportunities to get there in the first place, then we failed at building a strong infrastructure in this country.”
40TH ANNIVERSARY

Stories of Impact

“If you are a TRIO professional, you are COE. We have always done advocacy very well, making sure that our different regions had the resources to provide services for our low-income communities. At the turn of the century, when “first-generation” began to emerge as a conversation in higher education, we saw that we could mold the conversation at the national level. Our professionals have the sense of the larger conversation in higher education, associations, and industries. Early on, TRIO really kind of sat in the corner by ourselves. We are now at the table. I wish more people understood that COE is not the oversight organization or dictates what policy is going to be. The reality is COE brings people together to have conversations about current policy, what our voice means to this conversation, and how we can have an impact. If you are a TRIO professional, you really are COE because COE seeks your input, seeks your voice, and seeks the voices of your students.”

—Kyle Ethelbah, past COE board chair and director of Federal TRIO programs at the University of Utah

“COE has a profound legacy, helping thousands of young people from underserved areas who had no exposure to college and are the future of our country. I shudder to think what would have happened if not for the vision that Arnold Mitchem had many years ago to start this organization, do the necessary outreach, the training, the advocacy for funds, and contacting federal representatives. My first exposure to COE was my freshman term in Congress. Dr. Mitchem approached me about the incredible opportunity that I suddenly had as a member of the appropriations committee that funded the Education Department, to help pay it forward. We walked for many years together to increase the funds for TRIO, and we did it in a bipartisan way. COE makes a difference in so many ways: through training, using alumni to expand their network, extending themselves from campuses to their elected officials and the staff in those offices. When elected officials learn about TRIO through COE, then they too can carry it forward for the federal financial resources TRIO needs.”

—Henry Bonilla, former Member of Congress and TRIO alumnus
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

MasteryPrep Expands COE Partnership as Preferred National SAT Prep Provider

By Tommy Santora, MasteryPrep

MasteryPrep continues to partner with the Council for Opportunity in Education to offer MasteryPrep’s award-winning programs to high school students nationwide, expanding its COE Partnership as the Preferred National SAT Provider. MasteryPrep has been the COE Preferred National ACT Provider since 2017. This new partnership expands college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico.

“Our company was founded on the principle that every student can graduate high school with a college-ready ACT or SAT score, and every student deserves access to that opportunity. Our continued partnership with the COE, now as the Preferred National SAT Prep Provider, will only strengthen our outreach and widen our scope to support TRIO programs and the opportunities they afford for low-income, first-generation students,” said Craig Gehring, CEO of MasteryPrep.

“We have developed the only ACT and SAT prep curricula designed from the ground up to help schools boost their students’ scores, at no cost to the students or their families. Instead of teaching to the test, we help students develop core academic skills.”

MasteryPrep will continue to provide COE members with significantly discounted product packages. Additionally, MasteryPrep has pledged a portion of all sales to benefit COE, including funding of MasteryPrep’s COE Policy Scholarships, and offering growth opportunities for TRIO professionals to attend the annual Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Check out these resources from MasteryPrep:
- Why College?
- Motivation and the ACT: Turn I Cannot Do It to I Can Do It
- What Colleges Are Looking for: The Big Five

SEPT 12-15 | ATLANTA | ATTEND IN PERSON OR ONLINE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

REGISTER TODAY AT COENET.ORG