GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
UPDATE
Council for Opportunity in Education

President Obama recently signed into law a Continuing Resolution (CR) agreement, extending funding for federal programs - including TRIO and GEAR UP - through the rest of Fiscal Year 2013. The CR amounted to "level funding" for virtually all domestic discretionary programs - including TRIO and GEAR UP - minus the 5.0% automatic, across-the-board budget cut required by sequestration.

The CR also included an additional across-the-board budget cut of 0.2%, for a total cut of 5.2% to TRIO, which works out to a $43.6 million cut overall. The Department of Education, along with all other federal agencies, must submit an operating plan to Congress showing the final funding levels for all programs, projects, and activities by April 25.

COE expects that this report will confirm the precise funding cut to TRIO. Also, in keeping with the information presented by the Department of Education last month, this cut will be distributed equally across all existing TRIO grants beginning with the grant award notifications for the 2013-2014 program year. Meanwhile, the President will release his FY 2014 budget proposal on April 10, which will set the ground work for TRIO funding in FY 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/03/26/statement-press-secretary-hr-933

TRIO FUNDING: WHERE WE ARE NOW
Updated 4/3/13

Between FY 2005 and FY 2012, TRIO programs lost more than $70 million in funding and, as a result, serve approximately 88,000 fewer low-income, potential first-generation students, including adult learners, military veterans, and students with disabilities.

Under sequestration, which went into effect on March 1, 2013, TRIO received another cut of about $43.7 million for FY 2013. This means that, beginning in the 2013-2014 program year, individual grant awards will be reduced by 5.2% and approximately 40,000 fewer students will be served by TRIO.

On March 21, Congress voted for a continuing resolution that affirmed this cut.

That same week, both chambers of Congress considered budgets that would enact even further cuts in FY 2014. The House budget bill, in particular, doubles down on

(continued on the next page)
sequestration and increases cuts to TRIO by another 18%!

Soon, legislators will begin considering appropriations bills to fund FY 2014. They will also have to grapple, once again, with the federal debt ceiling, which Congress has suspended until May 17. Each of these battles presents an opportunity that we must seize in order to preserve our programs and to restore funding for our students!

It is our mission during this set of meetings to prove that:

- TRIO is not an “expense” but an “investment” in our nation’s economic stability that promotes our global competitiveness; and
- TRIO funding must be increased if we are to build strong communities of middle class, taxpaying citizens.

As of April 12, no decision has been made and we are still in limbo as to whether we will have to absorb cuts up to 5.2% or not.

DAVE TRUJILLO RECEIVES THE H. ALDUS DIXON AWARD

The H. Aldus Dixon Award is named after former Weber State University president H. Aldus Dixon. President Dixon had a vision of a college that would engage in its community and would provide its graduates not only with degree but also with a way of making a life. One of Dixon’s most famous quotes is, “you have come to Weber to learn how to make a living, but I want you also to learn how to make a life.”

Each year the Alumni Association presents this award to a deserving faculty member and staff member and on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, the Alumni Association honored one of WSU TRiO’s long serving directors with this prestigious award—Upward Bound Director David Trujillo is the 2013 H. Aldus Dixon Award recipient.

Prior to being employed at Weber, Dave attended as a student having earned a four-year athletic scholarship for track and graduated from Weber in 1970 with a degree in physical education. At the luncheon where Dave was honored, Dave spoke about his early life as a student athlete. At one point, he sustained an injury that kept him from a track meet and had to sit on the sidelines.

“I made a vow to myself that I would never let anything hold me back, and I would arise from the ashes and move forward,” Dave said. “In that moment, I also said to myself I would help anybody who heard the words ‘you cannot go forward.’”

For over 35 years while he has been at Weber State University, most of those years as the director TRiO Upward Bound, Dave has realized that vow he made to himself. For 35 years he has introduced first generation high school students to the dream of a college education and been a mentor and guide as they travelled through their college experience—many at WSU. This means 35 years of students who believed they would never be able to go to college were in fact admitted to, enrolled in and graduated from college because of the guidance and assistance of Dave Trujillo. For 35 years, he has participated in the changing of the lives of individuals, families and generations.

I have had the opportunity to work with Dave 20 of his 35 years and have witnessed on countless occasions the dedication he has for his “bounders.” I have also seen the respect and appreciation his “bounders” have for Dave. Dave Trujillo is a well-deserved inclusion to the long list of recipients for this award. Congratulations Dave.
Cassandra Caulford is a freshmen at Weber State University and is excited to be pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. She is mother of four grown children and has two grandson's that live in Southaven, Mississippi. Cassandra has been in Ogden, UT for two years now and loves the landscape. Right now her favorite thing to do is study and learn new things. She has taken some really fun classes like African Dancing and Music in Religion. She serves as the Parliamentarian in B.S.U. (Black Scholars United) and says she has grown a lot from this experience. For Cassandra church participation is very important and she spends a lot of time serving there as well.

