A FEW FACTS ABOUT TRIO DEVELOPMENTS

With the political and financial climate we now have TRIO has been bleeding students for the last several years. With the results of the Upward Bound competition, TRIO now serves 85,000 fewer students than it did in FY 2005. In the last three years alone, TRIO has lost 44,000 students.

The losses in the recent Upward Bound competition demonstrate the harsh impact of stagnant funding. Approximately 5,000 students lost access to the Upward Bound program when their projects lost funding this past May. As applicants needed to achieve a near perfect score win grant awards, several long-standing, historic projects (including some of the original pilot projects) lost funding.

Losses were particularly felt in the following states, which lost 40% or more of their projects: Alaska, Connecticut, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin as well as the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

Meanwhile, the following states lost at least 25% (but less than 40%) of their projects: Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah.

Programs in states classified as “rural” (i.e., have fewer inhabitants per square mile than the national average) were hit particularly hard. Only 2 programs at tribal institutions received funding.

Congress Delays Student Loan Interest Rate Hike for One Year

(July 6, 2012)

http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/Issues/GR_Summary/COE/NAV_Issues/GR_Summary.aspx?hkey=83b36065-7ddb-42c5-89f8-ac782270d8a4

Just shy of the July 1 deadline, Members of Congress reached an agreement to maintain the current Stafford student loan interest rate of 3.4% for undergraduate students. This rate was set to double to 6.8% on July 1, 2012 unless Congress took action. The agreement, which was coupled with legislation to extend highway and federal flooding insurance funding, staved off for one year an interest rate hike that would have cost 7 million students an additional $1,000 in loan repayments.

To compensate for maintaining the lower interest rate, this legislation called for other changes in student aid funding. Most notable is the provision (continued on the next page)
limiting the eligibility of undergraduates for subsidized federal loans to 150% of the standard academic program completion time (e.g., six years for a bachelor’s degree program, three years for an associate’s degree program, etc.). The bill did not address other federal student aid changes already scheduled to take place, including the elimination of subsidized federal loan eligibility for graduate and professional students as well as the interest-free grace period for new Stafford loan borrowers. With respect to the Pell Grant program, the law did not disturb the recent reduction from 18 to 12 semesters of student eligibility nor the new requirement that Pell Grant recipients must have a high school diploma, GED or similar credential. (For can find more information about federal student aid criteria and guidelines at The Project on Student Debt.)

In the days leading up to the final negotiations, House Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) fought to include funding for Upward Bound and McNair in the student aid legislation. Unfortunately, these efforts were not successful. However, they continue to champion our cause and, in addition to thanking them for their valiant efforts, we must also continue to outreach to all Members of Congress to urge them to pour more funds into TRIO to prevent additional losses of students in the near future.

Appropriations bill. In fact, it has been postponed indefinitely.

This means that the funding for TRIO in FY 2013 will, as it has in recent years, be determined through a large appropriations package that combines several bills into a single measure. This bill must be passed before the end of the federal fiscal year, which is September 30, 2012. (Recent reports indicate that Congress may pass a bill that will keep the government funded until after the November election and then return to Washington, D.C. to finalize FY 13 funding as well as address other pressing measures — including the expiration of the “Bush tax cuts” and the automatic, across-the-board cuts triggered by the Budget Control Act.) Typically, these massive appropriations packages include level funding for most programs. However, as we saw at the end of last year, it is possible to secure additional funding for TRIO. It was only through a concerted effort of our entire community as well as bipartisan cooperation between our champions on Capitol Hill that we were able to receive a $13.4 million increase in FY 12 — the only higher education program to receive an increase.

Source
Most of the information contained on the first and second page of this publication was gleaned from the web site for the Council for Opportunity in Education found at http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/Home/COE/Home.aspx?hkey=040ce49-d947-3110-b9fa-1f30be9e919. 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 one million low-income students and students with disabilities each year receive college access and retention services through our member colleges and agencies.

(continued from the front page)

Update — House FY 2013 Mark Up of LHHS Bill Postponed

On Monday, July 23rd, the Appropriations Committee announced that it would not hold a mark-up of the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill. In fact, it has been postponed indefinitely.

