



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

#COEAC2026 • San Diego, CA • September 16-19

SESSIONS GRID

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 2026

Pre-Conference Sessions

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 1 (OFFSITE/WALKING)

Full STEAM Ahead: Powering Access and Innovation (Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

MEET IN AQUA SALON AB

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 2 (OFFSITE/WALKING)

See San Diego: Best Practices in Student Travel for TRIO Programs (Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

MEET IN AQUA SALON EF

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

STATE LEADERS CAUCUS: STRONGER TOGETHER

(Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

AQUA SALON CD

REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS

11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

ALL

INDIGO BCFG

EXHIBITS

ALL

INDIGO BCFG

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 3

Evaluation 101: A Step-by-Step Guide for Program Evaluation (Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

AQUA SALON EF

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 4

Reimagining Upward Bound: An Innovation Forum for Design, Data, and Student Outcomes (Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

AQUA SALON CD

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 5

Using Federal Data to Power TRIO Program Success (Must have ticket to attend)

ALL

AQUA SALON AB

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Moderators Orientation (On-Site only)

INVITATION ONLY

AQUA SALON EF

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Newcomers Reception (On-Site only)

**SPONSORED BY ZION
LEADERSHIP GROUP**

INVITATION ONLY

INDIGO FOYER & TERRACE

Opening Session

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OPENING SESSION

Keynote Speaker Stephanie Land

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

BOOK SALES & SIGNING

Author Stephanie Land

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER

8:15 PM – 9:30 PM

KARAOKE

**SPONSORED BY GENIUS
POTENTIAL**

ALL

AQUA SALON ABCD



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

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SESSIONS GRID

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM		8:00 AM – 5:00 PM		8:00 AM – 5:00 PM		PLENARY SESSION	
		8:00 AM – 5:00 PM				9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	
Wellness: Sunrise Yoga 👤 ALL 🏠 SAPPHIRE TERRACE		Registration 👤 ALL 🏠 INDIGO BALLROOM		Exhibits 👤 ALL 🏠 INDIGO BALLROOM		Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility SPONSORED BY GENIUS POTENTIAL 👤 ALL 🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS							
1 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON 300		2 The S.E.R.I.O.U.S. Conference - What and Why 👤 PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH 🏠 AQUA SALON 305		3 Recharge and Reignite: Navigating Burnout While Building Strong TRIO Practice 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON 310		4 Behind the Curtain: Transparent Leadership that Drives TRIO Impact TRIO 101 STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON 311	
5 Building Pathways: How EOC Expands Access and Drives Adult Success 👤 EOC 🏠 AQUA SALON 313		6 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON 314		7 Growing Problem with Low-Income Students Facing Unmet Financial Need R&E STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON AB		8 AI in TRIO: Maximizing Impact, Minimizing Burnout AI STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 AQUA SALON CD	
9 Concurrent Enrollment in Action: Insights, Data, and Strategies for TRIO Programs R&E STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH		10 Honors Education for the TRIO Student: Practical Strategies and Partnerships CAREER READINESS STRAND 👤 COLLEGE 🏠 COBALT 500		11 Revolutionary Relics: Using AI to Defend, Document, and Deliver for TRIO Students AI STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 COBALT 501		12 Aloha ‘Āina to Innovation: Community-Driven Problem Solving Through Design Thinking in Upward Bound 👤 UB 🏠 COBALT 502	
13 👤 ALL 🏠 INDIGO 202		14 New Everything? How to Get a Successful Start to your New Program! SS STAND 👤 ALL 🏠 INDIGO 204		15 👤 ALL 🏠 INDIGO 206		16 Mentoring on Purpose: Moving First-Generation Students from Access to Impact—and Impact to Legacy SS STRAND 👤 ALL 🏠 SAPPHIRE 400	



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SESSIONS GRID

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

17

Evaluating a Statewide Intervention for Student Success: Early Data from Virginia's Pell Initiative

