

2009-10

# TRIO

 WKU

# ***ABOUT FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS***

## **What is TRiO?**

**Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance.**

**In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRiO Programs (initially just three programs). While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.**

## **Who is served?**

**As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families who are low income, where neither parent graduated from college. More than 2,000 TRiO Programs currently serve nearly 1,000,000 low-income Americans. Programs serve students in grades 6 through 12 and some adults. Western Kentucky University sponsors 5 of these programs: Educational Opportunity Centers, Educational Talent Search, Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Veterans Upward Bound.**

# ABOUT FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS

TRIO Programs are very effective and many students from low-income families depend on these programs to succeed academically in high school and college. Since 1965 an estimated 2 million students have graduated from college with the special assistance and support of our nation's TRIO Programs. In addition, one TRIO Program in particular, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, is one of only a few programs in America that encourages low-income and minority undergraduates to prepare for doctoral study.

*"Although 11 million Americans critically need to access the TRIO Programs, federal funding permits fewer than 7 percent of eligible youth and adults to be served."*

The TRIO Programs were originally established by the federal government in 1965 to ensure equal educational opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In many communities, the TRIO Programs are some of the only programs available that help students to overcome the class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. The educational and human services offered through the TRIO Programs are distinguishable from all other counseling programs in America because TRIO Programs are:

## One-On-One

As most TRIO Programs serve fewer than 250 students, TRIO counselors have an opportunity to work one-on-one with each student. Unlike traditional counseling programs, TRIO professionals get to know each student on a first-name basis. TRIO counselors are personally committed to the success of their students.

## Performance Based

Each TRIO Program operates against specific, measurable outcome objectives as clearly defined in each approved grant proposal. TRIO Program Directors are held accountable and must meet their stated objectives each year if they expect to remain funded and able to help participants in their targeted service area.

# ***ABOUT FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS***

## **Focused on Early Intervention**

Two of the TRIO Programs, Talent Search and Upward Bound, are early intervention programs. These programs effectively reach students in grades six through 12 who have "college potential" but often do not recognize or understand their academic and career options beyond high school. Each year, these two programs keep thousands of promising young low-income and minority students in school and focused on career and college success.

## **Targeted Toward First Generation and Low-Income**

Two-thirds of the students in the TRIO Programs come from families who are low income, where neither parent graduated from college. In most cases, parents have no higher education experience, do not understand the postsecondary process and do not necessarily value a higher education.

## **Built on Relationships**

Over a period of several months or years, TRIO Professionals build both personal and professional relationships with their students. Such positive relationships are critical to the success of every TRIO Program. The staff of each TRIO Program creates a climate of support for students as they strive to move out of poverty and dependence. As a result of these strong positive relationships, many TRIO college graduates periodically return to their programs to encourage and inspire current students.

## **Committed to Tough Cases**

In most cases, students in the TRIO Programs are poor and are desperately trying to climb out of "the vicious cycle of poverty in America." Many students come to TRIO from neighborhoods that are filled with violence, discouragement, negativity and hopelessness. A single parent raising several children, an older child helping to raise younger siblings, a physically-disabled person with few financial resources and a struggling high school student trying to escape a life of poverty describe the young people and adults who turn to the TRIO programs for help and special assistance.

# ***ABOUT FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS***

## **Consistent and Intense**

TRIO Programs and TRIO Professionals are consistently available to their students. In fact, some TRIO programs enable students to meet with counselors during the summer, in the evening or on weekends. Many TRIO Professionals, as part of their specified program objectives, visit students at home to discuss courses or career plans.

## **Comprehensive and Cultural**

The academic and human services as administered through the TRIO Programs are comprehensive and must go far beyond the traditional services offered by high school or college counselors. Many students in the TRIO Programs receive instruction in literature, composition, foreign languages, mathematics and science. In addition, students receive assistance in completing college admission and financial aid applications, tutorial services and exposure to cultural events.

