



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

2025: A Year in Review

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



THIS IS **WHERE WE FIND**
OUR PLACE
OUR PEOPLE
OUR FUTURE



Contents

A Message from the President	03
Advocacy	04
Professional Development	06
Student Opportunities	09
Alumni Engagement	12
Research	14
Membership Services	17
Acknowledgments	18
About the Federal TRIO Programs	20



A Message from the President



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my honor to share with you COE's 2025 Year in Review, a reflection of a year defined by extraordinary resolve, unwavering advocacy, and the profound strength of the TRIO community. In a moment when federal support for college access and success was called into question, you—our practitioners, students, alumni, and partners—rose to meet the challenge with unity and purpose.

Your advocacy helped safeguard TRIO funding. Your leadership equipped thousands of professionals with the tools to serve students more effectively. Your programs opened doors to life-changing opportunities for learners across the country and around the world. And your commitment ensured that the promise of educational opportunity remained within reach for the students who need it most.

This report highlights the impact we made together—in Congress, on campuses, in communities, and in the lives of the students and families we serve. From pioneering new professional development initiatives and expanding pathways for global learning to elevating the voices of TRIO alumni and advancing research through the Pell Institute, 2025 stands as a testament to what our community can achieve when we speak with one voice and stay focused on our mission.

Thank you for your belief in what is possible when opportunity is protected and expanded. As we look ahead to 2026, COE remains steadfast in championing opportunity, strengthening our collective voice, and ensuring that every student—regardless of background—has the support they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Jones

President

Council for Opportunity in Education

Advocacy

This year presented COE with a multitude of challenges and opportunities. COE started the new year advocating for increased funding for Federal TRIO Programs. However, in its FY26 budget request to Congress, the new Trump Administration proposed eliminating funding for all TRIO programs. Its rationale was that TRIO was no longer needed today because students could easily access college, and that colleges and universities, not the Federal Government, should provide these services.



Policy Seminar 2025 participants heard from prior Administration officials about best practices for working with new Administration officials, learned how other education organizations are mobilizing their memberships to work with a new administration, and engaged with former Members of Congress.

Knowing this to be an inaccurate assessment of the current state of college access and success, COE mobilized our members, alumni, parents, students, and supporters to let them know of TRIO's effectiveness.

Over 10,000 TRIO alumni sent letters to every member of the U.S. House and Senate, asking them to reject the Administration's proposal to eliminate TRIO and work to ensure these vital education programs are funded at the highest possible level in FY26. As a result, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee bills sustained TRIO funding at its current level of \$1.2 billion in its FY26 bills. At the time this went to print, Congress had not completed its work on FY26 funding.

In March, over 1,000 TRIO professionals participated in COE's 43rd Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Participants made 417 visits with the offices of 351 Representatives and 86 Senators on Capitol Hill to request that FY26 TRIO funding be sustained at the FY25 level. As a result of these meetings, a bipartisan group of 46 Senators and 210 House Representatives signed the FY26 TRIO Appropriations request letters. In addition to sessions about the appropriations and legislative processes on Capitol Hill, this year's Policy Seminar included a rally in front of the U.S. Capitol to show support for all Federal TRIO programs.



A strong majority of both House and Senate offices expressed their support for TRIO. Pictured here are members of the Louisiana TRIO delegation meeting with a staffer in Rep. Julia Letlow (R-LA-05)'s office.

Legislative Conference attendees participated in over 417 meetings with congressional staff, with additional drop-in meetings to deliver our TRIO documents to offices that were not available for meetings.



Advocacy (cont.)

In September, COE filed litigation on behalf of its members impacted by the Department of Education's unprecedented cancellation of 120 TRIO grants, already funded by the U.S. Congress. On October 28, 21 states and D.C. filed an amicus curiae brief supporting COE's lawsuit against the Department of Education. The brief underscores the "importance of TRIO programs in sustaining an educated workforce and advancing economic growth." COE expects a ruling in this case in late 2025 or early 2026.

Earlier in the year, H.R. 1490, the bipartisan TRIO Access Act, was introduced by Congresswomen Gwen Moore (D-WI-04), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24), and Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15). This legislation would allow TRIO programs to use tax return information already disclosed via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to verify student eligibility for the TRIO collegiate programs, the Student Support Services (SSS), and the Ronald E. McNair post-Baccalaureate Achievement programs. TRIO programs are currently unable to access this tax information due to an unintended error in the law. COE is also working with Senate TRIO Caucus Co-Chair **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)** to change the TRIO law to allow Pell Grant eligibility to serve as a marker for TRIO eligibility.



