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## Montana TRiO Fact Book 2008

**Federal TRiO Programs  
U.S. Department of Education**

# Overview

## What is TRiO?

TRiO equals educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and disabled Americans.

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. 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.

## The Federal TRiO Programs

- Upward Bound
- Educational Talent Search
- Educational Opportunity Centers
- Upward Bound Math & Science
- Veterans’ Upward Bound
- Student Support Services
- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

Although the name “TRiO” initially came into use after the first three programs were authorized under the Higher Education Act, there are currently eight distinct programs that comprise the federal TRiO programs, seven of which provide services to students and an eighth that provides training to the TRiO program staff that serve the students. Each plays a unique role in providing educational opportunity for eligible students.

## Why TRiO?

TRiO programs help low-income, first-generation, and disabled students realize their educational potential.

## TRiO in Montana is working

In fact, when we compare Montana TRiO students to cohort groups of students from the same demographic (low-income, first-generation, and/or disabled), the students receiving TRiO services are more likely to enroll and graduate from a postsecondary education program.

| The Current Numbers....  |                  |                 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
|  | National Average | MT TRiO Student |
| % of low-income High School graduates enrolling in postsecondary education   | 24.7%*           | 75%             |
| % of low-income students completing Bachelor’s degree within 6 years   | 8.6%**           | 37%             |
| <small>Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$36,000<br/>                     *Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, December 2004, Number 150<br/>                     **Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, June 2005, Number 156</small> |                  |                 |

# Upward Bound

Emerged out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in response to the administration's "War on Poverty."

## Goal

The goal of Upward Bound (UB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Classic UB serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

## Services

- Instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature, and foreign language
- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Mentoring programs
- Information on postsecondary education opportunities
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Work study positions to expose participants to careers requiring a postsecondary degree

## Montana Information

- 9 Programs
  - Flathead Valley Community College
  - University of Montana
  - Montana Tech of the University of Montana (3 programs)
  - Fort Belknap College
  - MSU-Billings
  - Salish Kootenai College
  - Chief Dull Knife College
- Funded to serve 425 students

## A Success Story - Kevin Majewski



As a low-income student raised by a single mother, Kevin struggled in high school. He had the academic ability and desire to attend college; however, because of a number of circumstances this goal almost was lost. With Kevin on the verge of losing his high school credits, the UB staff worked closely with his high school and arranged for Kevin to begin his college career early. At age sixteen Kevin enrolled in classes, lived in the residence halls, and was given the chance to focus on his academics. Kevin took an active interest in serving his school and community, becoming a Circle K volunteer, United Campus Ministries Peer Mentor, cheer team mascot, and serving as student body president during his senior year. Kevin graduated from MSU-Billings in 2007 and is currently pursuing his M.A. in Psychological Counseling from Monmouth University. Kevin returned to Upward Bound in the summer of 2007 to serve as summer program team leader and plans on returning again in 2008. When asked about his experience with Trio, Kevin says *"Upward Bound has given me the experience needed to succeed, and hope to overcome troubled times. I am very thankful for what Upward Bound has given me, and for the service that I have been able to give back to other students as a result of my involvement with Upward Bound."*

## Montana Outcomes 2007

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of students served                                    | 468 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility | 76% |
| Yearly retention rate in project                             | 86% |
| Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year       | 92% |
| Matriculation and graduation                                 |     |
| % of 2000 grads that graduated from a program of PSE         | 37% |
| % of 2000 grads still enrolled in PSE program                | 22% |

(2006-2007 Report Data - 5 of 6 programs reporting)

# Educational Talent Search

The second outreach program created as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

## Goal

The goal of Educational Talent Search (ETS) is to increase the number of youth, 6th-12th grade, from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school and enroll in the postsecondary education institution of their choice.

Educational Talent Search also serves high school dropouts, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

## Services

- Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs
- Career exploration and aptitude assessment
- Tutorial services
- Information on postsecondary education
- Exposure to college campuses
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Mentoring programs
- Special activities for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders
- Workshops for the families of participants

## Montana Information

- 4 Programs
  - MSU-Billings
  - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education - Helena
  - Fort Belknap Education Department
  - Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- Funded to serve 3,500 students

## A Success Story - Jami Struzel



*"A couple years ago if someone told me that someday I would be a college student on the honor roll I would have said they are crazy. But I am! Talent Search was a huge help getting here."* Jami Struzel was one of the first students to apply for Educational Talent Search when the program began at Anaconda High School in the fall of 2006. She was hand picked by the school principal as a student who had strong leadership potential but was in need of the support and opportunities to grow. Jami attended the 2006 Regional TRiO Leadership Conference in Riverton, Wyoming and has this to say about her experience: *"It was life changing. I felt very honored to have been chosen."* Once in ETS, Jami started to play with the idea of attending college. As a first-generation student she used the guidance provided by her ETS coordinator to help her achieve this goal. Jami is now a freshman at Dawson Community College where she is studying law enforcement. Jami is currently enrolled in Student Support Services at Dawson Community College and says, *"I figured that I probably would need some help in college. It is nice to know that I will always have someone to come to if I run into a problem."* Once Jami completes the law enforcement program she plans on moving back to Anaconda where she will work with the youth of her community.