COLLEGE

SAPPHIRE 402

18

From Practitioner to President's Cabinet: Leadership Lessons from the Front Lines of Student Support

ALL

SAPPHIRE 410

19

Ready for 2027: Navigating the New ADA Requirements for TRIO Programs

ALL

SAPPHIRE 411

11:45 AM – 1:45 PM

Lunch on Your Own

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS

20

Beyond the Coursework: Guiding Undergraduates to Design Intentional Academic Pathways to Success

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

AQUA SALON 300

21

Educating the Post-COVID Scholar: Fostering Inclusive Learning Environments

ALL

AQUA SALON 305

22

Leading as Humans: Balancing Commitment and Capacity

ALL

AQUA SALON 310

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

23

The Power of Perception: How Expectations Shape Low-Income Student Success

TRIO 101 STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON 311

24

Lessons from a 60-Year TRIO Legacy: Sustaining Innovation, Impact, and Institutional Commitment

ALL

AQUA SALON 313

25

TRIO in the Pacific

ALL

AQUA SALON 314

26

Who Wants to go to College? We Do! The Data Driven Program That Begins in 3rd Grade

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

AQUA SALON AB

27

Partnering with Innovative Educators: Technology-Driven Onboarding and Tutor Training in TRIO SSS

AI STRAND

SSS

AQUA SALON CD

28

The Price is Right...Or Is It? A TRIO Data Showdown!

R&E STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON EF

29

From Access to Industry: Expanding Pathways to Arts, Entertainment, and Design Credentials

CAREER READINESS STRAND

DDD

COBALT 500

30

Streamlining Your McNair Plan of Operation

AI STRAND

MCNAIR

COBALT 501

31

TRIO Then & Now: The Legacy Challenge – Live from San Diego

ALL

COBALT 502

32

Meaningful Bookclub Experience - Deloris Grant

ALL

INDIGO 202

33

From Services to Systems: Designing High-Impact TRIO Programs in Rural Communities

SS STRAND

ALL

INDIGO 204

34

Considerations for Veteran Serving Programs

EOC, SSS, VUB

INDIGO 206



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SESSIONS GRID

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

35

From Participant to Advocate:
Amplifying Student Voices in
TRIO

SS STRAND

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

36



SAPPHIRE 402

37

From Fear to Fluency through
Responsible Generative AI
Literacy

COLLEGE

SAPPHIRE 410

38

HR Best Practices in TRIO:
Building Sustainable, Compliant,
and Student-Centered Teams

ALL

SAPPHIRE 411

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM • HOT TOPICS

Hot Topics session details are currently being finalized and will be added to the conference program soon. Please check back for updates and additional session information

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Cash Bar

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

TRIO Educational Opportunity
Dinner and TRIO Achievers
(Ticketed Event – Name Badge
Required)

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

9:30 PM – 11:45 PM

Dance

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM



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SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Wellness Activity: Get Up and Go Walk

ALL

MEET AT THE SAPPHIRE TERRACE

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration

ALL

INDIGO BALLROOM

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Exhibits

ALL

INDIGO BALLROOM

PLENARY SESSION

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

COE Update

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS

39

The Evolution of the Pell Grant: Policy Shifts and Their Impact on Students

ALL

AQUA SALON 300

40

Research and Academic Engagement: Utilizing Campus Partnerships to Strengthen Student Success

MCNAIR

AQUA SALON 305

41

Guiding Students to Authentic Choices

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

AQUA SALON 310

42

TRIO Who? Raising the Profile of your Program on your Campus

TRIO 101 STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON 311

43

Engage, Enroll, Empower: Recruiting Veterans for Academic Success

VUB

AQUA SALON 313

44

Beyond the Basics: Integrating Global Citizenship and Hands-on STEM to Transform Student Engagement

UB

AQUA SALON 314

45

Beyond the APR: Transforming the Use of TRIO Data Through an Evaluation Partnership

R&E STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON AB

46

From Access to Anywhere: Scaling TRIO Impact Through Online Orientation and Digital Engagement

