The Fiscal Cliff: Jeopardizing the Foundation and Momentum Behind Latino Educational Achievement

This election the Latino community played a significant role in deciding who leads our country over the next four years. Left and right you heard pundits analyze the power of the Latino electorate -- NBC Latino even claimed "the road to the White House is through el barrio." Around the nation, we made our voice heard on Election Day.

Our voices heard, it is vital to turn this clout into tangible benefits for our community. The fact is our community has more skin in the game this time around. We have started to see a positive shift in Latino educational success in this country and as we approach the "fiscal cliff," we must call on those we helped to elect to protect the programs responsible for this turnaround.

According to a recently released Pew Hispanic Center report and their analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, the nation's Latino student population reached several milestones in the last few years. In 2011, for the first time, one-quarter of public elementary school children were Hispanic. More than 12.4 million Hispanics were enrolled in the nation's public schools pre-K through 12th grade in October 2011. For the first time, the number of 18- to 24-year-old Latinos enrolled in college exceeded 2 million and reached a record 16.5 percent share of all college enrollments. We are the largest minority group among the country's four-year college and university students. As recently as October 2006, Latinos were only 11 percent of all college students. Years of hard work and investment in our children's education have brought us to this important point.

To what can we attribute this success? To begin with, we must recognize the importance of public-private partnerships that contribute to the development of innovative programs, increased engagement and new technology. Since our founding almost 40 years ago, LNESC has been at the forefront of this program model. From the private sector, we partner with companies like McDonald's, Shell, Procter & Gamble, and others to deliver programs targeted at improving literacy, providing in-depth college access workshops, and awarding scholarships to deserving students. On the federal side, LNESC receives federal grants, specifically, working with the Department of Education to address the educational needs of disadvantaged students across the nation with a particular focus on access to higher education.

One such program is the Department of Education's TRIOPROGRAMS CAMPUSS UPDATE

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They deliver a variety of services to students, including assistance in selecting and enrolling in college, tutoring, counseling and career workshops. The National Education Association finds that the automatic cuts would take $66 million out of TRIO in 2013 and would eliminate services to as many as 61,000 low-income students.

TRIO is the cornerstone of LNESC’s strategy to closing the achievement gap in the Hispanic community. Losing even a small amount of this federal funding would severely limit our ability to serve the thousands of in-need students we support annually.

Approximately 8,000 disadvantaged students will receive college access services over the next five years through LNESC’s 12 federal TRIO programs, including 10 Upward Bound and 2 Talent Search programs. Students enrolled in these programs are oblivious to the politics that determine whether or not they will get vital one-on-one counseling time with an LNESC academic advisor, instead they are preoccupied with life in some of the U.S.’s poorest communities.

One such student is David Thompson, one of LNESC’s Upward Bound participants in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I met David recently and he told me that the community he lives in is commonly referred as the "war zone" due to high crime and drug violence. He was proud to report that despite distractions like drug raids in his apartment complex, he just received an "A-" in physics and was on track to graduate, thanks, in large part, to the motivation he received from his Upward Bound advisors and peers. In 2012, LNESC Albuquerque’s Upward Bound program sent approximately 80 percent of its seniors to college (well above the state's average in 2010 of 41 percent).

In coordination with our privately funded college access programming, LNESC’s federal programs are lifelines for students struggling to navigate poverty and an educational system that rewards those who can afford to spend thousands of dollars on test preparation courses and private tutors.

Education programs have already suffered significant, harmful cuts to both K-12 and higher education. They cannot continue to be a source for deficit reduction. As the Latino population continues to grow, it is vital to the success of our nation that we continue to invest highly in educational opportunities for high-need communities. We must not balance the budget on the backs of our children and gamble with their educational future -- we have overcome far too many challenges to take a step backward.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jason-resendez/the-fiscal-cliff-jeopardy_b_2211140.html

GO COLLEGE Website

The Gaining Options for College Collaborative (GO College), a national data-driven initiative that brings communities together to increase college access and success for low-income, first-generation and minority students, has officially launched their website at http://mygocollege.org.