## Montana Outcomes 2007

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of students served                                    | 3,336 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility | 77%   |
| Yearly retention rate in project                             | 98%   |
| Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year       | 59%   |
| % of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end  | 95%   |

(2006-2007 Report Data)

# Educational Opportunity Centers

The Higher Education Amendments of 1972 added this fourth program to the TRiO group.

## Goal

The goal of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions. An important objective of EOC is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application process.

## Services

- Academic advising
- Personal counseling
- Career workshops
- Information on postsecondary educational opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Assistance in completing applications for college admissions, testing and financial aid
- Coordination with nearby postsecondary institutions
- Media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities

## Montana Information

- 10 outreach sites under one program administered by Montana State University-Northern
  - Billings
  - Browning
  - Butte
  - Fort Peck
  - Great Falls
  - Havre
  - Helena
  - Kalispell
  - Pablo
  - Rocky Boy
- Funded to serve 2,500 students

## A Success Story - Tana Fleury



Patricia "Tana" Fleury is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe and a first-generation college student. Tana has overcome many disadvantages in life; she raised three children as a single parent and experienced domestic violence first hand; but never gave up her goals and dreams of obtaining an education. Tana has already received an AA in Chemical Dependency Counseling and a Certificate in Gerontology from Blackfeet Community College and is currently working on her degree in Criminal

Justice. Tana is an advocate for her community, working as a volunteer with the Domestic Violence Program, Americorp, the Gang Task force, and is also the co-founder of the first ever "Warriors against Meth Project". Tana says, *"The community work is rewarding, in the fact that it helps the community grow and people know there is help available to them."* Although Tana is passionate about her current projects, her ultimate goal is to attend the Santa Fe School of Art. Tana is thankful that she was able to utilize Educational Opportunity Centers as a resource for assisting in her educational and career goals. *"The EOC program assisted me with admissions, financial aid, and more importantly, emotional support. Attending school as a non-traditional student was daunting. I had no idea about the paperwork involved, but EOC helped me greatly in this area. I was also nervous about going back to school and the academic challenges I might face, but the EOC Counselor was there to encourage me and that really helped."*

## Montana Outcomes 2007

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Number of students served   | 2,500 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility                          | 82%   |
| % of secondary school drop outs re-entered secondary ed.                              | 77%   |
| % of college-ready participants enrolled in or admitted to postsecondary for 1st time | 83%   |
| % of postsecondary stopouts re-enrolling in postsecondary                             | 70%   |
| % of postsecondary participants who continued in or completed postsecondary           | 100%  |

(2006-2007 Report Data)

# Veterans' Upward Bound

This program became a new component of Upward Bound in 1972 to meet the educational needs of military veterans.

## Goal

The goal of Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Veterans' UB serves low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education.

## Services

- Intensive basic skills development in those academic subjects required for successful completion of a high school equivalency program and admission to PSE programs
- Short-term remedial or refresher classes for veterans who are high school graduates but have delayed pursuing a PSE education
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Information on postsecondary education opportunities
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Assistance in securing veterans services from other locally available resources

## Montana Information

- 1 Program
  - MSU-Northern - based at MSU-Billings
- Funded to serve 230 students

## A Success Story - Gabe Bernard



Gabe Bernard served in the United States Marine Corps from 1998 and was honorably discharged in 2004 as a sergeant, having served in Hawaii, Korea, and Japan. He is the first in his family to enter college and prior to his enrollment in the MSU-Northern Veterans' Upward Bound in Spring 2005, he had worked in construction. Upon completing classes with VUB, Gabe enrolled at Montana State University - Billings. He has since been accepted in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program as a Junior and has achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.84. Gabe represents the best of the new greatest generation of our nation's veterans.

