Pre-Conference Sessions

8:00 AM – 4:00 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

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Moderators' Orientation
INVITATION ONLY
AQUA SALON 300

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Newcomers Reception
SPONSORED BY ZION LEADERSHIP GROUP
INVITATION ONLY

Opening Session

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OPENING SESSION
From Survival to Opportunity: Education as Stephanie Land's Path to Economic Mobility
ALL
SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

BOOK SALES & SIGNING
Author Stephanie Land
ALL
SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER

8:15 PM – 10:15 PM

KARAOKE
SPONSORED BY GENIUS POTENTIAL
ALL
AQUA SALON ABCD

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
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 ʻĀina to Innovation: Community-Driven Problem Solving Through Design Thinking in Upward Bound
FUELING THE FUTURE STRAND
UB
COBALT 520

13
Innovation vs. Tradition: Honoring TRIO's Legacy While Shaping Its Future
COE ED Talk
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

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 520

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

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

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 520

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

SESSIONS GRID
THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2026

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	9:30 PM – 12:00 AM
Cash Bar ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM FOYER	TRIO Educational Opportunity Dinner and TRIO Achievers Awards (Name Badge Required) ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM	The Opportunity After-Party: The Night Isn't Over Yet! ALL SAPPHIRE BALLROOM

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 520

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

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 501

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

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 520

70
Abraca-data: Using Dashboards to Understand Higher Education, Your State, and Your Program
RESEARCH & EVALUATION 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

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