TRiO
Programs by Congressional Districts

Congressman Jason Chaffetz
7 TRiO Programs
36 Schools served
Funding: $1,875,428
1686 participants served

Congressman Chris Stewart
12 TRiO Programs
52 Schools served
Funding: $3,407,026
2661 participants served

Congressman Robert Bishop
7 TRiO Programs
21 Schools served
Funding: $1,783,998
1448 participants served

Congressman Jim Matheson
4 TRiO Programs
6 Schools served
Funding: $563,529
468 participants served

District 1
State
25 TRiO Programs
117 Schools served
Funding: $7,629,981
TRiO is a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. 790,000 low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities spanning from sixth grade through college graduation and are served by over 2,800 programs nationally.

In Utah, there are 25 Trio programs. With 123 TRiO staff serving 6,586 students.

TRiO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention.

Who TRiO Served?

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes at 150% or less of the federal poverty level and in which neither parent graduated from college. Many programs serve students in grades six through 12.

Thirty-five percent of TRiO students are White. 35% are African-American. 19% are Hispanic. 4% are Native Americans. 3% are Asian-Americans. 4% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students.

Serving more than 7,000 students with disabilities. Approximately 6,000 U.S. veterans.

Educational Talent Search:
Grades 6-12 and Adults up to age 27

Upward Bound: Grades 9-12

Veterans Upward Bound:
Preparing and transitioning into college for veterans.

Student Support Services:
Undergraduate students

Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement:
Provides Doctoral Study preparation for undergraduate students.
Dear Friends of TRiO,

On behalf of the Association of Special Programs in Region Eight (ASPIRE) – Utah Chapter, I’d like to thank you for your continued support of First Generation and Low Income students.

Each year ASPIRE UT provides this communication to share the accomplishments of our programs which provide post-secondary educational access to low income, first generation and disabled students within our great state. These programs, collectively known as “TRIO,” are funded through the US Department of Education and are legislatively housed in the Higher Education Opportunities Act. There are currently 25 funded Federal TRIO Programs in the state of Utah, collectively serving 6,300 eligible students.

The programs highlighted in this booklet include, Upward Bound, Veteran’s Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, Student Support Services and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. These programs, though targeted to specific ages and secondary and post-secondary achievement levels, all aim to reduce poverty, which in turn, creates an educated work force, increases revenue and increases the quality of life of these students, their families and the communities in which they reside.

Please take a moment to learn more about our programs, get to know our TRIO Scholars and the dedicated staff who aim to end the cycle of poverty and provide educational access to the most needy in our communities.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Kyle K. Ethelbah, MPH
ASPIRE UT President

aspireonline.org/utah/
Low-income students are being left behind. Only 38% of low-income high school seniors go straight to college as compared to 81% of their peers in the highest income quartile. Then, once enrolled in college, low-income students earn bachelor's degrees at a rate that is less than half of that of their high-income peers — 21% as compared with 45%.

The growing achievement gap in our country is detrimental to our success as a nation. There is a tremendous gap in educational attainment between America's highest and lowest income students despite similar talents and potential. While there are numerous talented and worthy low-income students, relatively few are represented in higher education, particularly at America's more selective four-year colleges and universities. While nearly 67% of high-income, highly-qualified students enroll in four-year colleges, only 47% of low-income, highly-qualified students enroll. Even more startling, 77% of the least-qualified, high-income students go on to college, while roughly the same proportion of the most-qualified low-income students that go on to college. (ACSFA 2005).