TRIO advocates conclude their March 2025 Hill Day with a group photo in front of the Capitol, celebrating a powerful day of storytelling, partnership, and policy dialogue on behalf of first-generation and low-income students.

Professional Development

COE delivered a robust year of professional development in 2025, training thousands of TRIO practitioners through national institutes, compliance workshops, leadership intensives, proposal-writing sessions, and innovative partnerships—all designed to strengthen program quality, staff capacity, and student outcomes. Across conferences, grant competitions, and new initiatives, COE equipped professionals with cutting-edge tools, strategic guidance, and collaborative spaces that advanced TRIO’s mission and elevated excellence across the entire college access and success community.

COE kicked off the year with a week of pre-college training. An Innovation Forum and Proposal Writing Workshops for the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Center programs enabled attendees to solidify their understanding of key ideas for operating programs in their new grant cycle.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded COE a Priority 3 Retention and Graduation Strategies Training Grant. Throughout 2025, COE conducted three training sessions delivered through two modalities. The first session, held in January in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was offered in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend both in person and virtually. The second session, conducted in late April, was delivered entirely online, and the third and final session, held in June in Seattle, returned to a hybrid model. More than 300 TRIO professionals participated in these engaging professional development opportunities.

COE hosted three Institute for College Access and Success trainings in 2025, bringing together TRIO practitioners from across the country for transformative professional development experiences. Sessions were held at California State University, Long Beach in March, Inver Hills Community College (Grove Heights, Minn.) in May, and Tufts University (Medford, Mass.) in November. More than 200 TRIO practitioners participated in these two-day, multi-faceted forums designed to meet the needs of both new and seasoned professionals. Each institute equipped participants with practical tools, innovative strategies, and proven techniques to strengthen student engagement and success. Programming included training on TRIO regulations, holistic student support, and opportunities for networking and collaboration.



With generous support from sponsors, COE Institute for College Access and Success participants in Long Beach, Calif., learned new approaches to achieving program objectives while enhancing student and staff engagement. Key focus areas included academic advising, financial aid, TRIO regulations and legislation, and workforce preparation.

Professional Development (cont.)

This year, the U.S. Department of Education awarded nearly a thousand campus-based Student Support Services grants—lifelines that help first-generation, low-income, and disabled students stay in college and graduate. COE worked closely with institutions throughout this highly competitive process, helping them navigate appeals and advocate for fair consideration. Ultimately, federal funding constraints meant that even some programs that earned top scores could not be supported. This reality underscores the urgent need for continued advocacy so that every every student who relies on these services has the opportunity to thrive.

COE hosted more than 1,500 college access and success professionals during its Annual Conference 2025 in Chicago in September. TRIO professionals gathered to learn effective strategies and innovative approaches for supporting their participants, connect with peers, and gain insights into federal and national issues impacting the field. Highlights included the annual Walter O. Mason Jr. Awards luncheon, featuring inspiring remarks from 2025 award

recipients **Barry Lofton**, executive director of the Office of TRIO and GEAR UP Programs at the University of Central Oklahoma; **Sari Byerly**, assistant vice president for student pathways at Weber State University; and **Maria Isabel Rijos**, TRIO Upward Bound director at Kean University. The award is COE's highest honor and recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to educational opportunity programs.

Forty-one TRIO state leaders joined COE at the University of Kansas in October for an intensive four-day Executive Leadership Institute designed to prepare today's TRIO leaders for the challenges of leading organized TRIO. Representing 37 states, participants engaged in high-impact training intended to develop their leadership skills, promote innovative use of AI and technology, and deepen their understanding of how organized TRIO came to be the powerhouse it is today.

In response to the U.S. Department of Education's most recent guidance on constructing budgets for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, COE hosted more than 300 TRIO professionals for two workshops focused on Budget and Program Compliance. The faculty guided attendees through the layers of compliance, considerations, and best practices in building financial plans to



Pictured from left are 2025 Walter O. Mason, Jr. Award Recipients Maria Isabel Rijos, Barry Lofton, and Sari Byerly.



