



Leadership Summit
Capitol Hilton, Sunday, March 8, 2026

AGENDA

<p>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 8 PRESIDENTIAL – CONGRESSIONAL FOYER</p>
<p>10:00 AM – 11:30 AM OPENING PLENARY PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM</p>
<p>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM: OPENING: Welcome & Vision Charge Speakers: <i>Samantha Hill, Director, Upward Bound, Weber State University, COE Board of Directors, State Leadership Committee Co-Chair</i></p> <p><i>Chris George, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Western Kentucky University, COE Board of Directors, State Leadership Committee Co-Chair</i></p>
<p>10:15 – 10:30AM: RALLY CRY: Lessons from Organized TRIO Speaker: <i>Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President Emeritis, Council for Opportunity in Education</i></p> <p>10:30-10:55 AM: GROUNDING: The Work that Protects the Dream Introducer: <i>Chris George</i> Moderator: <i>Jeff Kahlden, Director of Grant Management Services, Dallas College</i> Speakers: <i>Karen Keim, Retired Director, Educational Opportunity Center and Maine Educational Talent Search, University of Maine</i></p> <p><i>Alaura Ervin, Education Policy Director, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee</i></p> <p><i>Darica Simon-Baptiste, Director of TRIO Programs, Baton Rouge Community College</i></p> <p>Description: This time we're in, it's OUR time. These battles we are fighting, they're OURS to win. Our roots are deep and the lessons that Organized TRIO learned are the foundation we rise from today. Key principles inform The Work that Protects the Dream.</p>
<p>10:55 AM: STRATEGIZING FOR SUCCESS: CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS Introducer: <i>Jeff Kahlden</i> 11:00 – 11:14AM: Presentation 1 11:16 – 11:30AM: Presentation 2</p> <p>Description: Leaders of your state associations have spent the last five months strategizing on how to impactfully amplify the voices of TRIO as we seek to protect our membership from harm and preserve the programs we serve. In these presentations, explore strategies on how to ensure the important work of</p>



TRIO continues by targeting our efforts for impact and success.

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM BREAK

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

BREAKOUTS

From Intent to Impact: Building Participation That Lasts - *Facilitators: Kent Battiste, Director, Upward Bound Impact Educational & Housing Development; Bryan Landgren, Director, McNair, Suffolk University; Sergio Galvez, Senior Director, TRIO Pre-University Programs, California Lutheran University*

Moderator: *Sherontae Maxwell, Assistant Director for Access Programs, University of Georgia*

Description: During these uncertain times, how do we cultivate strong participation in organized TRIO while maximizing the impacts of our collective work?

ROOM: SENATE

Multigenerational Communication - *Facilitators: Chris George, Director of TRIO Programs and Title III Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College; Mayrel Artiles Fonseca, English Specialist, Antillean Adventist University*

Moderator: *Karen Smolarek, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, University of Wisconsin-River Falls*

Description: Great leaders understand how to connect with their audience. As we celebrate the range of experience in the staff and participants we work with, it is important that we acknowledge that each generation has different strengths and qualities. Learning to communicate across the generations can move a leader from good to great.

ROOM: SOUTH AMERICAN AB

Amplifying Voices through Media Relations - *Facilitators: Terrance Hamm, Vice President, Communications and Marketing, COE; Noah Walls, Program Coordinator, Upward Bound, University of Nevada, Reno; Michael Hunt, Director, McNair Scholars Program, University of Maryland Baltimore County*

Moderator: *Kevin Linton, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Salem State University*

Description: Telling the #TRIOworks story is an important part of garnering engagement from participants, support from our host institutions and continued funding from Congress. This session highlights best practices in media relations that will help you create lasting impacts with your efforts.

ROOM: FEDERAL A



Pathways in Professional Growth - *Facilitators: Josh Engler, Director, TRIO Upward Bound, Boise State University; Trinity Wilson, Director of TRIO Programs, Cosumnes River College*
Moderator: *Fabiola Falto, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Antillean Adventist University*

Description: Not all moves have to be vertical. Throughout your TRIO experience, there are many opportunities to grow professionally. This session outlines multiple pathways to explore for professional growth that do not depend on your supervisor moving on.