The United States needs to boost both its academic and economic competitiveness globally. In order to foster and maintain a healthy economy as well as compete globally, the United States needs a strong, highly-educated, and competent workforce. To be on par with other nations, the country needs students, no matter their background, who are academically prepared and motivated to achieve success.
TRiO Educational Talent Search

**Purpose:** Talent Search is primarily an early intervention TRiO program that provides academic, career and financial counseling to its participants. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth aged 11-18 from disadvantaged backgrounds and high school dropouts until the age of 27, to complete high school and postsecondary education. (U.S. Department of Education)

**Number of Participants Served:** 2,468

**Total Budget for Educational Talent Search:** $1,102,300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income and First Generation</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of postsecondary enrollment</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College-ready participants applying for financial aid</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College-ready participants applying for college admissions</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoted to the next grade level</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation from high school</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Services Provided by Educational Talent Search**

- Academic, financial, career or personal counseling including advice on re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs.
- Career exploration and aptitude assessment
- Tutorial Services
- Exposure to college campuses
- Assistance completing college admissions and financial aid applications.
- Assistance preparing for college entrance exams
- Workshops for the families of participants
“ETS has been a great experience for me because it has shown me college is within my grasp. It has been a great influence for me and has opened many doors for higher education. I have gotten many scholarships, college insight from touring, and help with study skills. My family would not be able to send me to college, but through ETS, I have learned about scholarship opportunities and the FAFSA to help pay for college. ACT prep and strategies really helped me gain the score I wanted in order to obtain several scholarships.”

“My name is Aember Rodriguez, I come from a family of seven with a single parent; my mother. I am the oldest one and the first generation of my family to get accepted into a university. Being the oldest has made me become more responsible by helping my mother day and night with my siblings when she was working two jobs to support each one of us. Even though I have family obligations, I have been able to take rigorous courses and maintain a 3.3 GPA.

Participating in the TRIO program has made my college dream possible. This coming fall, I will be pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Radiology at Weber State University!”
TRiO Upward Bound

Purpose: to provide intensive academic support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The overall goal is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education. UB provides a six-week summer experience on a college campus to acclimate and prepare students for college entrance. (U.S. Department of Education)

Number of Participants Served: 370

Total Budget for Upward Bound: $1,857,823

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary enrollment</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income and First Generation</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation from High School</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Services Provided by Upward Bound

- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school.
- Instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language.
- Academic, financial and personal counseling.
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events.
- Mentoring programs.
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid application.
- Targeted instruction to improve performance on state standardized achievement tests.
UB Success Stories

Joshelle Tsinnijinnie

Joshelle Tsinnijinnie joined SUU Upward Bound as a very shy thirteen year old freshman. She thought she wanted to go to college, but knew she needed to learn more about college life and how to work with other people before that could ever happen. Joshelle lives in a rural area several miles from Tonalea, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. She attends Page High School, a bus ride of almost two hours away. Now a senior, Joshelle feels Upward Bound has been very helpful in preparing her for college. She has learned the importance of being more responsible about doing homework and keeping up with the demands of classwork. She is a hard worker and has been accepted to Southern Utah University for the coming fall semester. She wants to become a doctor or pharmacist.

Bowdy Stowe

“Bowdy Stowe is currently a senior in the SUU Upward Bound program. He attends Escalante High School and has been accepted to attend Southern Utah University this coming fall semester. His dream job is to be a paleontologist. He has been part of the Upward Bound program since joining as a freshman and has taken full advantage of the activities UB has to offer. He has learned that if he stays focused on his tasks, he can accomplish almost anything. He has learned that college classes are hard, but they can also be fun and enjoyable. Bowdy truly is a success for our program”
Purpose: To provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their post-secondary education. SSS projects also may provide grant aid to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants. The goal of SSS is to increase college retention and graduation rates of its participants. (U.S. Department of Education)

Number of Participants Served: 1,459

Total Budget for Student Support Services: $2,248,430

Graduation rate: 4 year institution 41%
Graduation rate: 2 year institution 70%
Low-income and First Generation 74%
Persistence towards a completion of a degree 86%
Participants in good academic standing 94%

Services Provided by Student Support Services

- Academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects.
- Advice on assistance in postsecondary course selection.
- Education of counseling in services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy.
- Assistance in completing financial aid applications.
- Assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs.
- Assist students enrolled in 2 year institutions and applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for enrollment in 4 year programs.
- Cultural enrichment activities.
SSS  Success Stories