This means that the funding for TRIO in FY 2013 will, as it has in recent years, be determined through a large appropriations package that combines several bills into a single measure. This bill must be passed before the end of the federal fiscal year, which is September 30, 2012. (Recent reports indicate that Congress may pass a bill that will keep the government funded until after the November election and then return to Washington, D.C. to finalize FY 13 funding as well as address other pressing measures — including the expiration of the “Bush tax cuts” and the automatic, across-the-board cuts triggered by the Budget Control Act.) Typically, these massive appropriations packages include level funding for most programs. However, as we saw at the end of last year, it is possible to secure additional funding for TRIO. It was only through a concerted effort of our entire community as well as bipartisan cooperation between our champions on Capitol Hill that we were able to receive a $13.4 million increase in FY 12 — the only higher education program to receive an increase.

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Eddie Hoyle is the new director for Student Support Services (SSS). Eddie was a previous SSS director at WSU. The last few years he has been working with the office Sponsored Projects. Eddie and staff are working to streamline some of the processes of the SSS program to make it more convenient for students utilizing our services through technology.

**ELECTRONIC INITIATIVE**

SSS has made a goal to include electronic media and other platforms to encourage students to participate in our activities and our program. We will be launching an iTunes U website shortly and also hope to establish more of our documents toward electronic records and a stronger website presence.

**LEADERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD**

Each year first-generation and low income students do groundbreaking things paving their way through the higher education system. We want to be able to share that hard work and knowledge with successive students following their path. By publishing student leadership projects to iTunes U students will forever be able to access those records and utilize the advice of the people who came before them. We hope with this addition SSS will better provide a way for students to ‘pay it forward’; essentially a step toward closing the knowledge gap for first generation students.

**TUTORING SERVICES**

We offer tutoring in a variety of subjects. We hire students within our program and offer training to become Master tutor certified through the corporation of other departments.

**BOOK BORROWING**

SSS has a library of textbooks that students can borrow at no-cost. If you have access to textbooks that you no longer need please donate them to our department.

**ADVISING**

Each student in our program is assigned to an advisor who helps them through college processes. We also offer College skills workshops each semester.
TALENT SEARCH

NEW TALENT SEARCH DIRECTOR HIRED

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS FROM TALENT SEARCH

Northern Utah Tour
On April 4th, TRiO Talent Search sophomores and juniors visited three institutions: Westminster College, University of Utah, and Salt Lake Community College. During these tours, students were introduced to campus services, and were given the opportunity to understand the differences that exist between colleges and universities as well as the differences between public and private institutions.

Senior Recognition Night
The TRiO Talent Search program recognized graduating seniors on May 17th for their accomplishments within the program and in their preparations for college success. It was also announced that WSU Talent Search students have been offered over $400,000 in scholarships for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

Southern Utah Tour
On May 29th-31st, students took part in the Southern Utah tour and visited four colleges: Utah Valley University, Snow College, Dixie State College, and Southern Utah University. Included in the tour, students were given a chance to spend an afternoon in Zion National Park and hike to Scout Lookout near Angel’s Landing. This later became a huge motivation for students to pursue a higher education.

Summer Day Camp
On June 7th and June 12th, 8th and 9th graders attended a day camp hosted by the TRiO Program at the Weber State Campus. Students were given a tour of various departments on campus to help them get a feel of the college atmosphere. Students were also treated to hands on activities such as dissecting a cow’s eye with HCOP (Health Careers Opportunity Program) and participating in a BOT Build Workshop with COAST (College of Applied Science & Technology).

New Director
In August, Rebecca Tierney began her position as the new Director of the TRiO Talent Search program. Rebecca (Becky) has years of experience managing grants that support low income, at risk adolescents. She also has experience as a high school Counselor, and hopes to use these experiences to provide high quality services for the participants in the TRiO Talent Search program.
Upward Bound: A Successful Summer Program Completed

We are excited to celebrate the completion of another successful summer program!

This year, WSU Upward Bound went on an “Indiana Jones” adventure! The excitement included a hike at The Narrows in Zion National Park, river rafting on the Colorado River, touring Cliff Palace and Balcony House at Mesa Verde, visiting Newspaper Rock, and hiking to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park. Students were also treated to a performance of “Aladdin” at Tuacahn Amphitheatre.

Students moved into the new “Stewart Wasatch Hall” dorms on June 17. They lived, ate, and attended classes on campus for the next five weeks. Academic classes included science, math, literature and composition, French, art, and history. In addition, student leaders facilitated team building and, for the second year, service learning classes. Three service learning projects were completed:

- Students received donations and filled 20 backpacks with blankets, toys, and snacks, which were donated to the Christmas Box House in Ogden.
- Students created and sewed a quilt which will be auctioned off at ASPIRE’s regional conference in October. The funds generated by this auction will provide scholarships for TRiO students.
- Student ran a children’s booth at Clinton Days and received clothes, canned food, and money donations, which will be delivered to the YCC.

