



POLICY SEMINAR 2025

TRIO HAS NEVER
FACED A LARGER
CHALLENGE

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

Policy Seminar 2025 • Washington, D.C. • Sunday through Wednesday, March 16-19, 2025 • This year, the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) annual Policy Seminar includes three events: the Leadership Summit, the Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education, and the Legislative Conference. **We need to defend TRIO!**



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

www.coenet.org

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As the political landscape shifts dramatically, TRIO programs and the futures of the students they serve are under unprecedented threat. With the recent election, we are facing a critical turning point. The new administration has openly targeted higher education policies that support diversity, affordability, and access—core values that TRIO programs have championed for over 60 years. We cannot afford to be passive. Now, more than ever, it's essential for every TRIO advocate to protect our programs from harmful policies that could dismantle decades of progress. During the 2025 Policy Seminar, you'll have the chance to join forces with TRIO alumni, professionals, and advocates nationwide. This event includes our **Leadership Summit, Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education, and Legislative Conference**—a powerful lineup designed to prepare you to advocate fiercely for TRIO.

Leadership Summit • Sunday, March 16, 2025

TRIO currently faces challenges from numerous fronts. Today's leadership needs to be poised and ready to take the necessary action to address these challenges. Whether you are new to TRIO or a seasoned professional, this day of engagement will be solutions-focused, addressing issues that TRIO practitioners, programs, and state chapters face. With 60 years of history to draw from and innovative leaders at the helm, we invite you to join this change-making space to contribute to the future of TRIO programs, campus impact, state advocacy, and national success. If you have questions about the Leadership Summit, please contact **Jen Rudolph** at jennifer.rudolph@coenet.org.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 10:00–11:30 a.m.: Welcome and Opening Plenary: Challenge Accepted
- 11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Break-out Sessions

- 12:30–1:45 p.m.: Brunch Buffet and Networking
- 2:00–3:00 p.m.: Part I: Solutions for Today's TRIO Challenges
- 3:00–3:15 p.m.: Break
- 3:15–4:00 p.m.: Part II: Solutions for Today's TRIO Challenges
- 4:15–5:00 p.m.: Closing Plenary: The Time for Action is Now

Contact **Angelica Vialpando** at angelica.vialpando@coenet.org or **Jen Rudolph** at jennifer.rudolph@coenet.org if you have any questions.

Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education • Monday, March 17, 2025

In this moment of urgent need, let us unite to defend the future of TRIO. Your voice in Washington matters. We urge you to join us and ensure that TRIO remains a lifeline for those who need it most. This seminar provides information about the following:

- U.S. Department of Educational fiscal and programmatic policies and reporting requirements
- The latest information on TRIO regulations and
- The outlook for upcoming TRIO grant competitions

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 9:00–10:00 a.m.: Opening Plenary
- 10:15–11:30 a.m.: Break-out Sessions with U.S. Department of Education Program Officers
- 11:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m.: Luncheon Featuring Remarks from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Student Service Senior Director **Gaby Watts** (Invited)
- 2:15–3:30 p.m.: Break-out Sessions with U.S. Department of Education Program Officers (continued)
- 3:45–5:00 p.m.: Professional Development Sessions to Assist Your Programs

For questions about the Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education, please contact **Angelica Vialpando** at angelica.vialpando@coenet.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Neither the Leadership Summit nor the Seminar on Relations with the Department of Education will involve lobbying activities. They are allowable costs on a federal award; however, certain aspects of the Legislative Conference will involve such activity. Therefore, federal grantees must allocate expenses for these activities appropriately and consistently with their institutional policies.

Legislative Conference • Monday through Wednesday, March 17-19, 2025

COE uniquely advocates for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities in policy meetings. On January 3, 2025, the 119th Congress begins, bringing many new Members of Congress. It's crucial for the TRIO community to "walk the Hill" to educate Congress on the history and impact of Federal TRIO Programs. Conference participants will receive advocacy training to prepare for these Congressional visits.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All congressional meetings will be held in person on Capitol Hill. If you have any questions, please contact **Diane Shust** at diane.shust@coenet.org or **Owen Toomey** at owen.toomey@coenet.org.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, March 17, 2025

- 2:00–8:00 p.m.: Registration
- 6:30–7:30 p.m.: Opening Session
- 7:45–8:30 p.m.: Orientation for Hill Team Leaders

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

- 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: Registration
- 9:00–10:00 a.m.: Congressional Staff Panel
- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Advocacy Skills Development (Interactive)
- 12:00–2:00 p.m.: Lunch on Your Own

- 2:00–3:00 p.m.: Member of Congress Address
- 3:00–4:00 p.m.: Capitol Hill Talking Points Overview
- 4:00–4:15 p.m.: Break
- 4:15–5:30 p.m.: State Team Meetings

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

- 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.: Congressional Visits
- 6:30–7:15 p.m.: Closing Plenary

Bring your TRIO alumni to the Legislative Conference! Alumni participation at this event will give graduates the skills they need to be TRIO advocates at the local, state, and national levels.