Raji A. Christian

I am currently a two-year student at Snow College as a Criminal Justice Major. I will be graduating fall of 2015. I plan on being a mentor in the near future or a probation officer. I also play football at Snow College, and plan to go further and play at another college and maybe one day I will be able to play in league. I am a product of the Student Support Services Trio program. Two years ago, I had a great blessing come my way when I was made aware of the Student Support Services Program at Snow College. It really has served as a support system for my in many ways from academics to an emotional standpoint. When I first started to go to Snow College, I had lost my mother to cancer, and I lost my father when I was 12 years old. Coming out here from Atlanta, Georgia, I didn’t have too much support. With help from SSS, I have been able to excel in the classroom and in my financial state. SSS always offers tutoring if you need it or school supplies. Pretty much anything you need is just a helping hand away. SSS will always have a place in my heart.

When I first came to college I ended up in the Student Support Services offices by mistake. After speaking with John I ended up getting tested to place me in math. Mark Leavitt has helped me enormously by teaching me concepts in mathematics that have not only stuck with me but continue to expand. Thanks to the wonderful help of all my instructors and support staff at Student Support Services I have decided to become an elementary teacher who specializes in mathematics. Every member of the team helped me at one time or another. Mark taught me to enjoy math and still continues to teach me more. Lohra taught me the advanced algebra concepts that took me into calculus. She still teaches me by having me grade assignments. Lynne helps me with navigation of college and the minefield it can be. John taught me about thesis statements and I would have taken an English class from him anytime. To celebrate my success is to celebrate these wonderful people who have given me the vision and ambition to become a very passionate teacher.

Matt Vanblaricom
TRiO

Ronald E. McNair

Purpose: To prepare students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with participants as they complete their undergraduate requirements. Institutions encourage participants to enroll in graduate programs and then track their progress through the successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society. (U.S. Department of Education)

Number of Participants Served: 28*

Total Budget for 2013-2014 $231,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-represented in graduate education</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Baccalaureate enrollment</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income and First Generation</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants with opportunities for research and other scholarly activities</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Services Provided by McNair

- Tutoring, counseling, and activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admissions to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs.
- Mentoring
- Opportunities for research or other scholarly activities, such as summer internships, seminars, and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study.
- Exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available to disadvantaged students.

* Data reflects that of the previous funding cycle 2013-2014
TRiO Veterans Upward Bound

Purpose: VUB designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs.

(U.S. Department of Education)

Number of Participants Served: 138*

Total Budget for VUB: $323,217 *

20% Completed VUB program or were retained

Low-income and First Generation 70%

Participants that showed academic improvement 100%

Enrolled in Post-secondary ed by fall See Program Director

Services Provided by Veterans Upward Bound

- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school.
- Instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language.
- Academic, financial and personal counseling.
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events.
- Mentoring programs.
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid application.
- Targeted instruction to improve performance on state standardized achievement tests.

* Data reflects that of the previous funding cycle and data collection cycle.
When I divorced at age thirty, I knew I needed major changes in my life. Becoming financially independent required an education. Entering college was the scariest decision I ever made. I had to face my fears of not being smart enough and the possibility of failing. Prior to entering SUU, I was diagnosed with ADHD and a hearing impairment, which helped me understand my struggle with school while growing up and why I wasn’t as successful as I could have been. With the help of hearing aids and medication, I knew that I had a chance to attain my goal. As a non-traditional student and mother of three amazing girls, I knew that school was not going to be easy. I was blessed to have Student Support Services help me. SSS has given me much more than just a place to take my tests; it has provided me with guidance, help scheduling classes, advice on English papers, and awesome math tutors. For the first time in my life, I believed I was smart enough to succeed. My new confidence began with Math 0990.