During the night program, students participated in gym two nights a week using the university facilities. Students participated in weekly community service beautifying the grounds at Ogden City Cemetery. Students also attended a ReAL Salt Lake game, a showing of the movie Brave, had fun at Seven Peaks water park, and were treated to an Ogden Raptors game.
VETERANS
UPWARD BOUND

VUB ALUMNI WINS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The National Association of Veterans Upward Bound [http://www.navub.org/] is an organization the VUB staff from around the program belong to. Our membership makes us eligible to nominate a person for a scholarship each year.

Several years ago, Randy Wilson, Director of VUB, was instrumental in the development of the scholarship program for NAVUB. The group started by offering 4 $500 scholarships. This year the group has been able to offer 7 $1,000 scholarships and a VUB alumni who is a student at WSU has been selected to receive one of these scholarships.

Tyler Baranowsky, whose home is in Sandy, was nominated for the scholarship back in March and in July we were notified of his selection. Tyler was ranked fourth on the scholarship slate of winners.

Tyler Baranowsky, with Randy Wilson—VUB Director, displaying the email announcing Tyler’s selection for the NAVUB Scholarship.

Tyler works as a work study student in Veterans Upward Bound. This outstanding veteran has a great academic attitude that is reflected in his high GPA at WSU and in his willingness to help veterans. He was active helping VUB participants with tutoring and advice even before we hired him as a work study. Tyler has spoken on campus at an adjunct faculty session and has agreed to speak on behalf of veteran students at a Veteran Symposium that WSU is sponsoring in March 2014.

We are very proud of this outstanding veteran student.

CLARIFICATION OF TARGET POPULATION

Veterans Upward Bound has just submitted a grant proposal to continue the program for another 5 year grant cycle. We should hear the results of that proposal in September if there are no glitches in the reading process by the U.S. Department of Education.

In this years competition the Department was crystal clear on a point that many programs had considered a matter of interpretation in the past. VUB must serve pre-college veterans to “assist veterans to prepare for a program of postsecondary education.” This means that VUB can not serve veterans who are already enrolled in college and must concentrate on recruiting veterans before they enter college. This will change the complexion of the project at WSU since this program has previously tutored veterans who were attending college classes.

In addition, in order just to retain the same level of funding that we had in the 2007 2011 grant cycle, we must server 24 more participants than ever before, bringing our number foe each year up to 144 from 120. This will be a difficult challenge but one we are willing to accept in order to not have our budget cut. The award amount we receive the first year of the grant is expected to be frozen at that amount for each year of the 5 year grant cycle, resulting in reduction of income if you consider that the cost of living will not be frozen in that period of time.
NATIONAL TRIO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (NTAA)

The National TRIO Alumni Association was formed by a group of TRIO alumni who are interested in increasing public support for expanded college opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and disabled students within the United States, particularly those enrolled in the TRIO programs; mobilizing alumni so that their talents can expand mentoring, career information, and other supports available to low-income, first-generation, and disabled students particularly those enrolled in TRIO; and providing a career and community network for graduates of TRIO programs.

The mission of the National TRIO Alumni Association is to increase public support for expanded college opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and disabled students within the United States, particularly those enrolled in the TRIO programs; to mobilize alumni so that their talents can expand mentoring, career information and other supports available to low-income, first-generation and disabled students particularly those enrolled in TRIO; and to provide a career and community network for graduates of TRIO programs.

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

According to The Desert News http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865558480/

College-a-new-skirmish-for-many-veterans-as-88-percent-drop-out-in-first-year.html?pg=all

88% of war-time veterans are dropping out of college within the first year, and as few as 3% ever graduate because of problems adapting back to civilian life.

A large number of service members suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). An estimated 11% to 20% of veterans returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffer from the condition, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

That's between 220,000 and 400,000 of the 2 million troops deployed since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

A new study (PDF) shows that only about half of U.S. service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan diagnosed with PTSD received any treatment for it.


If you wish to comment on this newsletter or offer suggestions, please contact Carl Porter at x6872 or Randy Wilson at x7047.

We plan to publish updates approximately every 4 months.

TRIO programs are funded through competitive 5-year grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.