What is GO College?

The Gaining Options for College Collaborative (GO College) is a national data-driven initiative that brings communities together to increase college access and success for low-income, first-generation, and minority students.

GO College is built upon six essential cornerstones:

- **Collaboration** among Many Community Partners
- **Using Data** to Improve Student Outcomes
- Combining a **Whole School Approach** with More Intensive Services for Individual Student Groups
- **Aligning** In-School and Out-of-School Programming to Improve Student Achievement

- **Building on** Existing Community Resources
- **Emphasizing** Student, School, and Community Strengths

Student Support Services / Talent Search / Upward Bound / Veterans Upward Bound
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

FALL SEMESTER 2012

TRIO SSS, has had a number of initiatives: Namely implementing our Leadership Advisory Board and moving to a better streamlined system for documentation

The Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) has been making steady progress this semester. This group of students has been chosen as leaders of their college to mentor newer students and offer their expertise on subjects that can be useful to other students who are not as far along in their degrees.

Each Leadership Advisory Board member is asked to complete one project in the Fall semester, then present a workshop to our students to share some insight. Then in the Spring semester, the LAB members will ‘publish’ their information in some form such as a video, an online document or a podcast so other students will be able to access this helpful information. Some examples of student projects are:

- How to prepare for graduate school as an undergraduate, how to create a podcast, how to apply for the nursing program, how to submit an IRB, research tips and more.

SSS and The Documentation Process

As SSS is a grant funded program there are multiple documents and information systems that need to be recorded and kept for long amounts of time. SSS is in the process of moving parts of our documentation to an electronic process. As we address each system we will revisit the paperwork process. We currently have the paperless documentation system set up and installed. Once we have the necessary components for a scanning system we will begin converting some of our older documents to digital.

Student Success

Christa Boyd was accepted for an internship within Student Affairs and Tisha Cicone has been accepted into the nursing program and assisted other students in the process.

SSS recently donated two trees to be donated to the YCC and the Women’s Shelter.
The TRiO Talent Search Program hosted their annual "Senior Retreat" at the Environmental Center with Seniors from Ogden and Ben Lomond High. Students participated in recreational activities, got to know their new 'Talent Search' Staff, and received a crash course on a variety of topics relating to preparing for college.

We have two new full time Advisors who began their positions at the high schools the end of October. Jerry Gansey comes to us with experience working in the JJS (Juvenile Justice System) field and is the Advisor at Ben Lomond High School. Damian Choi has experience working with students in non-profit programs and is the Advisor for Ogden High School. We are lucky to have them!

We have focused a great deal on recruiting new students to the program, including the at the junior high level (with Advisor Jill Schneck who does a great job balancing it all) as well as having Seniors meet the Priority Deadline for some of the colleges/universities in Utah. Next is getting Seniors to complete the FAFSA, attend Wildcat Welcome, and the Northern Utah tour for 10th graders!
UPWARD BOUND

ANOTHER BUSY SEMESTER FOR UPWARD BOUND

It has been a great start to the new school year here at Weber State Upward Bound! Our students worked hard during first term, with 75% maintaining a 3.0 OR significantly improving their cumulative GPAs. Eleven of our students received all As on their report cards. All of our seniors took the ACT for a second time and are busy applying for scholarships. Juniors are preparing to take the ACT in spring.

Our students have participated in eleven community service activities benefitting the Boys and Girls Club, St. Benedict’s Foundation, Catholic Community Services, the Union Station Foundation, Primary Children’s Medical Center, and the Project Success Coalition. As of the end of November, our students have volunteered 712 hours this school year alone! That averages well over ten hours per student.

This school year, students have had the opportunity to attend the Utah Symphony: Russian Masters performance, attend Science Day at the University of Utah, and the Festival of Trees. Additionally, the entire Upward Bound program was able to attend a Utah Jazz Game at the Energy Solutions Arena thanks to a generous donation by the Utah Jazz.