My professor believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. With a lot of hard work, I had my first “A” in a math class and developed a new love for learning. SSS is friendly faces; people who care about you and your future, and who help you succeed. I have learned much about myself and what I am capable of. I have been challenged more than I ever imagined possible, and not only did I survive, I succeeded! I am graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a secondary education license. I am so grateful for all the help I have been given by the wonderful people at SSS. Thank You!
Jarred Taylor

As my first year at Snow College comes to an end, I just want to thank everyone that has helped me along the way, making my first time in Utah one to remember, I first came to Snow College when I found one of my closest cousins was going here. He told me so many good things about the school and the community that I couldn’t resist coming. Since I’ve arrived on campus, I have met a lot of new and terrific people. Coming from Atlanta, Georgia, and being a long way from home, I thought it was going to be a challenge at first, Snow College and the Trio program has helped me a lot and taught me a whole bunch that I could never experience anywhere else. I am now the second in my family to go to college. Being so far away from home, it was almost impossible to pay out-of-state tuition and fees, especially if you’re not on any scholarships. So, like any other college student, I was nervous that I would have to drop all of my classes. Coming from a single-parent family with three boys to take care of was always hard for my mom and my brothers. But through great advice and help from Snow College and the Trio program, I was able to pay the rest of my tuition, stay in school, and finish my dream; majoring in business. Now I can go on to do bigger and better things with my life.

The single most important thing in changing someone’s life is education. I started down the wrong path at a very young age. Drug addiction and crime go hand in hand. I have a lengthy history of both starting at the age of 12. I’ve been through every program the state of Utah has to offer, including prison. The odds of someone like me changing are next to nothing. I have beaten the odds and am currently working towards a BSW with an MSW as my ultimate goal. I plan to dedicate my life fixing the system with a career in social work. Education has completely changed my life. It gave me the confidence, self-worth, and self-respect needed for someone to change. I am able to see myself as someone who belongs in society. The SSS program here at Snow College is amazing. Without the program I would not be where I am today. I will complete my AS degree this summer and will start the BSW at the University of Utah in the Fall. I currently hold a Cumulative GPA of 3.6. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to further their education and programs like SSS make it possible for non-traditional students to find success. I owe my life to education. I am grateful for the opportunity to seek a degree and to share my opinions with the leaders of our nation.

Kirk Tolman
Former University of Utah Upward Bound (UB) and Student Support Services (SSS) alum. Rosie Nguyen participated in the U’s Upward Bound Program from 2005 to 2008 and began her college career as a Student Support Services student beginning in the fall of 2008. Rosie was born and raised in Salt Lake City. Her parents were refugees who immigrated to the United States during the Vietnam War. She and her younger sister, Michelle (who is also a TRIO student) know the value and determination that comes with hard work as they worked at their family owned restaurant since they were children. The family business was a major part of their lives and certainly helped them learn to juggle the rigors of coursework along with employment while they made their way through school.

Through the TRIO UB program, Rosie was able to acquire enough federal grants and scholarships to pay for her entire undergraduate program at the University of Utah. Since she was able to secure financial aid she was able to take some time away from her mom’s restaurant to work on other things including 3 news internships, 1 study abroad trip, and numerous service projects. With the help of the SSS program, Rosie was able to maintain her involvement at the university while earning 2 bachelor degrees in four years.

As Rosie was in the process of applying to graduate school, she took the GRE but did not feel that her scores were strong enough for admission into the Master’s in Communication program at the U. However, her fear was proven unfounded as she was admitted, though she does credit a letter of recommendation written by Kathyrn Felkner, former TRIO Director with being a large part of her acceptance.

Rosie attributes her academic success to all of the staff members of the U’s two TRIO programs. As Rosie states, “…without their guidance, support, and instruction, I wouldn't have had the proper resources to prepare for college, effectively map out my academic trajectory, and pay for school through financial aid.”

Rosie is making a name for herself in the media world as she became an active reporter and occasionally anchored for local television news station KSL as part of her KSL internship. She is scheduled to finish her Master's degree in Communication from the University of Utah in the Spring of 2015. After graduation, she would like to continue pursuing a career in TV news as an on-air reporter.

The University of Utah’s TRIO Programs could not be more proud of the success she has had and hope that other Upward Bound and Student Support Services students see her as an example that TRIO works!
Five and a half years ago my husband lost his very lucrative job of 20 years. We soon discovered that he would need to get a degree to go with his experience if he was to get another job that allowed him to make the same money, which had sustained our large family. We had nine children, ranging in ages 5 to 23, seven of which were still at home. As I contemplated how I could contribute to our family’s income during the four years that my husband would be in school, I felt that I would serve my family better, in the long run, by going back to school, rather than going to work at a job that only allowed me to make a minimum wage. I also felt I would be more accessible to my children by dedicating those hours I would have been at work, to studying. I also felt I could shuffle my school and study hours to accommodate the needs of my family easier than I could, work hours.