COE's 2025 Annual Conference began with a colorful presentation from the Miracle Center Dance troupe of Chicago.

Professional Development (cont.)



The Executive Leadership Institute provided the University of Kansas the opportunity to showcase its financial and non-financial offerings that support the enrollment, retention, and graduation of the students that these college access and success professionals serve.

ensure their programs remain in good standing and are meeting their objectives by providing high-quality services to participants.

The COE Award for Institutional Effectiveness was established to recognize community colleges that scale TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) for institutional impact by replicating effective TRIO SSS practices for a broader segment of the low-income student population. Of the 39 applications received, three awardees will be identified and receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. COE received

ECMC Foundation funding to support this effort, which, through a nationwide competition, will recognize exemplary institutions and use their experiences to develop models of effective SSS practice adoption. The long-term goal is to increase the number of community colleges that adopt successful SSS practices, resulting in improved persistence and completion rates for these populations.

COE engineered a week of transformational professional development in Boston in November. Through a COE Institute, participants expanded their knowledge through seminars on sustaining compliance and building and sustaining impactful teams, and proposal writing workshops for the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Center Programs, participants across every level of TRIO program competency expanded their knowledge.



Participants in Boston learned practical, research-based strategies to strengthen student success across college and pre-college programs, including holistic advising, financial aid navigation, recruitment, experiential learning, and graduate school preparation.

Student Opportunities

COE expanded student leadership and global learning opportunities in 2025 through programs such as the inaugural TRIO Future Leaders Summit, the Wolanin Congressional Internship, the National Student Leadership Congress, and the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad Program, all of which offered TRIO students hands-on experiences in policy, public service, and international engagement. Additional initiatives—including the Opportunity Matters Book Club and the STEAM Symposium at Universal Orlando—further enriched students' academic, cultural, and career exploration, equipping them with skills, confidence, and networks to thrive.



The highlight for many was Capitol Hill Day, where students met with Members of Congress to share their stories. For Susie Odin of Weatherford College in Texas, it was an emotional culmination of a journey marked by resilience. Once incarcerated and uncertain about her future, Susie found strength in TRIO's mentorship and resources. "They talked me off the ledge—literally and figuratively—when I felt I couldn't keep going," she said. "I wouldn't be here without them."

In April, COE hosted the inaugural TRIO Future Leaders Summit, a national initiative designed to prepare TRIO students for leadership roles in public service, policy, and related fields. Hosted on the campus of American University and supported by TIAA and Princeton University, the Summit convened 30 TRIO college students from across the United States and its territories for five days of intensive training, professional development, and policy engagement. A core component of the Summit involved analyzing real-world case studies and legislative proposals, which students then used to participate in a simulated congressional process.

In the spring, COE continued its commitment to cultivating student leadership and policy engagement through the Thomas R. Wolanin Congressional Internship Program. This prestigious initiative places a TRIO college graduate in a congressional office, offering firsthand experience in federal policymaking and public service. This year's Wolanin Intern, Brianna Mendelson—a TRIO Student Support Services alumna from SUNY Binghamton—brought her passion for educational access to Capitol Hill. During her internship with the Ways & Means Committee, Brianna attended congressional hearings, drafted policy memos,



Reflecting on her experience, Brianna Mendelson, pictured here with Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA-1), shared: "The Wolanin Internship deepened my understanding of how policy shapes people's lives and solidified my commitment to advocacy. I now hope to build a career that bridges healthcare and education policy, ensuring access and opportunity remain central to both."

Student Opportunities (cont.)



National Student Leadership Congress participants from Maine introduce themselves to a staffer in the office of Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).

and collaborated with advocates working to write the rules for how the federal government raises money and funds key programs. These experiences sharpened her research, communication, data analysis, and critical thinking skills—tools she now carries into medical school as she prepares for a career in health policy and public health reform.

In June, COE hosted its 36th National Student Leadership Congress at American University in Washington, D.C., welcoming 100 TRIO pre-college students from across the United States and its territories. Over five days, these high-achieving students participated

in intensive leadership development, civic education, and college immersion experiences. The program's centerpiece—a Mock Congress—challenged students to research national issues, draft legislation, and debate proposals, building confidence and critical thinking in a collaborative setting. Through expert-led workshops, speaker panels, and hands-on simulations, students built practical skills in communication, leadership, and decisionmaking.

