



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

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 1 (OFFSITE/WALKING)

Full STEAM Ahead: Powering Access and Innovation (Ticket required)

ALL

MEET IN AQUA SALON AB

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 2 (OFFSITE/WALKING)

See San Diego: Best Practices in Student Travel for TRIO Programs (Ticket required)

ALL

MEET IN AQUA SALON EF

STATE LEADERS CAUCUS: STRONGER TOGETHER

(Ticket required)

ALL

AQUA SALON CD

REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS

11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

ALL

INDIGO BALLROOM

EXHIBITS

ALL

INDIGO BALLROOM

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 3

Evaluation 101: A Step-by-Step Guide to Program Evaluation (Ticket required)

ALL

AQUA SALON EF

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 4

Reimagining Upward Bound: An Innovation Forum for Design, Data, and Student Outcomes (Ticket required)

UB/UBMS

AQUA SALON CD

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION 5

Using Federal Data to Power TRIO Program Success (Ticket required)

RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND

ALL

AQUA SALON AB

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Moderators' Orientation

INVITATION ONLY

AQUA SALON 300

Newcomers Reception

SPONSORED BY ZION LEADERSHIP GROUP

INVITATION ONLY

Opening Session

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

8:15 PM – 10:15 PM

OPENING SESSION

From Survival to Opportunity: Education as Stephanie Land's Path to Economic Mobility

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

BOOK SALES & SIGNING

Author Stephanie Land

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER

KARAOKE

SPONSORED BY GENIUS POTENTIAL

ALL

AQUA SALON ABCD



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

			PLENARY SESSION
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	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 <i>SPONSORED BY COLLEGE BOARD</i> 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 Growing Problem with Low-Income Students Facing Unmet Financial Need RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND ALL AQUA SALON AB	8 Taking TRIO Students Global: Fundable Leadership & STEM ALL AQUA SALON CD
9 Concurrent Enrollment in Action: Insights, Data, and Strategies for TRIO Programs RESEARCH & EVALUATION STRAND PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH AQUA SALON EF	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 FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND UB COBALT 502
13 Innovation vs. Tradition: Honoring TRIO's Legacy While Shaping Its Future ALL INDIGO 202	15 Preparing Students for Public Policy Internships: Pathways, Readiness, and Professional Growth ALL INDIGO 206	16 Mentoring on Purpose: Moving First-Generation Students from Access to Impact—and Impact to Legacy START SMART STRAND ALL SAPPHIRE 400	17 Owning the Role: What "STEM-Adjacent" Teaches Us About Being the Adjacent Professional COE ED TALK COLLEGE SAPPHIRE 402



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

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

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 Data Is Right...Or Is It? A TRIO Price 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



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

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

Show Me The Money! Create
Financial Literacy Experiences
Your Students Will Never
Forget

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON 313

HT5

Mastering TRIO Data Like a
Pro with StudentAccess

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON AB

HT6

The Power of a High-Quality,
High-Dosage Tutoring
Program

👤 PRE-COLLEGE

🏠 AQUA SALON CD

HT7

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

👤 ALL

🏠 AQUA SALON EF

HT8

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

👤 PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

🏠 COBALT 500

HT9

How AI Is Redefining College
& Career Readiness for TRIO
Programs

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 501

HT10

The Empowerment
Blueprint™: A Four-Stage
Framework for Developing
Students Who Persist, Lead,
and Thrive, Moving Beyond
Motivation to Sustainable
Student Transformation

👤 ALL

🏠 COBALT 502

HT11

The TRIO Student Success
Ecosystem: Scaling High-
Touch Support Without
Scaling Staff

👤 ALL

🏠 INDIGO 202

HT12

Gateway to Innovation:
Creating Career Access at
National Laboratories

👤 ALL

🏠 INDIGO 204

HT13

Financial Fluency for TRIO
Student Success

👤 ALL

🏠 INDIGO 206

HT14

Transform Your Student
Success Programming with
DreamCatcher Curriculum

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 400

HT15

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

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 410

HT16

BLUMEN SOFTWARE:
Discover Why BOT Goes
Beyond the Traditional TRIO
Database

👤 ALL

🏠 SAPPHIRE 411



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

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
Awards (Name Badge
Required)

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

9:30 PM – 12:00 AM

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

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

6:45 AM – 8:15 AM

Wellness Activity: Sunrise 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

State of the TRIO Nation: A Leadership Briefing from COE

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

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

SSS

AQUA SALON CD

47

Put Your Oxygen Mask on First: Sustaining Yourself While Supporting Others

COE ED TALK

ALL

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

Your Voice Matters: Importance of Voting!

COE ED TALK

ALL

INDIGO 202

52

Leading with Your Strengths

START SMART STRAND

ALL

INDIGO 204

54

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

START SMART STRAND

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

55

Career Connection: Aligning International Education with Career Readiness

COLLEGE

SAPPHIRE 402

56

Scaling What Works: Lessons from Community College Initiative

SSS

SAPPHIRE 410



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

PLENARY SESSION

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Walter O. Mason and First-Generation College Celebration Day Awards Luncheon (Name Badge Required)

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM • HOT TOPICS

HT17

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

ALL

AQUA SALON 300

HT18

Compass: A Smarter Way to Manage TRIO Data & APR

ALL

AQUA SALON 310

HT19

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

ALL

AQUA SALON 311

HT20

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

ALL

AQUA SALON AB

HT21

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

ALL

AQUA SALON CD

HT22

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

ALL

COBALT 500

HT23

Elevating Education: One Great Educator at a Time

ALL

COBALT 502

HT24

Attendance Isn't the Problem—Identity Is

SSS

INDIGO 202

HT25

The 2027–2028 FAFSA Has Changed: Preparing TRIO Students and Families

ALL

INDIGO 204

HT26

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

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

HT27

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

ALL

SAPPHIRE 410

HT28

Mastering TRIO Data Like a Pro with StudentAccess

ALL

SAPPHIRE 411

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

58

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

COLLEGE

AQUA SALON 300

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

Mental Health Matters: Supporting Student Well-Being in a Changing World

COE ED TALK

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



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

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

67

Helping Students Create Evidence That Shows Their Durable Skills

FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND

ALL

COBALT 500

68

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

AI STRAND

ALL

COBALT 501

69

Expanding Opportunity: Helping TRIO Students Navigate Selective College Admissions

PRE-COLLEGE YOUTH

COBALT 502

70

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

RESEARCH STRAND

ALL

INDIGO 202

71

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

START SMART STRAND

ALL

INDIGO 204

72

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

ALL

INDIGO 206

73

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

START SMART STRAND

ALL

SAPPHIRE 400

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

Presidential Perspectives on Scaling Student Success

SPONSORED BY ECMC FOUNDATION

ALL

SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

TRIO Champions Commence: 60 Seconds to Glory!

SPONSORED BY STUDY SMART

ALL

AQUA SALON ABCD



FROM ACCESS TO IMPACT:

Education as the Engine of Economic Mobility

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

SESSIONS GRID

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2026

8:00 AM – 1:30 PM	PLENARY SESSION 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	PLENARY SESSION 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Information Booth ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER	Opening Doors, Expanding Opportunity: A Congressional Keynote with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	A Chance in the World: From Opportunity to Impact with Steve Pemberton ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	Conference Awards, Installation of Officers, and Remarks from the 2026-2027 Board Chair Ray Cabrera ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	1:30 PM		
Book Sales and Signing ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER	Conference Concludes		