I was terrified to return to school! I didn’t believe that I was smart enough to be successful in college. I had struggled in high school math and English. I had no idea how to maneuver through college to make every class count and meet the requirements to obtain a degree. I also had no idea how to find scholarships or how to successfully apply for them.

During freshman orientation for college we discovered there was a program named TRiO-Student Support Services that helped returning students just like us. We quickly applied for the program. TRiO taught us the skills required to be successful in our classes. The one-on-one counseling kept us on track for our degrees and the scholarships we were able to access through this program made it easier for us to sustain our family through our college years. We had access to one-on-one tutoring that was designated strictly for TRiO students. We were never alone and when we became discouraged the advisors were our greatest cheerleaders. The advisors help with selecting a major, completing my graduation plans, helping apply for and secure financial aid and scholarships and daily encouragement. Without SSS, I don’t think I would have made it. I have completed my bachelor degree in Social Work at the UofU’s St George branch. I have been on the Dean’s List consecutively and invited to join various honor societies. I recently completed my master’s degree in Social Work at the University of Utah and have been hired as a full-time social work with LDS Social Services.

TRiO WORKS!

Heather Tuttle
Ebony Versluis moved around a lot while growing up and never stayed in a place for more than a year through her entire life. She lived in California, Texas, Arkansas, then back to California, and then back to Utah, then Georgia, and finally back to Utah. Since she was 2 years old, Ebony participated in the foster care system. The only person in her life that cared for her was her extremely ill grandmother. At age 11 she decided that she did not want to struggle like her grandma and others siblings did, and she felt that she needed to be the first one to change her family tree by graduating high school and eventually going to college.

Ebony knew that this will be a really difficult task, due to her financial and unstable home situation. Moving from school to school was also a challenge, not knowing if her credits will transfer or if classes will have to be retaken. But thanks to her great counselor and the Trio Talent Search, Ebony is now on track to graduate from Ogden high school. Ebony's dream to attend college will finally be a reality, because she has been accepted to Portland University to start this coming fall. She is so grateful to her TRIO Talent Search Advisor for giving her the opportunity to join the TRIO family.
Dr. Ken Lord

Dr. Lord is a native of Southern Utah. He grew up in Kanab and attended the Dixie College Upward Bound program from fall 1992 through summer of 1994. He obtained his Bachelor of Science from Southern Utah University graduating in 2000.

He also joined the Utah National Guard in 1999. Dr. Lord then attended Medical School at the University of Utah and went on to complete an internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. From there, Dr. Lord completed a three year Ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri in Kansas City (UMKC). He then remained at UMKC and completed a 2 year Vitreo-Retinal surgical fellowship.

Dr. Lord is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Retina Specialists, the American Medical Association, Utah Ophthalmological Society, and the Society of Military Ophthalmologists. Dr. Lord has strong interest in medical informatics and is co-developer of the leading mobile smartphone application in Ophthalmology called "The Eye Handbook." The Eye Handbook has a global audience, with 200k+ downloads and thousands of active users.

Dr. Lord is an active member of the Utah National Guard and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and Operation New Dawn in 2011. He currently drills with the Utah National Guard Medical Command at Camp Wiliams in Lehi, Utah. Dr. Lord has four children and lives in St George.
The 2015 Utah Trio book composed by Mr. Chris Macias, and Mrs. Senthia Ogletree.
For more information about specific Trio programs please visit the ASPIRE UT website.

Or contact Kyle Ethelbah, ASPIRE UT president.
kethelbah@sa.utah.edu

For more information regarding this booklet, please contact Chris Macias.
cmacias@sa.utah.edu

For general and National Trio information please visit
coenet.us

aspireonline.org/Utah

TRIO

coenet.us