



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

INVITATION ONLY

AQUA SALON 300

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Newcomers Reception

SPONSORED BY ZION LEADERSHIP GROUP

INVITATION ONLY

INDIGO FOYER & TERRACE

Opening Session

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OPENING SESSION

Stephanie Land, Author and First-Generation College Graduate

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

BOOK SALES & SIGNING

Author Stephanie Land

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER

8:15 PM – 10:00 PM

KARAOKE

SPONSORED BY GENIUS POTENTIAL

ALL

AQUA SALON ABCD



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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
				9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Wellness Activity: Breathe & Begin—Gentle Morning Yoga ALL SAPPHIRE TERRACE		Registration ALL INDIGO BALLROOM	Exhibits ALL INDIGO BALLROOM	Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility SPONSORED BY COLLEGE BOARD ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM • CONCURRENT SESSIONS				
1 Small Towns, Big Impact: Elevating Rural TRIO Student Success 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 Evaluating a Statewide Intervention for Student Success: Early Data from Virginia's Pell Initiative COLLEGE AQUA SALON 314	7 The Growing Problem of Unmet Financial Need Among Low-Income Students RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND ALL AQUA SALON AB	8 TBA AQUA SALON CD	
9 Concurrent Enrollment in Action: Insights, Data, and Strategies for TRIO Programs RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND ALL TBA	10 Honors Education for the TRIO Student: Practical Strategies and Partnerships FUELING THE FUTURE 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 TBA INDIGO 202	14 New Everything? How to Get a Successful Start to Your New Program! START SMART STRAND ALL INDIGO 204	15 TBA INDIGO 206	16 Mentoring on Purpose: Moving First-Generation Students from Access to Impact—and Impact to Legacy START SMART STRAND ALL SAPPHIRE 400	



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SESSIONS GRID THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

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

17

TBA



🏠 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

👤 COLLEGE

🏠 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!

RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON EF

29

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

FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND

👤 ALL

🏠 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

A Chance to Read, A Chance to Rise: Building TRIO Book Clubs for Student Success

👤 ALL

🏠 INDIGO 202

33

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

START SMART 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

START SMART STRAND

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

36

TBA

ALL

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

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Exhibit Walkthrough and
Snack Break

SPONSORED BY HILTON

ALL

INDIGO BALLROOM

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM • HOT TOPICS

HT1

Measure and Increase
Students' Career Readiness,
Social Capital, and Agency

ALL

AQUA SALON 300

HT2

The T.R.I.O. Model: How to
Teach in a Way That Doesn't
Stink (Probably Backed by
Science)

ALL

AQUA SALON 310

HT3

The Application Advantage:
Building Career Readiness
Through Competitive
Fellowships

COLLEGE

AQUA SALON 311

HT4

Mastering TRIO Data Like a
Pro with StudentAccess

ALL

AQUA SALON AB

HT5

The Power of a Quality and
Impactful High-Dosage
Tutoring Program

PRE-COLLEGE

AQUA SALON CD

HT6

Activating Courageous
Faith! Four Ways to Thrive
& Succeed in Uncertain &
Challenging Times as a TRIO
Professional!

ALL

AQUA SALON EF

HT7

Beyond Access: How TRIO
Programs Use Data-Driven
Test Prep to Close College
Readiness Gap

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

COBALT 500

HT8

How AI Is Redefining College
& Career Readiness for TRIO
Programs

ALL

COBALT 501

HT9

The Empowerment Blueprint™:
A Four-Stage Framework for
Developing Students Who
Persist, Lead, and Thrive

ALL

COBALT 502

HT10

TBA

ALL

INDIGO 202

HT11

Gateway to Innovation:
Creating Career Access at
National Laboratories

ALL

INDIGO 204

HT12

Financial Fluency for TRIO
Student Success

ALL

INDIGO 206

HT13

Transform Your Student
Success Programming with
DreamCatcher Curriculum

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

HT14

The Resiliency Mindset

ALL

SAPPHIRE 410

HT15

BLUMEN SOFTWARE – Find
Out Why It's Miles Ahead of
Other Software

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

SAPPHIRE 411



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SESSIONS GRID

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

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

The Opportunity After-Party:
The Night Isn't Over Yet!