COE staff are delighted to help TRIO directors provide fulfilling policy experiences in Washington for their students on school breaks. Students should *not* miss school to attend the Legislative Conference.

Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

[Make hotel reservations here](#) via [hyatt.com](https://www.hyatt.com) or by calling (202) 737-1234 and using the group code **G-COE5**.

- Single/Double: \$369 + taxes and fees, per night.

The cut-off date is **Thursday, February 20, 2025**, or when the room block is full—whichever comes first.

Policy Seminar Registration Instructions and Deadlines

For individuals participating in Policy Seminar, **online registration at coenet.org is strongly encouraged**. Online registrants will receive an immediate receipt.

All registrations not completed online must include a credit card payment, check, or purchase order to be accepted.

The registration fees include all conference sessions and materials. The cost for the Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education provides coffee and rolls in the morning, plus a luncheon. The price for the Leadership Summit includes brunch.

Special Discounts

Newcomer Discount: If you attended last year's Legislative Conference and plan to bring a newcomer this year, **the newcomer can register for half their regular registration rate** (member or non-member). These registration forms must be submitted by email at the same time. **There is no online registration option for this special offer.**

Government Relations/Institutional Representative: If you bring a member of your institution's Government Relations staff or campus institutional leadership, their registration for the **Legislative Conference** is

also half of their regular registration price. This does not include the Seminar with the Department of Education. Registration for this special discount must be submitted by email—**there is no online registration for this special offer.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: These half-price discounts apply to the Legislative Conference. For instance, if you register for both the Legislative Conference and the Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education, **the half-price discount will apply only to the Legislative Conference portion.**

Refund Policy

Registration fees paid in advance are refundable (less a \$250 processing fee). To request a refund, **you must email notice of your registration cancellation to finance@coenet.org on or before Friday, February 28, 2025**. COE will process refunds *after* the seminar ends.

Important Dates

Deadline for Early Registration | **Monday, February 3, 2025**
Deadline for Hotel Room Block | **Thursday, February 20, 2025** (or at capacity)
Leadership Summit | **Sunday, March 16, 2025**
Seminar on Relations with the Education Department | **Monday, March 17, 2025**
Legislative Conference | **Monday through Wednesday, March 17-19, 2025**



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

The time for action is now.

March 16-19, 2025 • #COEPS2025

Policy Seminar Registration Form

Early Bird Registration

Postmarked on or *before* **February 3, 2025**

FOR ALL REGISTRANTS

How many Seminars have you attended? _____
____ Check here if you currently work for a Federal TRIO Program.
____ Check here if you are an alumnus of a Federal TRIO Program.
____ Check here if you are a current/former participant in COE's Executive Leadership Institute.
____ Check here if you have special needs, food allergies, require disability accommodation, or vegan, vegetarian, or gluten-free meals. (COE will contact you.)

Policy Seminar: ED + Leg. Conf.

____ \$655 Members ____ \$805 Non-Members
____ +\$220 Leadership Summit

Policy Seminar: Legislative Conf. ONLY

____ \$445 Members & Non-Members
____ +\$220 Leadership Summit

Policy Seminar: Relations with ED ONLY

____ \$510 Members ____ \$730 Non-Members
____ +\$220 Leadership Summit

Retiree Rate*

____ \$200 Policy Seminar: Legislative Conf. ONLY *Register by form only.

Contact Information

FOR TRIO PROFESSIONALS

Name: _____ Project Affiliation: _____

Title: _____ Institution: _____

Institution's Mailing Address (No P.O. boxes, please)

Street Address Line 1: _____

Street Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address for Congressional district lookup. (No P.O. boxes, please)

Street Address Line 1: _____

Street Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Personal Phone: _____ Personal E-mail: _____

FOR TRIO ALUMNI NOT EMPLOYED BY TRIO

Name: _____ E-mail (work): _____

TRIO Project and Institution Graduated From: _____

Current Employer: _____ Job Title: _____

Work Address Line 1: _____

Work Address Line 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Personal E-mail: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Charge my ____ American Express, ____ Master Card, ____ Visa, or ____ Discover card (Please check one).

Name on Card: _____

Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Submission Instructions: To register, email this completed form to finance@coenet.org.
Save time and register online at coenet.org.