This summer, COE hosted the 24th Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad Program, offering 10 TRIO students a month-long academic and leadership experience in The Hague. Conducted in partnership with ECHO and The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the program provided students with an immersive opportunity to explore international policy, sustainability, and justice. Students engaged in coursework focused on global development goals, international law, and human rights, while also exploring the societal and political dynamics of the Netherlands.

COE's Opportunity Matters Book Club continued to provide a meaningful space for reflection, dialogue, and connection around *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. The book's narrative resonated deeply with participants, many of whom found parallels between Walls' journey and their own educational experiences. Speakers for this year's series included **Deloris Davis-Grant**, former TRIO Family Achievement Award recipient and chair of the Opportunity Matters Book Club, and **Chris Green**, director of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center and a published poet and author.



Hosted at Universal Orlando Resort, the STEAM Symposium serves as a launchpad for future leaders, creators, and changemakers. Through hands-on learning, behind-the-scenes access, and direct engagement with industry professionals, the event empowers students to envision and pursue futures in STEAM.

Student Opportunities (cont.)



In November, COE participated in the 2025 STEAM Symposium, co-hosted by Comcast NBCUniversal, and brought more than 250 TRIO high school students to the Universal Orlando Resort.

Through panels, networking sessions, and exploring Universal theme parks, students experienced the powerful intersection of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) to understand how these fields shape industries and create career opportunities. Through interactions with some of the leading executives, engineers, and artists with Comcast NBCUniversal,

students learned how technology and creativity drive industries such as media and entertainment.

This year, students from across the country convened from Nov. 6-9 to hear from a wide range of Comcast NBCUniversal engineers, creatives, journalists, and executives. Through a bespoke STEAM curriculum, these industry experts shared insights into the intricate blend of creativity and technical expertise behind Universal's biggest franchises, offering students valuable real-world perspectives.



The steps of the U.S. Capitol have witnessed centuries of changemakers. In June, our 2025 National Student Leadership Congress students gathered there to celebrate their journey and embrace their role as future leaders.

Alumni Engagement

The National TRIO Alumni Association has led a remarkable year defined by measurable impact, unified advocacy, and meaningful professional engagement. Across the country, TRIO alumni have mobilized through advocacy campaigns, leadership development, and professional growth opportunities that have reached thousands of participants.



Good Morning America examined how, even though TRIO has long provided opportunities for disadvantaged students nationwide, it faces potential threats.

In May, more than 10,000 TRIO alumni signed a letter to Members of Congress, calling on them to protect TRIO funding and strengthen federal support for programs serving first-generation and income-eligible students. This advocacy movement generated national engagement and amplified TRIO's visibility with policymakers. The campaign reached over 41,000 people online through social media and digital platforms, producing one of the most significant collective advocacy efforts by TRIO alumni in history.

TRIO Upward Bound alumnus John Quiñones shared his story and the stories of several other TRIO alumni and current participants during a September segment on *Good Morning America*. With approximately 2.7 million total viewers nationwide, [the five-minute feature](#) highlighted TRIO's powerful role in transforming lives through education.

COE proudly recognized five distinguished National TRIO Achiever Award recipients at the 2025 Educational Opportunity Dinner in Chicago. These honorees—**Beverly Black, Frankie Cordero, Natalia Giraldo-Santiago, PhD, LCSW, Richard LaDouceur, PhD, and Leticia Silva**—exemplify the very best of TRIO, embodying perseverance, leadership, and a commitment to expanding opportunity for others. Their achievements span national advocacy, children's media, health justice research, STEM innovation, and corporate leadership, each grounded in the life-changing support they received through TRIO. Collectively, they demonstrate the profound, lasting impact of educational opportunity on individuals, communities, and entire fields.



Pictured from left are 2025 National TRIO Achiever Award Recipients Natalia Giraldo-Santiago, Beverly Black, Leticia Silva, Richard LaDouceur, and Frankie Cordero.

Alumni Engagement (cont.)



During this gathering, NTAA partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, specifically the James R. Jordan Boys & Girls Club, to deepen community engagement efforts and strengthen the bridge between youth development and college access for the 2025-2026 program year.

During the COE annual conference, an alumni reception in Chicago brought together alumni from every TRIO program, celebrating unity, leadership, and impact. The event served as a powerful platform to share success stories, highlight the achievements of TRIO graduates, and strengthen the sense of national connection among alumni.