## Montana Outcomes 2007

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of students served                                    | 230 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility | 68% |
| Yearly retention rate in project                             | 95% |
| Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year       | 59% |
| Matriculation and graduation                                 |     |
| % of 2001 grads that graduated from a program of PSE         | 37% |
| % of 2001 grads still enrolled in PSE program                | 44% |
| (2006-2007 Report Data)                                      |     |

# Student Support Services - 4 year

This program was authorized by the Higher Educational Amendments in 1968 and became the third TRiO program.

## Goal

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/4-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. SSS provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants.

## Services

- Instruction in reading, writing, math, and/or study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate and professional programs
- Information about career options
- Mentoring
- Special services for students with limited English proficiency
- Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to current SSS participants who are receiving federal Pell grants.

## Montana Information

- 7 Programs
  - MSU-Northern
  - Rocky Mountain College
  - University of Great Falls
  - University of Montana-Missoula
  - MSU-Billings
  - University of Montana Western
  - MSU-Bozeman
- Funded to serve 1,805 students

## A Success Story - Jay Harris



*"I love to learn. I feel that I'll never stop attempting to learn as much as reasonably possible every day of my life."* That's what Jay Harris wrote in 2005, his senior year at Rocky Mountain College. A first-generation student, Jay had been a GEAR-UP participant and came to Rocky in 1999 from Lodge Grass to play football. His first semester was tough academically, but he saw his GPA improve every semester after that. Financial difficulties led to stop-outs two different semesters and a knee injury sidelined his football career. Despite these challenges, Jay persevered. *"The great academic and personal support available through SSS made my Rocky experience incredibly beneficial...In fact, if not for the positive experience I had in SSS's College Study Skills class, I might have quit school."* An enrolled member of the Crow tribe and also of Northern Cheyenne descent, Jay was President of the American Indian Cultural Association, helped found "Equation:S", a student organization that addressed coal bed methane development, and organized a presidential campaign. More recently, Jay founded the Apsaalooke Citizen's Leadership Network and the Crow Research Group. In 2006, he was named a Graduate Fellow with the American Indian Graduate Association and in 2007 a Graduate Fellow with the Burton K. Wheeler Center for Public Policy. At present, Jay is in his second year of law school at the University of Colorado and a cadet in the Air Force ROTC. He is scheduled to be commissioned as a JAG officer in 2009. Jay's goal is to serve his *"nation, state, tribe, and home community in the highest capacity."*

### Montana Outcomes 2007

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of students served                                    | 1,903 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility | 65%   |
| Persistence toward completion of degree                      | 73%   |
| Good academic standing                                       | 94%   |
| 6-year graduation rate                                       | 45%   |
| Total BA degrees awarded in 2006-2007                        | 384   |

(2006-2007 Report Data)

# Student Support Services - 2 year

This program was authorized by the Higher Educational Amendments in 1968 and became the third TRiO program.

## Goal

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/2-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next, particularly from 2-year degree programs to 4-year degree programs. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants.

## Services

- Instruction in reading, writing, math, and/or study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate and professional programs
- Information about career options
- Mentoring
- Special services for students with limited English proficiency
- Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to current SSS participants who are receiving federal Pell grants.
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in four-year institutions (two-year college SSS).

## Montana Information

- 7 Programs
  - Blackfeet CC
  - Dawson CC
  - Flathead Valley CC
  - Salish Kootenai College
  - Fort Belknap College
  - Fort Peck CC
  - Little Big Horn College
- Funded to serve 1,325 students

## A Success Story - Wanda Koffler



Wanda Koffler began her college journey at Dawson Community College as a non-traditional student in the fall of 2003 after sustaining a serious injury that limited the use of her right arm. This injury left her feeling hopeless until she met with a Voc-Rehab counselor who convinced Wanda to pursue a college career at DCC. The thought of going back to school after 25 years in the working world was very frightening for Wanda, but with the help and support she received from Student

Support Services at DCC Wanda was able to obtain an AA degree in Human Services and Chemical Dependency and graduate with honors. Wanda spent many hours in the SSS Learning Center where she received tutoring and encouragement. She then continued her education at Montana State University-Billings where she again utilized the tutoring services and support from SSS and graduated with honors with a BA degree in Human Services. *"The TRiO program has really helped me by building my self-esteem and confidence, and giving me the added encouragement I needed to keep going. I know I would not have achieved what I did without their help and enthusiasm."* Wanda's future plans include a career that *"gives back the help and support I received to my community and makes it a better place to live."*

## Montana Outcomes 2007

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of students served                                    | 1,339 |
| Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility | 72%   |
| Persistence toward completion of degree or transfer          | 62%   |
| Good academic standing                                       | 85%   |
| 3-year rate of graduation or transfer to a 4-year college    | 42%   |
| Total students transferred to 4 year in 2006-2007            | 296   |

