



HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR TRIO ALUMNI

Planning activities to engage

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COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

Learn more at trioalumni.org

TRIO ALUMNI

By providing academic, financial, social, and cultural support, TRIO programs have allowed over 5 million low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities to enter and graduate from college. To help create a stronger network of TRIO alumni, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) created this toolkit to help TRIO programs get started in their efforts to organize groups of alumni.

WHAT IS ENGAGEMENT?

- Intentional involvement in a specific activity, initiative, or campaign
- Group or member participation
- Consistent responsiveness

Contact

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BENEFITS OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

- Alumni stories can impact policy
- Increases the visibility of TRIO
- Powerful ambassadors in civic and business
- Mentors for current TRIO students
- More advocates for first-generation students

A TRIO alumnus is anyone who has participated in a TRIO program: Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, and Educational Opportunity Centers.

This TRIO Alumni Toolkit provides TRIO programs with helpful information as they begin to engage their alumni. Learn about outreach, communication strategies, leadership development, and activities that you can implement in your alumni engagement program.

OUTREACH

Enlist the help of TRIO staff that have been working in the program for a while.

Important information to capture:

- Name
- Contact information (address, telephone, email)
- TRIO program
- Host institution or community agency
- Organization and job title
- Degrees earned
- Social media handles

How to find TRIO alumni

- Social media
- Institutional alumni office
- Current and former TRIO professionals

National TRIO Alumni Association on Social Media

@thentaa



@thentaa



NTAA



National TRIO
Alumni



COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

Ways TRIO programs can engage alumni

Forms of communications range from social media, quarterly newsletters, calls to action, and listserves through COE.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Create a TRIO alumni list and share COE's calls to action. Create an alumni list and share COE's calls to action. Rally TRIO alumni to show support for their TRIO program.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share the latest alumni events and announcements, create a TRIO alumni group on Facebook and identify an ambassador to lead the group. Share NTAA updates with the group.

ONLINE GROUPS

Using NTAA, create an online group based on region, state, or program. Keep updated contact information on alumni and share exclusive information. Share information immediately and allow alumni to network via the online group.

NEWSLETTERS AND BLOGS

Create a quarterly alumni newsletter to share program updates with alumni. Capture alumni stories and share them with advocates in the community.

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS



TRIO alumni pose for a picture during the annual alumni reception at COE's annual conference in 2019.

SPEED NETWORKING

Using the framework for "Speed Dating," arrange a room with high-top tables and have alumni rotate every three minutes. Facilitate the conversation and include TRIO as a focal point.

DINE WITH TRIO ALUMNI

Invite alumni to attend regional and state meal functions. (i.e. National TRIO Achievers Educational Opportunity Dinner, Walter O. Mason Awards Luncheon, or President's Reception.)

HAPPY HOUR

Select a local bar or restaurant and host a happy hour for TRIO alumni, local TRIO directors, and staff.



TRIO alumni pose for a picture during a special ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of Upward Bound in 2014.

ALUMNI PANEL

Invite TRIO alumni to serve as panelists or workshop presenters during regional and state conferences. TRIO alumni make great career speakers and mentors for current TRIO students.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP

Incorporate a TRIO alumni engagement committee or task force in regional and state associations. Additionally, create a leadership role for TRIO alumni to serve on regional and state boards.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Create opportunities for alumni to serve and be recognized at various levels in their career: Recent High School Graduate, Recent College Graduate, Young Professional, Distinguished Professional Leaders.

TRIO DAY

Make a concerted effort to include TRIO alumni in National TRIO Day events. Possible activities include TRIO Day of Service, rallies at your state capitols, and letter writing campaigns.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Mentorship

TRIO alumni make great mentors. Including alumni in your mentorship program will not only benefit your students but provide alumni with a volunteer experience.

Industry Expertise

With over 5 million TRIO graduates, notable alumni who are experts in their industries. Alumni make great speakers for graduations, conferences and can share knowledge with students.

FROM THE COUNCIL FOR OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION

NATIONAL TRIO ALUMNI LEADERSHIP FORUM

Professional development sessions train alumni on civic engagement and provide networking opportunities.

POLICY SEMINAR, ADVOCACY ON THE HILL

Speaking opportunities inform Members of Congress about the importance of TRIO

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Speaking opportunities engage first-generation/low-income pre-college youth.

COE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

COE recognizes outstanding alumni, TRIO Achievers, during its Educational Opportunity Dinner at the conference, and alumni receptions provide opportunities for peer networking in the host city.