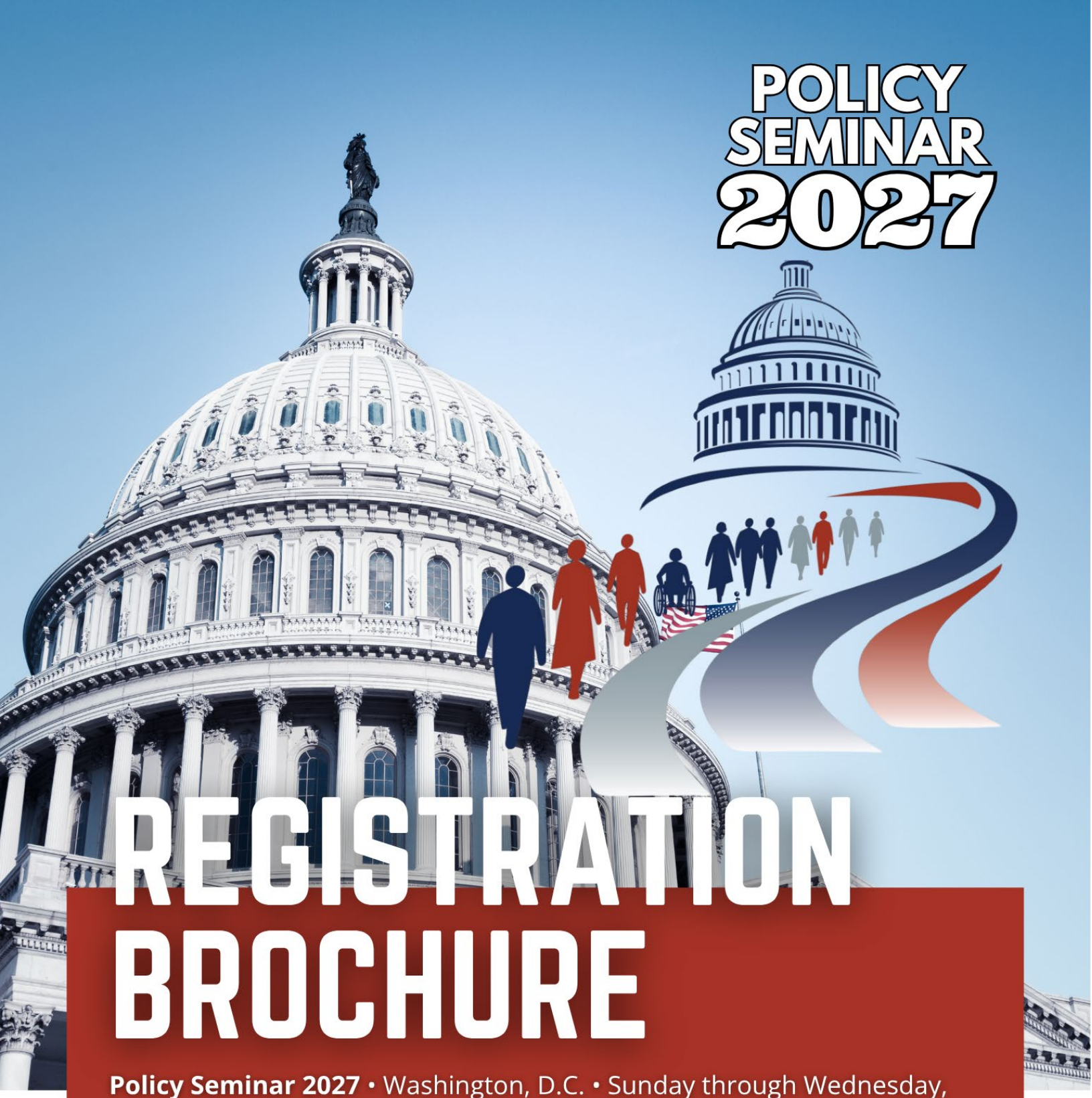


REGISTRATION BROCHURE

Policy Seminar 2027 • Washington, D.C. • Sunday through Wednesday, March 7-10, 2027 • This year, the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) Policy Seminar brings together three dynamic experiences designed to equip TRIO professionals with the knowledge, leadership skills, and relationships needed to meet this moment.

COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

www.coenet.org

Policy Seminar 2027 • Sunday through Wednesday, March 7-10, 2027

In January 2027, the 120th Session of Congress will begin, bringing more than 100 new lawmakers, a new majority, and a new legislative agenda. With Democrats controlling Congress and the Trump Administration continuing to shape federal education policy, the stakes for Federal TRIO Programs remain extraordinarily high. New leadership brings new opportunities—and it's our responsibility to sustain the strong bipartisan commitment to TRIO. As lawmakers debate competing demands, set spending priorities, and chart the nation's future, we must ensure that protecting and strengthening TRIO remains a top congressional priority. That's why the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is calling on all TRIO professionals, students, alumni, and advocates from across the country to unite in Washington, D.C., under the theme "United to Lead: From Mission to Movement." This is our moment to turn a shared commitment into collective action. This year's Policy Seminar includes our **National College Opportunity Programs Leadership Summit, our inaugural TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum, and our Legislative Conference.**