This year, two cohorts completed the inaugural TRIO Alumni Engagement Ambassador Initiative. This six-month leadership initiative trained and empowered alumni leaders to strengthen their state and regional alumni networks. Members of the cohort represented

more than 20 states, nine regional associations, and over 35 ambassadors. As a result of their work, more than 40 active alumni chapters were established or revitalized nationwide, marking a steady increase in organized alumni engagement compared to previous years.

Throughout 2025, COE's Career Opportunities Initiative hosted more than 15 free professional and career development sessions for TRIO alumni and students. Each session averaged 35 participants, totaling more than 150 learners. Topics ranged from financial literacy and workplace culture to leadership development and career mapping. Participants reported gaining a greater appreciation for professional development and an increase in professional confidence.





The Pell Institute advanced critical research and national dialogue in 2025 through major reports, briefings, and conferences that examined TRIO professional compensation, student aspirations, barriers to completion, global postsecondary policy, and the role of career development partnerships in supporting low-income and first-generation students. With the arrival of Sean Simone, Ph.D., as Vice President of Research, the Institute strengthened its leadership and continued producing data-driven insights that highlight emerging challenges in educational opportunity and inform policies aimed at improving access and student success.



At the Hill briefing, experts analyzed successful international higher education policies and engaged attendees in a dynamic roundtable discussion on their relevance to the United States.

In January, the Pell Institute released its 2023-2024 TRIO Professionals Compensation report, which covers a survey administered from Fall 2023 to Winter 2024. The survey was sent to all members of the TRIO community registered with COE, which represents 10 regional TRIO associations. The survey was sent to a total of 8,252 people, yielding a final sample size of 1,367 respondents. Findings show that nearly 70% of respondents reported coming from low-income backgrounds, and across the U.S. and Guam, the average TRIO salary was \$57,635.

In May, the Pell Institute hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill entitled *Beyond the Rankings*. The presentation examined the analysis of successful international higher education policies and explored their applicability to the U.S., drawing on data from the Pell Institute's biannual *Indicators* report. After the panel, attendees participated in a roundtable discussion and report-out.

In July, COE welcomed Sean Simone, Ph.D., as the new Vice President of Research and Director of the Pell Institute. Dr. Simone brings nearly 20 years of experience in education data and policy, with expertise in financial aid research, student transfer, workforce development, and the use of institutional and statewide data systems. Prior to his work at the Education Department, he directed research at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University, managing New



Vice President of Research Sean Simone, Ph.D. He previously served at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), where he oversaw longitudinal studies, financial aid surveys, and institutional data collections. Dr. Simone earned his Ph.D. in Education Policy from the University of Maryland at College Park and teaches graduate courses at Rutgers University.



Jersey's Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

Also in July, the Pell Institute hosted the 42nd Student Financial Aid Research Network (SFARN) conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. The conference program featured dozens of research presentations and curated special panels discussing issues such as the use of federal financial aid datasets like NPSAS, BPS, and B&B; leveraging non-federal data sources including the National Student Clearinghouse and Federal Reserve data for policymaking; exploring economic mobility for community college students; examining state-level data systems and their role in higher education policy; and envisioning the future of data infrastructure to support equitable outcomes.



At the 42nd SFARN conference hosted by the Pell Institute at the University of Maryland, College Park, researchers and practitioners explored cutting-edge financial aid data, state and federal policy trends, and the future of data infrastructure needed to advance equitable student outcomes.

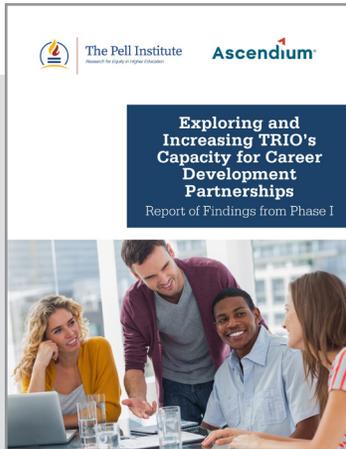


Panelists focused particularly on what it means now to have access to postsecondary degree programs given the newly-authorized use of the Pell Grant not only for "traditional" college degree programs but for workforce training programs as well.