Students prepare crafts to be sold at the Festival of Trees benefitting Primary Children’s Medical

Students w/ Yvonne Coiner of St. Benedict’s Foundation

UB juniors attend Science Day at the U

Students at Boys and Girls Club’s “Scarecrow”
BARANOWSKY RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF VETERANS AT WSU

Presented to Tyler J. Baranowsky for demonstration of excellence in leadership, scholarship, and personal integrity applied unselfishly to benefit members of the Weber State University campus and community.

Tyler served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps from Sept. 2004-Dec. 2008 including multiple combat tours in Iraq. He received the National Defense Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze star, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

As a student at Weber State University, Tyler serves student veterans in the Veterans Upward Bound office on campus. He works to make the transition from military life to university life as smooth as possible. Tyler is an engineering major involved in student leadership organizations for engineering students.

He also volunteers with youth in “Lego League,” a robotics program for 9 to 16 year olds. Tyler serves as an example to youth as well as his fellow students demonstrating high standards of personal conduct and integrity. It is our pleasure to present this award to Tyler Baranowsky as recognition and appreciation for his service to our country, our community and our campus.

VUB REFUNDED FOR FIVE MORE YEARS

Veterans Upward Bound has been funded for another 5 year grand cycle. The new cycle began September 1, 2012. The VUB program is funded for the same dollar amount that it was for all of the last grant cycle, $323,217 each year ($1,616,085 for the entire 5 years) and cannot expect an increase throughout the entire 5 year run.

With this new funding the program is increasing the number it will serve from 120 to 144 participants each year.

Veterans Upward Bound is a federal TRIO program funded through the U.S. Department of Education.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
— Nelson Mandela

“Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education: they grow there, firm as weeds among stones.”
— Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

“Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life.”
— Confucius
Will TRIO and GEAR UP be at the Table or on the Table?!

As you have likely heard in the news, lawmakers in Washington, D.C. are grappling with how to keep the country from going over the fiscal cliff at the end of this year. (You can find out more information about the fiscal cliff and TRIO here or go to http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/I ssues/GR_Bulletin_Board/2012/TRIO_GEAR_UP_and_the_Fiscal_Cliff_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx)

With most of the conversation focusing on taxes and entitlements (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.) there is a very real chance that funding for education and other “discretionary programs” will bear more than their fair share of cuts!

Anyone is welcome to call or write their congressmen and senators to voice support of TRIO and to ask that they favor Federal TRIO Programs on the hill.

You can call any congressional office using the Capitol Hill switchboard at (202) 224-3121. You can find contact information for all of your Senators and House Representative at (http://www.contactingthecongress.org/).

You can find information to e-mail and call the White House at (http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments/).

Please spread this message far and wide — only by having our voices heard will we be able to protect the low-income, first-generation students served by TRIO and GEAR UP!

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

THE COUNCIL FOR OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION

The Council for Opportunity in Education is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities throughout the United States. Its membership includes more than 1,000 colleges and agencies. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host TRIO programs to specifically help low-income students enter college and graduate. More than 700,000 low-income students and students with disabilities each year receive college access and retention services through our member colleges and agencies.

Federal TRIO Programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans' Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program) help students to overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education.

TRIO services include: assistance in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; assistance in applying to college; workplace and college visits; special instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic assistance in high school or assistance to reenter high school or college.

accomplishments:

- an estimated 2 million students graduating from college;
- the integration of 2,800 TRIO programs into college campuses, serving nearly one million students (two-thirds of whom come from families with incomes under $34,375 — family of four);
- the establishment of performance standards that are subject to specific outcome measures. Each program's continued funding is dependent upon meeting quantifiable objectives related to college entrance and graduation rates;
- increased national awareness of equal educational opportunity issues and diversity in colleges and universities; and
- leveraged $900 million in FY 2011 to support TRIO Programs ($174.9 in 1985)