National College Opportunity Programs Leadership Summit • Sunday, March 7, 2027

This high-energy, full-day experience unites TRIO professionals in a shared commitment to lead boldly and advance educational opportunity for all. Blending visionary keynotes, hands-on leadership labs, case study presentations from COE's Executive Leadership Institute at the University of Notre Dame, and breakout sessions on themes such as adaptive leadership, coalition-building, and operational excellence, the Summit equips attendees with concrete skills, inspiration, and a clear charge to elevate the TRIO mission. If you have questions about the Leadership Summit, please contact **Jen Rudolph** at jennifer.rudolph@coenet.org.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.: Opening Plenary: From Mission to Movement
- 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.: Tools You Can Use: Bringing People In
- 10:50 – 11:05 a.m.: Break
- 11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Leadership Exchange: Collaborative Working Session
- 12:00 – 12:20 p.m.: Tools You Can Use: Strengthening Our Base
- 12:20 – 1:40 p.m.: Lunch and Engagement
- 1:40 – 2:40 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions: Building Skills That Move Us Forward
- 2:40 – 2:55 p.m.: Break
- 2:55 – 3:15 p.m.: Tools You Can Use: Expanding Our Support
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.: Leadership in Action: Collaborative Working Session
- 4:00 – 4:15 p.m.: Break
- 4:15 – 4:35 p.m.: Tools You Can Use: Turning Voice into Influence
- 4:35 – 5:00 p.m.: Closing Plenary: United to Lead

NEW! TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum • Monday, March 8, 2027

The landscape is changing, the challenges are evolving, and TRIO is rising to meet the moment! This year, COE is reimagining a cornerstone of the Policy Seminar with the debut of the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum, an exciting new experience designed for TRIO professionals at every career stage. This dynamic forum moves beyond understanding the regulations to mastering strategies, strengthening partnerships, and embracing innovations that will shape TRIO's future. The Forum will offer participants fresh insights, meaningful conversations, and practical solutions you can put to work immediately, focusing on:

- Strengthening student engagement and accountability;
- Building meaningful partnerships with institutions and communities;
- Identifying and securing resources to support your students and programs; and
- Using data to demonstrate program impact and raise the visibility of TRIO.

Participants are encouraged to select breakout sessions based on their years of TRIO service, but all sessions are open to everyone.

- **Emerging Professionals (0-5 years)**
- **Established Professionals (6-15 years)**
- **Distinguished Professionals (15+ years)**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.: Understanding the U.S. Department of Education: Lessons From the Past, Insights for the Future
- 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.: Breakout Sessions: Strengthening Program Success

  For Emerging Professionals: Engaging Students and Strengthening Accountability for Retention and Graduation

  For Established Professionals: Building Stronger Partnerships: Engaging Institutional Leaders, Alumni, and Community Stakeholders

  For Distinguished Professionals: Expanding Your Program's Reach: Identifying Funding Opportunities and Securing Resources

- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Networking Lunch: Raising TRIO's Visibility Through Data, Partnerships, and Advocacy
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.: Breakout Sessions: From Planning to Impact

  For Emerging Professionals: Understanding Your Students: Assessing Needs to Inform Program Services

  For Established Professionals: Strengthening Program Engagement: Strategies for Participation and Student Success

  For Distinguished Professionals: Measuring What Matters: Evaluating and Demonstrating Program Impact

- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.: Bringing It All Together: Sustaining Momentum and Turning Insights Into Action
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Looking Ahead: Outlook for the 2027 TRIO Grant Competitions

For questions about the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum, please contact **Angelica Vialpando** at angelica.vialpando@coenet.org.

Legislative Conference • Monday through Wednesday, March 8-10, 2027

COE works to expand college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students. The TRIO community must educate Congress on the history and impact of Federal TRIO programs. Conference participants will receive advocacy training to prepare for visits with their elected officials in Congress.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All congressional meetings will be held in person on Capitol Hill. If you have any questions, please contact **Peter Mills** at peter.mills@coenet.org or **Christian Bell** at christian.bell@coenet.org.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, March 8, 2027

- 6:30–7:30 p.m.: Opening Session: "United to Lead: From Mission to Movement"
- 7:45–8:30 p.m.: Orientation for Hill Team Leaders

Tuesday, March 9, 2027

- 9:00–10:00 a.m.: Congressional Staff Panel
- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Advocacy Skills Development (Interactive)
- 12:00–2:00 p.m.: Lunch on Your Own
- 2:00–3:00 p.m.: Member of Congress Address
- 3:00–4:00 p.m.: Capitol Hill Talking Points Overview
- 4:00–4:15 p.m.: Break
- 4:15–5:30 p.m.: State Team Meetings

Wednesday, March 10, 2027

- 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.: Congressional Visits
- 6:30–7:15 p.m.: Closing Plenary