(2006-2007 Report Data - 6 of 7 programs reporting)

# TRiO in Montana

| Program Location                               | Students     | Funding          |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Student Support Services - 4 year</b>       |              |                  |
| Montana State University-Billings              | 250          | \$290,079        |
| Montana State University-Bozeman               | 300          | 373,803          |
| Montana State University-Northern              | 240          | 242,824          |
| Rocky Mountain College                         | 250          | 276,987          |
| University of Great Falls                      | 230          | 274,757          |
| University of Montana-Missoula                 | 375          | 388,120          |
| University of Montana Western                  | 160          | 235,689          |
| <b>Program Total</b>                           | <b>1,805</b> | <b>2,082,259</b> |
| <b>Student Support Services - 2 year</b>       |              |                  |
| Blackfeet Community College                    | 170          | 286,134          |
| Dawson Community College                       | 130          | 259,826          |
| Flathead Valley Community College              | 350          | 307,708          |
| Fort Belknap College                           | 110          | 267,986          |
| Fort Peck Community College                    | 175          | 271,074          |
| Little Big Horn College                        | 160          | 220,000          |
| Salish Kootenai College                        | 230          | 277,900          |
| <b>Program Total</b>                           | <b>1,325</b> | <b>1,890,628</b> |
| <b>Student Support Services Combined Total</b> | <b>3,130</b> | <b>3,972,887</b> |
| <b>Educational Opportunity Centers</b>         |              |                  |
| Blackfeet Community College                    |              |                  |
| Flathead Valley Community College              |              |                  |
| Fort Peck Community College                    |              |                  |
| Helena Job Service Workforce Center            |              |                  |
| Lincoln Center                                 |              |                  |
| Montana State University-Northern              |              |                  |
| Salish Kootenai College                        |              |                  |
| Stone Child College                            |              |                  |
| University of Great Falls - COT                |              |                  |
| University of Montana - Montana Tech           |              |                  |
| <b>Program Total</b>                           | <b>2,500</b> | <b>579,972</b>   |

| Program Location                                       | Students     | Funding            |
|--|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>Educational Talent Search</b>                       |              |                    |
| Fort Belknap College                                   | 835          | 308,033            |
| Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education | 1,250        | 567,664            |
| Montana State University-Billings                      | 600          | 220,000            |
| University of Montana-Montana Tech                     | 800          | 220,000            |
| <b>Program Total</b>                                   | <b>3,485</b> | <b>1,315,697</b>   |
| <b>Classic Upward Bound</b>                            |              |                    |
| Chief Dull Knife College                               | 65           | 250,000            |
| Flathead Valley Community College                      | 65           | 296,344            |
| Fort Belknap College                                   | 75           | 323,805            |
| Montana State University-Billings                      | 75           | 328,398            |
| Salish Kootenai College                                | 80           | 361,962            |
| University of Montana-Missoula                         | 70           | 411,285            |
| University of Montana-Montana Tech                     |              |                    |
| Lower Clark Fork                                       | 60           | 250,000            |
| Montana Tech   | 60           | 287,000            |
| Ruby Valley  | 60           | 250,000            |
| <b>Program Total</b>                                   | <b>610</b>   | <b>2,758,794</b>   |
| <b>Veteran's Upward Bound</b>                          |              |                    |
| Montana State University-Northern (Veterans')          | 230          | 526,727            |
| <b>Upward Bound Combined Total</b>                     | <b>840</b>   | <b>3,285,521</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total for 29 programs</b>                     | <b>9,955</b> | <b>\$9,154,077</b> |

# Impact of TRiO

| Students served by ethnicity        |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| American Indian/Alaskan Native      | 43% |
| Asian                               | 1%  |
| Black or African American           | 1%  |
| Hispanic or Latino                  | 2%  |
| White                               | 47% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <1% |
| More than one race reported         | %   |
| No Response/Unknown                 | 1%  |

(2006-2007 Report Data)

| For more information on TRiO...   |
|---|
| <b>Montana Aspire</b><br><a href="http://www.mtaspire.org">www.mtaspire.org</a>   |
| <b>Regional Aspire</b><br><a href="http://www.aspireonline.org">www.aspireonline.org</a>  |
| <b>Council for Opportunity in Education</b><br><a href="http://www.coenet.us">www.coenet.us</a>   |
| <b>U.S. Department of Education TRiO Homepage</b><br><a href="http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html">www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html</a> |