ROOM: STATLER AB

Navigating Institutional Dynamics - *Facilitators: Julian Ledesma, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Equity and Success, UC Berkeley; Ngondi Kamatuka, Director, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Kansas University; Jeff Kahlden, Director of Grant Management Services*

Moderator: *Samantha Hill, Director, Upward Bound, Weber State*

Description: Ensuring the best outcomes for your students and amplifying the work of your TRIO program takes more than a good marketing plan and sound data. This session dives into the deeper nuances of strategic thinking around your institution’s dynamics and provides opportunities to map pathways to success.

ROOM: FEDERAL B

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
BRUNCH BUFFET & COLLABORATIVE LAB
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM
Brunch will be served in the foyer from 12:30-1:30pm

1:00 PM
Table Lab Activity: “Designing the TRIO Leadership Future” *Facilitator: Raymond Cabrera, Director, Upward Bound, University of South Florida*

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM
STRATEGIZE SESSION
PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM



STRATEGIZING FOR SUCCESS: CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS

Introducer: *Jeff Kahlden*

2:00 – 2:14 PM: Presentation 3

2:16 – 2:30 PM: Presentation 4

2:32 – 2:45 PM: Presentation 5

Description:

Leaders of your state associations have spent the last five months strategizing on how to impactfully amplify the voices of TRIO as we seek to protect our membership from harm and preserve the programs we serve. In these presentations, explore strategies on how to ensure the important work of TRIO continues by targeting our efforts for impact and success.

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM BREAK

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

BREAKOUTS

Operational Excellence: Delegation 101 – *Facilitators: Maurice Mathis, Senior Director of TRIO PreCollegiate Programs, North Carolina State University; Steve Rebello, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Binghamton University*

Moderator: *Megan Simila, Executive Director of Youth Apprenticeship, Idaho Business for Education*

Description: No one person leads alone. Understanding the benefits of delegation, not just for accomplishing the work, but furthering the team is paramount for continued success.

ROOM: SENATE

AI: Leadership Tool or Crutch? - *Facilitators: Antonio Robinson, Director, Upward Bound Math and Science, Trident Technical College; Teriki Barnes, Director, Upward Bound Math and Science, Southeastern Oklahoma State University*

Moderator: *Josh Engler, Educational Specialist, Upward Bound, Boise State University*

Description: In the fast paced, evolving world of AI, leaders can greatly benefit from strategic uses of this innovative technology. What do leaders need to know, and how do they recognize when they've gone too far? This session explores tools and pitfalls of AI in Leadership.

ROOM: STATLER AB

Data Informed Designs - *Facilitators: Maria David, Associate Director, TRIO Talent Search, Morehead State University*

Moderator: *Sherontae Maxwell, Assistant Director for Access Programs, University of Georgia*

Description: The way information is consumed has shifted. Using visuals to convey strategic information transforms the way the data translates to others. This session explores how to create infographics that translate your success.

ROOM: FEDERAL AB



From Relationships to Coalitions: Strength through Connection - Facilitators: *Anthony Plonczynski – Figueroa, Assistant County Executive, Monroe County, NY ; Brannidii Peterson, Executive Director of TRIO Programs, Lyon College*

Moderator: *Billy Ray Huggins, TRIO Associate Director, University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

Description: From strengthening your program to connecting with influential public figures, relationships are at the heart of strong connections. This session discusses the fundamentals of relationships and how to move them into coalitions that can benefit all aspects of TRIO.

ROOM: SOUTH AMERICAN AB

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM BREAK

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

STRATEGIZE SESSION

PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

STRATEGIZING FOR SUCCESS: CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS

Introducer: *Jeff Kahlden*

4:00 – 4:14 PM: Presentation 6

4:16 – 4:30 PM: Presentation 7

4:32 PM – 4:45 PM: Presentation 8

Description: Leaders of your state associations have spent the last five months strategizing on how to impactfully amplify the voices of TRIO as we seek to protect our membership from harm and preserve the programs we serve. In these presentations, explore strategies on how to ensure the important work of TRIO continues by targeting our efforts for impact and success.

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM

CLOSING COLLECTIVE

PRESIDENTIAL BALLROOM

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM – Leadership that Lasts

Speakers: *Raymond Cabrera & Samantha Hill*

NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

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