“MATH HAS BEEN A GREAT CHALLENGE AND I'M THANKFUL FOR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL THEY DO TO HELP ME SUCCEED”.

Jessica Espinoza will graduate this semester Cum Laude with a BS in Nursing. She has been with SSS since 2007 and has overcome some great obstacles. She started school with a young daughter and a long commute having been out of school for a while. She took advantage of tutoring through SSS and has a current GPA of 3.69. She finished her practical nursing experience at DATC and was never discouraged by having to apply more than once. Jessica has attended full time and most summers despite her responsibilities at home. She is truly a "Shining Star”.

Jessica is graduating Cum Laude with a B.S. in Nursing.
She currently has a 3.69 G.P.A.
Jessica has utilized tutoring through Student Support Services to help her achieve her goals.

Luke Harris will be leaving soon to live in Colorado Springs. He will be moving in the summer.

“Though I hate to leave such a good thing I feel the opportunities in Colorado will help be even more of a well-rounded professional. TRIO has been one of the greatest organizations I have ever had the pleasure of serving and I am proud to have worked with such outstanding individuals here at WSU.”
TALENT SEARCH

NEW FROM TALENT SEARCH

TRiO Talent Search has been busy this year. Our Advisors at the high schools have been working hard on scholarship applications. One of our students from Ogden High received an Ambassador Scholarship from Weber State University…congratulations Malcolm Rolling!

We also have a winner for an Ambassador Scholarship at Dixie State. Congratulations Amarini Moya!

This spring we have been in the full swing with taking students on campus visits. On March 26th Talent Search took 56 students (9th grade) to view the Ogden Weber Applied Technology College. Students got to tour the campus and learn about the 5 top areas for training and future employment, (health, business & IT, services, machining and composites). Lunch was provided and the Advisors shared information about the importance of rigor coursework as they progress through high school.

This year we partnered with two other programs for the Southern Utah Tour (April 4-6). High school students from Ogden, Weber, and Davis districts got to visit 4 college campuses in the southern part of our State. The campuses they visited included Utah Valley University, Snow College, Dixie State College, and Southern Utah University. On the last day, students got to hike and experience the beautiful Zions Park before heading home. Many students said they made great friendships with students outside of their district, and really enjoyed meeting other students from the various schools that were represented.

Our two high school Advisors and Director were able to attend a “Priority 5: Proven Strategies for Serving and Recruiting Hard to Reach Populations” training this year in the amazing city of New Orleans. The free trainings provided by grant funding has proven to be useful and cost effective. We really enjoyed meeting other professionals in TRiO programs from across the country. Because we were the only program in the state to attend this training, and because of this our Director was also able to provide a training on this topic for other TRiO programs at the state ASPIRE conference.

We have also been able to implement a stronger mentoring component for students who need additional time and assistance with the college application process, including students from Spanish speaking homes. One of our goals as a program this year is to provide more outreach to the Spanish speaking community, as we feel this is an important service that our participants and community will benefit from.

Aside from our big push to register our high school seniors for fall classes at college and/or universities include: the Northern Utah Tour on April 19th, where we will take the students to visit Weber State University, Salt Lake Community College, University of Utah, & Westminster University, and we will also be taking part in the “Education Access & Outreach Recognition Night” on May 7th when we will get to salute the hard work of our graduating seniors!
Our awesome, extraordinary, wonderful, well-deserving director Dave Trujillo received the prestigious H. Aldous Dixon award on March 13, 2013. All of the staff, students, and volunteers at Upward Bound were excited to see Dave get the recognition he deserves.

Upward Bound senior Makenna Hill was selected as Boys and Girls Club’s Utah Youth of the Year in February at the Utah State Capitol. She received a $1,000 scholarship and will head to California in June to compete at the regional level.

Seven of our seniors received Honors at Entrance scholarships to WSU, totaling $8,700!

Eight Upward Bound students were selected to attend the TRiO student leadership conference at Southern Utah University, held February 7th through 9th. At this conference, our students met other TRiO participants from around the state, learned about their individual leadership styles, and created a series of public service announcements. These eight students will act as leaders in the Upward Bound program for the coming year, helping facilitate community service activities during the school year and teaching a service learning class in the summer program.

