



Absolute Priority 3: Assessment of Student Needs, Retention/Graduation Strategies,

April 20-22, 2026

Hybrid

TENTATIVE IN-PERSON AGENDA

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education

Please note: All Times are in Central Time

June 8, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

General Session 1: Effective Strategies for Retention and Graduation

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch and General Session 2: Using Social Media and Technology to Market Services to Adult Populations

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 1 – Retaining Adult Pre-College & College Students in TRIO Programs

- *Facilitating Successful Transitions to College*
- *College Match for Adult Learners: Raising College Aspirations and Graduation Rates*
- *Early McNair Academy: Introducing Graduate Studies to Sophomores*
- *Infusing Educational Technology into Student Programming*

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Session 3: Brief TRIO History and the Relationship with Retention

June 9, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 2 – Retaining Adult Pre-College & College Students in TRIO Programs

- *Addressing the Needs of Students with Special Circumstances*
- *Strategies for Securing Funding for Graduate School*
- *Peer Learning and Learning Communities: Enhancing Retention*
- *Holistic Services to Promote Non-Cognitive Skill Development*

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

General Session 4: Navigating Mental Health Challenges

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



COUNCIL for OPPORTUNITY in EDUCATION

Dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

Breakout Session 3: Retaining Adult Pre-College & College Students in TRIO Programs Roundtables by Program Type Facilitated by Faculty

Adult Pre-College

Student Support Services 2- Year

Student Support Services 4-Year

McNair

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Session 4: Integrating Innovative High-Impact Practices into Your Program

June 10, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 3 – Practices to Improve Retention and Graduation

- *Recruiting and Retaining Adult Students in STEM*
- *Developing Engaging Content to Promote Retention*
- *Support Services for Adult Students and Former Foster Youth*
- *Using Success Coaching to Meet Retention Goals*

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch and General Session 5: Developing Non-Cognitive Skills and Applying Growth Mindset to Increase Retention

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 4 – Practices to Improve Retention and Graduation

- *Beyond Required Services: STEM and the First-Year Experience*
- *High-Impact Practices for McNair and SSS Students*
- *Supporting Wellness, Mental Health, and Trauma for Student Success*
- *Preparing Community College Students for Transfer and Transition*

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Breakout Session 5: Practices to Improve Retention and Graduation Roundtables by Program Type Facilitated by Faculty

Adult Pre-College

Student Support Services 2- Year

Student Support Services 4-Year

McNair

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wrap-Up and Reflections