## **Reality Based**

Like their students, many TRIO professionals had to overcome class, social, academic and cultural barriers to succeed in higher education. As a result, they can effectively relate to their students and know how to motivate young people and adults in spite of the obstacles that often serve to discourage students from low-income families.

## **Community Based**

Community need is determined by the community, not the federal government. TRIO Programs are funded based on clear evidence that the program is needed in a particular community or town. Criteria used in determining need in a specific area include income level, education attainment level, dropout rates, student to counselor ratio, social and economic conditions, and overall demographic data.

# ***ABOUT FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS***

## **Non-Bureaucratic**

TRIO Programs do not involve a large federal bureaucracy because they are direct grant programs funded in rank order on the basis of competitive proposals. In fact, there is no more than one federal employee for every 28,000 TRIO students now being served. In addition, TRIO Programs only exist where local organizations see the need for such services and have successfully applied for federal support. Despite substantial increases in the number of TRIO students and programs, fewer federal employees are working with TRIO today than 20 years ago.

Historically, most counselors, clergy or parents don't have the time or expertise to work one-on-one with the students now enrolled in our nation's TRIO Programs. Students from low-income families seek TRIO services because they receive little or no encouragement at home. To most of the more traditional counselors, students from low-income families attempting to overcome social, academic and cultural barriers are too time-consuming. Such students require "special services" that counselors don't or won't provide.

TRIO Programs protect our federal investment in student financial aid and have helped to reduce defaults in the federal student loan program. Additionally, the federal investment in the TRIO Student Support Services Program is just \$825, \$242 per student in the Talent Search Program and only \$156 for each student enrolled in a Educational Opportunity Center.

Access and retention services are and must continue to be an absolutely essential component of the Federal strategy to ensure equal education opportunity in America. All existing research indicates that very few states are willing to help low-income students overcome class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. In fact, the TRIO Programs were established in 1965 because most states were blatantly ignoring students from low-income families who needed "special services" to successfully finish high school and prepare for college.

<http://www.coenet.us>

# TRiO PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Students enrolled in today's TRiO Programs mirror our nation's multicultural and multiethnic society. Nationally, 37% of TRiO students are Caucasian, 35% are African-American, 19% are Hispanic, 4% are Native Americans, and 4% are Asian-Americans. Twenty-two thousand TRiO students are disabled. More than 25,000 veterans are enrolled in TRiO programs as well.

TRiO college graduates are working in business, industry, government, medicine, law, education, communications, sales, finances, politics, transportation, publishing, law enforcement, computer science and technology, engineering, and accounting.



The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

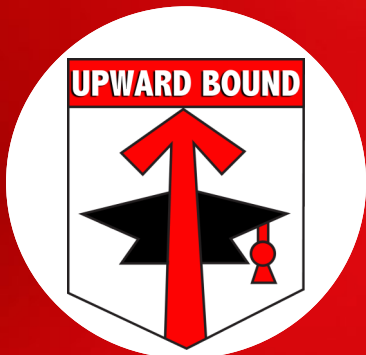


Student Support Services helps low-income students to stay in college until they can earn their baccalaureate degrees. Participants, who include disabled college students, receive tutoring, counseling, and remedial instruction. Students are now being served at 947 colleges and universities nationwide.

# TRiO PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



Educational Talent Search programs serve young people in grades 6 through 12. In addition to counseling, participants receive information about college admissions requirements, scholarships, and various student financial aid programs. This early intervention program helps people from Low income families (where neither parent graduated from college) to better understand their educational opportunities and options. Over 363,000 students are enrolled in 466 Educational Talent Search programs.



Upward Bound helps young students to prepare for higher education. Participants receive instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, and science on college campuses after school, on Saturdays, and during the summer. Currently, 964 programs are in operation throughout the United States.