AI STRAND

COLLEGE

AQUA SALON CD

47

Abraca-data: Using Dashboards to Understand Higher Education, Your State, and Your Program

R&E STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON EF

48

OB3 and Financial Aid: Outlining Statute Changes, Monitoring Regulations, and Impact Discussions

CAREER READINESS STRAND

ALL

COBALT 500

49

Out of Many, One: Bringing Multiple Innovative Technologies Together for Singular Success

AI STRAND

UB AND SSS

COBALT 501

50

Conference Room Conversations: Building a Motivated and Accountable TRIO Team

ALL

COBALT 502



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SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

51



🏠 INDIGO 202

52

Leading with Your Strengths

SS STRAND



🏠 INDIGO 204

53

Seen, Heard, and Supported:
Creating Spaces Where
Neurodivergent Students
Thrive



🏠 INDIGO 206

54

First-Time Director Playbook:
What No One Tells You About
Leading a TRIO Program

SAPPHIRE 400 STRAND



🏠 SAPPHIRE 400

55

Career Connection: Aligning
International Education with
Career Readiness



🏠 SAPPHIRE 402

56

Scaling What Works: Lessons
from Community College
Initiative



🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

57

Small Towns, Big Impact:
Elevating Rural TRIO Student
Success



🏠 SAPPHIRE 411

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Walter O. Mason and First-
Generation Award Luncheon



🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM • HOT TOPICS

Hot Topics session details are currently being finalized and will be added to the conference program soon. Please check back for updates and additional session information



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SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS

58



🏠 AQUA SALON 300

59



🏠 AQUA SALON 305

60

Igniting the Alumni Engine:
Driving Educational
Opportunity Into the Future

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 310

61

TRIO Still M.A.T.T.E.R.S: A
Foundation that Transforms
Lives

TRIO 101 STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 311

62

Beyond Test Optional:
Practical ACT/SAT Strategies
for Admissions, Scholarships,
and Engagement

👤 PRE-COLLEGE

🏠 AQUA SALON 313

63

Leadership Development for
First Generation Students

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 314

64

Preparing Students for Public
Policy Internships: Pathways,
Readiness, and Professional
Growth

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON AB

65

Translating First-Gen Access
into Measurable Impact
Through Human-Centered &
AI-Enhanced Support

AI STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON CD

66

Workforce Pell & TRIO: What
Practitioners Need to Know
Now

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON EF

67

Helping Students Create
Evidence that Showcases their
Durable Skills

CAREER READINESS STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 500

68

Designing Belonging at Scale:
Using Story & Technology
to Support First-Generation
Students

CAREER READINESS STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 501

69

Expanding Opportunity:
Helping TRIO Students
Navigate Selective College
Admissions

👤 PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

🏠 COBALT 502

70



🏠 INDIGO 202

71

The First-Year Director's
Playbook: Managing People,
Performance, and Priorities

SS STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 INDIGO 204

72



🏠 INDIGO 206

73

Thrown into the Fire:
Revitalizing a TRIO Program in
a Shifting Policy Landscape

SS STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 400

74



🏠 SAPPHIRE 402

75

The Cost of Ambition:
Preparing TRIO Students for
Graduate School in a New Aid
Landscape

👤 COLLEGE

🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

76

Building Disability Advocacy
Groups in TRIO

👤 COLLEGE

🏠 SAPPHIRE 411

PLENARY SESSION

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

Education as the Engine of
Economic Mobility

SPONSORED BY COLLEGE
BOARD

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Alumni Reception

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE TERRACE

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Funtivity

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON ABCD



8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	PLENARY SESSION 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	PLENARY SESSION 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Information Booth ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER	Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	Author and TRIO Alumnus, Steve Pemberton ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	Book Sales and Signing ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	1:30 PM		
Conference Awards, Installation of Officers and Remarks from the 2026-2027 Board Chair Ray Cabrera ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	Conference Concludes		

Hot Topics Sessions — Coming Soon

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