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM



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FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

6:45 AM – 8:15 AM

Wellness Activity: Get Up and Go Walk

ALL

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

RESEARCH & EVALUATION 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

RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND

TBA

AQUA SALON EF

48

Navigating Federal Financial Aid Changes: What TRIO Practitioners Need to Know

FUELING THE FUTURE 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

51

TBA

INDIGO 202

52

Leading with Your Strengths

START SMART STRAND

ALL

INDIGO 204

53

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

ALL

INDIGO 206

54

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

START SMART STRAND

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400



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SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

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

55

Career Connection: Aligning International Education with Career Readiness

👤 COLLEGE

🏠 SAPPHIRE 402

56

Scaling What Works: Lessons from Community College Initiative

👤 SSS

🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

57

Hold for Zion Leadership Group

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 411

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Walter O. Mason and First-Generation College Celebration Day Award Luncheon

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM • HOT TOPICS

HT16

Strategic Learning Assessment (SLA): Helping Students Become More Strategic, Self-Regulated, Lifelong Learners

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 300

HT17

Compass: A Smarter Way to Manage TRIO Data & APR

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 310

HT18

Pathways That Matter: Advancing Social Mobility Through College and Career Readiness

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 311

HT19

Leading by Example: What AI Readiness Looks Like for TRIO Professionals

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON AB

HT20

Unlocking Academic Success with Tutor.com: Empowering TRIO Students, Anytime, Anywhere!

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON CD

HT21

Elevating Success Through a First-Gen Student Success Lens: Why It Matters Now

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON EF

HT22

When AI Meets Engagement: Practical Strategies That Have Boosted TRIO Attendance, Retention, and Outcomes

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 500

HT23

Elevate Your Program's Impact: Maximize Student Engagement, Achieve Proven Results!

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 501

HT24

Elevating Education: One Great Educator at a Time

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 502

HT25

Attendance Isn't the Problem — Identity Is

👤 SSS

🏠 INDIGO 202

HT26

TBA

👤

🏠 INDIGO 204

HT27

Empower: Because 'I'll Just Fix It in Excel' Is Not a Strategy

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 400

HT28

Student and Teacher Agency Create Workforce Pathways. Data and Program Evaluation Unlock Secure Employment and College/Career Success

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

HT29

Mastering TRIO Data Like a Pro with StudentAccess

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 411



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SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

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

58

TBA



🏠 AQUA SALON 300

59

TBA



🏠 AQUA SALON 305

60

Igniting the Alumni Engine:
Driving Educational
Opportunity Into the Future



🏠 AQUA SALON 310

61

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

TRIO 101 STRAND



🏠 AQUA SALON 311

62

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



🏠 AQUA SALON 313

63

Leadership Development for
First-Generation Students



🏠 AQUA SALON 314

64

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



🏠 AQUA SALON AB

65

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

AI STRAND



🏠 AQUA SALON CD

66

Workforce Pell & TRIO: What
Practitioners Need to Know
Now



🏠 AQUA SALON EF

67

Helping Students Create
Evidence That Showcases
Their Durable Skills

FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND



🏠 COBALT 500

68

Designing Belonging at
Scale: Using Storytelling and
Technology to Support
First-Generation Students

FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND



🏠 COBALT 501

69

Expanding Opportunity:
Helping TRIO Students
Navigate Selective College
Admissions



🏠 COBALT 502

70

TBA



🏠 INDIGO 202

71

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

START SMART STRAND



🏠 INDIGO 204

72

TBA



🏠 INDIGO 206

73

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

START SMART STRAND



🏠 SAPPHIRE 400

74

TBA



🏠 SAPPHIRE 402

75

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



🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

76

Building Disability Advocacy
Groups in TRIO



🏠 SAPPHIRE 411

PLENARY SESSION

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

Presidential Perspectives on
Scaling Student Success

SPONSORED BY ECMC
FOUNDATION



🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Alumni Reception



🏠 SAPPHIRE TERRACE

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

TRIO Champions Commence:
60 Seconds to Glory!

SPONSORED BY STUDY
SMART TUTORS



🏠 AQUA SALON ABCD



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SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2026

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 (D-OR-01) 👤 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	12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	1:30 PM	
Conference Awards, Installation of Officers, and Remarks from the 2026-2027 Board Chair Ray Cabrera 👤 ALL 🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	Book Sales and Signing 👤 ALL 🏠 SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER	Conference Concludes	