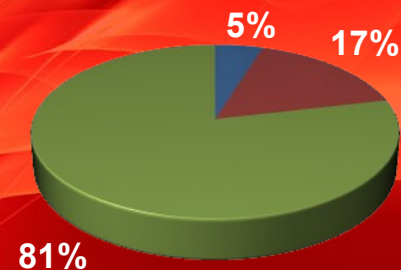
Veterans Upward Bound programs provide intensive basic skills development and short-term remedial courses for military veterans to help them successfully transition to post-secondary education. Veterans learn how to secure support from available resources such as the Veterans Administration, veterans' associations, and various state and local agencies that serve veterans. Approximately 5,040 veterans are being served in 48 VUB programs in the U.S.A. and only one is in Kentucky.

# TOTAL TRiO PARTICIPANTS SERVED 2007 ~ 2008



Many participants remain in a TRiO program more than one year or are in the program at the end of one year and the beginning of the next year.

## ELIGIBILITY OF TRiO PARTICIPANTS

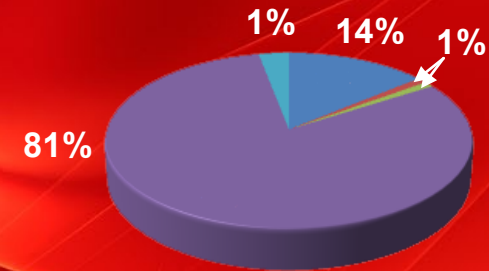


There are slightly different rules for different TRiO programs about income and first generation eligibility but generally speaking, at least two-thirds of all participants must fit a combination of both categories and the remaining one-third can fit one category or the other.

# ETHNIC STATUS OF TRiO PARTICIPANTS

Nationally, thirty-seven percent of TRiO students are Caucasian, 35% are African-Americans, 19% are Hispanics, 4% are Native Americans, 4% are Asian-Americans and 1% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students. Twenty-two thousand students with disabilities and more than 25,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRiO Programs as well.

## WKU TRiO PROGRAMS



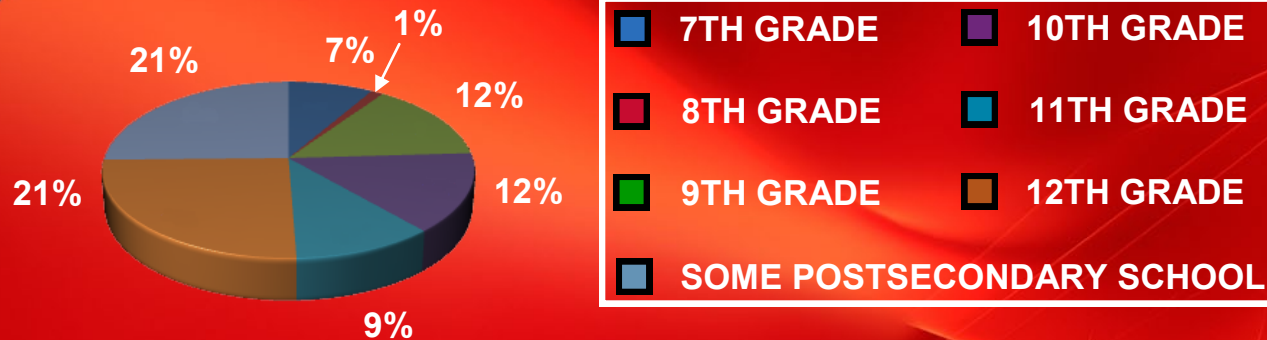
TRiO serves a truly diverse population. Some programs do not ask the ethnic status of their participants and only record the status if it is volunteered.

# GENDER OF TRiO PARTICIPANTS



This number may be skewed a bit more toward males than it would be without VUB because the VUB gender division is largely male.

# EDUCATION LEVEL WHEN ENTERING TRiO



Educational Opportunity Centers works with adults and Veterans Upward Bound works with adults who are veterans, Student Support Services works with college students, Upward Bound works with high school students and Educational Talent Search works with students 6-12th grade.

## TRiO & POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL

Approximately 82% of the TRiO participants who attend postsecondary school attend WKU.



TRiO participants at WKU in the 2007-2008 year spent in the neighborhood of \$4,185,680 in tuition and fees, not including housing, meal plans, parking, bookstore costs and more.



# CONTACT TRIO PROGRAMS

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