As part of the September COE Annual Conference in Chicago, the Pell Institute presented the plenary panel titled *Is Economic Mobility Possible Without a College Degree in the Current Workforce?* Charlene Dukes, TRIO alumna, President Emerita of Prince George's Community College and member of the Maryland Higher Education Commission; **Jeff Strohl, director and cofounder of the Georgetown University Center for Education and the Workforce; and **Allison Wagner**, founding executive director**

of All-In Milwaukee, discussed how recent changes to the federal Pell Grant program will impact students.

A Pell Institute research brief released in October revealed a dramatic and troubling shift in students' educational aspirations, underscoring a growing crisis in college access and opportunity. According to the analysis, the share of U.S. high school students who expected to earn a bachelor's degree plummeted from 72% in 2002 to just 44% in 2022—a decline that reflects rising concerns about college affordability, confidence in the value of higher education, and students' perceptions of their own ability to persist. The drop was even more severe for first-generation students, whose aspirations fell from 60% to only 33%, highlighting widening opportunity gaps and the disproportionate barriers faced by students without college-educated parents.



The report found that the most effective partnerships were those where career development was built into the core TRIO model and supported by shared data systems that allowed programs to track, evaluate, and scale student impact.

A November Pell Institute Career Development Partnerships report showed that strong collaboration between TRIO programs and campus Career Centers can significantly expand career opportunities for low-income and first-generation students, improving their likelihood of completion and long-term success. Robust research findings revealed a gap between staff familiarity with career readiness frameworks and their visibility in TRIO programming, as well as a clear need for shared technology tools, coordinated advising, and integrated career development resources.

Also in November, the Pell Institute released a research brief showing that the share of first-generation college students had declined from 66% in 1996 to 53% in 2020, even as national bachelor's degree attainment rose from 24% to 38% over the same period. The brief suggested that this shift reflects a more highly educated U.S. population, giving more students the social capital needed to navigate higher education. These trends are consistent with long-term policies that have expanded financial, academic, and social support to help students complete bachelor's degrees.



From data to impact: SFARN 2025 participants gathered for a final group photo after days of deep learning, bold conversation, and shared commitment to strengthening student financial aid research nationwide.

Membership Services

COE's members stood united through one of the greatest threats to educational opportunity in TRIO's history. Together, we launched the Educational Opportunity Campaign, pursued federal litigation to restore grants, and rallied unprecedented support—exceeding our FY25 fundraising goal by 16% and raising more than \$5 million through the Fair Share campaign.



Resource Development Board Committee Co-Chairs Jami Bayles (right) and Sherontae Maxwell (left) join COE Director of Membership Services Vanessa Ramirez (center) in celebrating a year of strong collaboration and shared commitment to advancing educational opportunity nationwide.

In 2025, the Federal TRIO community confronted one of the most significant crises in its history when the Administration proposed eliminating TRIO funding and canceled more than 120 projects that had already been funded by Congress. In response, COE took decisive action, establishing the [Educational Opportunity Campaign](#) and filing suit in federal district court to restore these grants at our member institutions and reopen the doors of opportunity for the students who depend on them.

COE concluded its fiscal year by exceeding its FY 25 fundraising goal by 16%, raising \$5,009,633 through its Fair Share campaign.

In FY25, nine of the 10 regional associations met their Fair Share goals. COE received personal contributions from 1,185 supporters.



Regional member association representatives posed for a photograph with their Fair Share awards during COE's Fair Share luncheon in Chicago.

Acknowledgements

COE extends heartfelt gratitude to our organizational partners for their unwavering support and dedication throughout 2025. Thank you for believing in the power of education to change lives!

American University • Ascendium Education Group • Bright Learning Lab • College Board • Comcast NBCUniversal • DreamCatcher Curriculum • ECHO • ECMC Foundation • FirstGen Forward • Gates Foundation • Genius Potential Inc. • GMA Construction • The Hague University of Applied Sciences • Idaho National Laboratory • Institute of International Education • Jack Kent Cooke Foundation • Johns Hopkins University • Leopardo Construction • Lumina Foundation • MasteryPrep • My College Basics • NACADA • NASPA • Princeton University • Strada Education Foundation • Study Smart Tutors • TIAA • Trellis Foundation • University of Kansas • UStrive • Vizual • W.E. O'Neil Construction • Zion Leadership Group

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To view the full list of COE donors, [click here](#).





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About 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 Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program) help students 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 re-enter high school or college.

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