Bring your TRIO alumni to the Legislative Conference! Alumni participation in this event will equip graduates with the skills needed to serve as TRIO advocates at the local, state, and national levels. COE staff are delighted to help TRIO directors provide fulfilling policy experiences for their students in Washington during school breaks. Students should *not* miss school to attend the Legislative Conference.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Neither the Leadership Summit nor the TRIO Compliance and Best

Practices Forum will involve lobbying activities. They are allowable costs on a federal award; however, certain aspects of the **Legislative Conference** will involve such activity and cannot be paid for using federal grant funds. Therefore, federal grantees **must allocate expenses for these activities appropriately and consistently with their institutional policies.** Contact **Angelica Vialpando** at angelica.vialpando@coenet.org or **Jen Rudolph** at jennifer.rudolph@coenet.org if you have any questions about cost allocation.

Hotel Information

Capital Hilton
1101 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Make hotel reservations here.

- Single/Double: $309 + taxes and fees, per night.

The cut-off date is **Tuesday, February 9, 2027**, or when the room block is full— whichever comes first. Make your reservation early!

Policy Seminar Registration Instructions and Deadlines

For individuals participating in the Policy Seminar, **online registration at coenet.org is strongly encouraged.** Online registrants will receive an immediate receipt. All registrations not completed online must include a credit card payment, check, or purchase order to be accepted. The registration fees include all conference sessions and materials. The cost for the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum includes coffee and rolls in the morning, plus a luncheon. The price for the Leadership Summit includes lunch.

Special Discounts

Newcomer Discount: If you attended last year's Legislative Conference and plan to bring a newcomer this year, the newcomer can register for the Legislative Conference for half their regular registration rate (member or non-member). (This does not include Leadership Summit or the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum). These registration forms must be submitted by email simultaneously. **There is no online registration option for this special offer.**

Government Relations/Institutional Representative: If you bring a member of your institution's government relations staff or campus institutional leadership, their registration for the Legislative Conference is also half off the regular registration price. (This does not include Leadership Summit or the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum). Registration for this special discount must be submitted by email—**there is no online registration for this special offer.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: These half-price discounts apply to the Legislative Conference only. For instance, if you register for both the Legislative Conference and the TRIO Compliance and Best Practices Forum, **the half-price discount will apply only to the Legislative Conference portion.**

Refund Policy

If requested on or before **Sunday, February 28,** registration fees paid in advance are refundable (less a $250 processing fee). To request a refund, **you must email notice of your registration cancellation** to finance@coenet.org. COE will process refunds after the seminar ends.

Important Dates

Deadline for Early Registration | **Friday, January 15, 2027**
Deadline for Hotel Room Block | **Tuesday, February 9, 2027** (or at capacity)

Registration Booth

Saturday, March 6: 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 7: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 8: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.



COE 2027 POLICY SEMINAR
United to Lead: From Mission to Movement
MARCH 7-10, 2027 • #COEPS2027

Policy Seminar Registration Form

Early Bird Registration
Postmarked on or *before* **January 15, 2027**

FOR ALL REGISTRANTS
How many Seminars have you attended? ___
☐ Check here if you currently work for a Federal TRIO Program.
☐ Check here if you are an alumnus of a Federal TRIO Program.
☐ Check here if you are a current/former participant in COE's Executive Leadership Institute.
What, if any, food allergies or dietary restrictions do you have?

_____
_____

What, if any, disabilities or special needs do you have?

_____
_____

Policy Seminar: TRIO Forum + Leg. Conf.
___ $735 Members ___ $885 Non-Members
___ +$260 **Leadership Summit**
Policy Seminar: Legislative Conf. ONLY
___ $450 Members & Non-Members
___ +$260 **Leadership Summit**
Policy Seminar: TRIO Forum ONLY
___ $635 Members ___ $855 Non-Members
___ +$260 **Leadership Summit**
Retiree Rate*
___ $250 Policy Seminar: Legislative Conf. ONLY **Register by form only.*

Total Amount Due: _____

Contact Information

FOR TRIO PROFESSIONALS
Name: _____ Project Affiliation: _____
Title: _____ Institution: _____
Institution's Mailing Address *(No P.O. boxes, please*)
Street Address Line 1: _____
Street Address Line 2: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Home Address for Congressional district lookup. *(No P.O. boxes, please*)
Street Address Line 1: _____
Street Address Line 2: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Personal Phone: _____ Personal E-mail: _____

FOR TRIO ALUMNI EMPLOYED BY TRIO
Name: _____ E-mail (work): _____
TRIO Project and Institution Graduated From: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION
Charge my ☐ American Express, ☐ Master Card, ☐ Visa, or ☐ Discover card (Please check one).
Name on Card: _____
Card No. _____
Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Submission Instructions: To register, email this completed form to **finance@coenet.org**.
Save time and register online at coenet.org


TRIO Squad
I stand for TRIO
TRIO WORKS!




TRIO


CHANGING LIVES