Our juniors have been busy this year, touring University of Utah, Utah State University, and, most recently, Snow College. While at Snow, Upward Bound students met with Shaun Kjar of student life and Mike Anderson of SSS. Students also attended the Polynesian Club’s annual luau, complete with a meal and dancing.
On March 14, 2013, a symposium was proudly presented at Weber State University that was designed to help educators understand the needs of active military and veterans who are students in higher education. A five member team led by Randy Wilson, the Director of Veterans Upward Bound and joined by Dan Czech, the Enrollment Advisor for Veterans Upward Bound worked for over a year to organize this event. Other members of the team were Charlie Chandler, Chad Holbrook, and Kristie Nielsen. Attendees had many complimentary things to say about the day and offered ideas for an even greater event for the future.

It is our hope in veterans Upward Bound that this event helped pave the way for more people who server veterans to understand their unique needs which, in turn, would then help them assist our students in reaching college graduation.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAVID BARNEY

David has been a regular at our office since summer of 2012. He enjoys reading, including audio books, and has utilized this pastime to bring his writing up to college level. Despite having a full time job and many hobbies, such as weekend trips on his motorcycle, road trips, trail running, and orienteering, David has demonstrated an impressive level of dedication and academic growth during his time at VUB.

David grew up in the town of Oroville in northern California. He moved to N. Ogden, Utah, when he was 15 and graduated from Weber High School. After joining the Army in 1995, David went to basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, and tech training at Ft. Eustis, VA. He was trained as an AH-64 Armament/Electrical/Avionics repair technician. He was stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY, and Ft. Rucker, AL, serving a total of ten years in the military. Of the many places David has lived, the southern US has been his favorite.

Reflecting on his time in the Army, David says, “The training I received in the military has been invaluable. It has opened up many doors in my life and given me many opportunities to grow. I would definitely do it all over again. I have been fortunate to have picked an excellent career in the Army that has helped me immensely in the private sector.” Yet David has realized that in order to advance further in his field, he needs a degree. “I have loved my time working on aircraft,” he states,
“but I would really like to continue my work in aviation in a more specialized capacity, such as being a field service representative. Eventually I would like to work for big aviation firm such as Boeing, Lockheed, or Northrop. My 5 year goal would be to earn a degree in electronics and work overseas and with our armed forces in Germany or the UK.”

After being a full-time single parent for the last ten years and with his daughter now in college, the time is right for David to continue his education. “It’s easy to convince myself that I have too many things going on. At my age, there is never the ‘perfect’ time to go back to school,” he admits. However, talking to others who work full time while in school and hearing how they overcome challenges has boosted David’s confidence: “You just have to take the plunge and deal with things as they come.”

For a first-timer, college can be intimidating. Veterans Upward Bound has helped David by “demystifying” college and supporting him. “Knowing that there are people available to help me attend school successfully has been a big boost in confidence. They are always willing to go the extra mile to help me posture myself for success. I would recommend that all veterans utilize this service.”

FROM COE

Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, who has been named Acting Deputy Secretary for Higher Education Programs, addressed the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc. members at the 36th Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She thanked everyone who was able to attend the Higher Education Programs meeting held in March in Washington, DC. Department officials received much feedback and expressed their hope to have a similar conference in the future.

Dr. Byrd-Johnson stressed the importance of continued evaluation of programs beyond the Annual Performance Report (APR) and encouraged programs to share their successes with their respective communities, institutions and lawmakers.

In light of the 5.23% cut in every TRIO program’s budget, Dr. Byrd-Johnson reminded TRIO programs that prior written approval will still be needed to reduce stipend and grant aid line items, and carry forward monies will be reviewed carefully. In the past, any carry forward monies equaling $25,000 or more by a program from year to year were “flagged” by the Department and program specialists followed up, with results such as awarding $1 for the next year or reducing the budget amount. The Department of Education will make a case-by-case decision on any program that requests to reduce their student numbers in the 2013-2014 year. Dr. Byrd-Johnson suggested programs cut budgets in areas that have the least impact on their students, including budget line items such as travel and supplies.

Specific TRIO program information is as follows:

Student Support Services – ED is beginning to work on the 2015 competition. No specific details were given. Dr. Byrd-Johnson encouraged the SSS community to write for the CCAMPIS grants. In addition, ED is planning to site-visit a number of programs as a learning tool for new ED program specialists.

Talent Search – All TS APR’s were submitted and are currently being reviewed.

Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science - The new APR is open for comment until May 28. Dr. Byrd-Johnson stated that any programs seeking to change target areas need prior written approval. For research purposes, ED has established a database with all schools programs are working in.

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Council for Opportunity in Education