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Montana TRiO Fact Book 2006

This booklet was designed by Barb Sullivan, Office Manager
for the Upward Bound program at MSU-Billings

**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%*	69%
% of students completing postsecondary education within 6 years	8.6%**	24%

Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$35,000
 *Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, December 2004, Number 150
 **Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, June 2005, Number 156

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 is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Classic Upward Bound 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

- 6 Programs
 - Flathead Valley Community College
 - University of Montana
 - Montana Tech of the University of Montana
 - Fort Belknap College
 - MSU-Billings
 - Salish Kootenai College
- Funded to serve 411 students

A Success Story - Kevin Kahm



Kevin was raised in a family whose support relied upon the up and down economic tides of the volatile lumber industry. Unable to gain pre-college advisement from his parents, Kevin was recruited into The University of Montana Upward Bound project in March of 1998. Kevin immersed himself in learning about people from cultural backgrounds other than his own—an interest that paid him huge dividends through college and into his new career. Kevin graduated from Missoula Big Sky High School with near perfect grades. Despite his outstanding academic record, Kevin chose to stay close to home. He enrolled in the University of Montana in Fall 2001 and began a college career that has been filled with academic and leadership success. In December 2005, Kevin graduated with honors with a BS degree in Business Administration and Information Systems. Shortly after graduation, he began teaching English language and culture in Gotanda, Japan. Kevin's passion for cultural diversity and education has paved a meaningful career. In reflecting back on his Upward Bound experience, Kevin says, "Upward Bound was the academic experience of a lifetime. Not only did it foster the pursuit of higher education for me, but it also proved to be an exciting and fun adventure. I will always remember the classes, activities, trips, friends, teachers, and counselors that played such a role in influencing my life path."

Montana Outcomes 2005

Number of students served	422
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	76%
Yearly retention rate in project	88%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	64%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 1999 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	24%
% of 1999 grads still enrolled in PSE program	10%

(2004-2005 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 who 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

- 3 Programs
 - MSU-Billings
 - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education - Helena
 - Fort Belknap Education Department
- Funded to serve 2,685 students

A Success Story - Natasha Herrera



Natasha Herrera is a former Northcentral Montana Talent Search student and is currently a Freshman at the University of Montana. Natasha is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, Oregon, but has lived in Montana most of her life. While a student at Havre High School she sported a 3.3 GPA and was ranked in the upper half of her graduating class. For personal reasons she moved to Browning, Montana, for her final semester of high school where she graduated on May 28th, 2005. Natasha was involved in Talent Search since the 6th grade and grew up to become a very responsible student and an excellent role model. While at Havre High she was very involved in school activities and also participated in the first annual "Native American Teen Suicide Prevention Initiative" held at MSU-N and was a member of the National Honor Society at Browning High School. Tasha is always ready to help a fellow student or friend and will volunteer in the community whenever asked. Natsha's goal is to complete a degree in Elementary Education at the University of Montana. Natasha says "I want to bring back my education and knowledge to an Indian Reservation to strengthen their community by teaching young children." She also wants to be a role model to all First Generation college students and "show them that it can be done."

Montana Outcomes 2005

Number of students served	2,857
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	73%
Yearly retention rate in project	88%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	71%
% of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end	95%

(2004-2005 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
 - Browning
 - Helena
 - Great Falls
 - Rocky Boy
 - Billings
 - Pablo
 - Kalispell
 - Butte
 - Fort Peck
 - Havre
- Funded to serve 2,800 students

A Success Story - Barbra O'Leary



Barbra O'Leary, an enrolled member of the Little Shell Band of Chippewa, graduated from Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls in 1995. In the summer of 2000 she met an EOC counselor while visiting her father who lives in the Bear Paw Mountains near Stone Child College on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation. Barbra began classes at SCC in the fall of 2000 while living with her father. In May of 2002, Barbra graduated valedictorian from SCC where she had been an EOC client and member of the Student Support Services program. Barbra is now attending Southwest College of Acupuncture in Santa Fe, NM, where she will graduate with a doctorate in Oriental Medicine in the spring of 2007. Looking back on the past five years, Barbra says she is grateful for the constant love and support of her mother and some opportunities that came together at the same time in her life. Those opportunities were: being able to attend a small, friendly, rural college like Stone Child College, living in a beautiful mountain setting with her father while attending college, and receiving the assistance and support of the TRiO programs on the way to and during her first two years of college. After receiving her medical degree, Barbra is hoping to practice medicine at Rocky Boy or one of the other Indian reservations in Montana.

Montana Outcomes 2005

Number of students served	2,800
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	81%
% of secondary school drop outs re-entered secondary ed.	100%
% of college-ready participants enrolled in or admitted to postsecondary for 1st time	84%
% of postsecondary stopouts re-enrolling in postsecondary	76%
% of postsecondary participants who continued in or completed postsecondary	100%

(2004-2005 Report Data)

Math/Science Upward Bound

Created in 1990 to address the nations need for specific instruction in the fields of math and science.

Goal

The goal of Math/Science Upward Bound (MSUB) is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in these fields.

This program is a specialized Upward Bound with math and science centers, designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students.

Services

- Summer programs consisting of intensive math and science training
- Year-round counseling and advising
- Exposure to university faculty who do research in math and science
- Computer training
- Participant-conducted scientific research under the guidance of a faculty member or graduate student serving as the participant’s mentor

Montana Information

- 1 Program
 - The University of Montana Western
- Funded to serve 50 students in 135+ target schools

A Success Story - Victoria Miranda



Victoria is a senior studying entomology at Cornell University and is graduating in May of 2006. Victoria Miranda attended High School in Cascade, Montana (population 819). *“I was lucky enough to attend Math/Science Upward Bound (MSUB) in Dillon, MT, during the summers of 2000 and 2001. If I had not attended MSUB, I am sure I would not be attending a prestigious university such as Cornell, nor could I be writing this with such confidence. MSUB gave me so much that I could write a novel! At MSUB, I was able to perform research projects, take amazing classes and go on trips to enlighten and broaden my visions both culturally and educationally. During my junior year of high school, MSUB offered me vouchers for the ACT/SAT examinations and that meant a lot to me. The cost of these exams would have been a burden for my family. MSUB gave me the boost of confidence I needed to know that I would succeed. One of my MSUB instructors gave me inspiration that allowed me to believe in pursuing what I loved – insects! After my second summer at MSUB I took a bus to Ithaca, NY, to visit Cornell because it has a well-known entomology program. I’m not so sure I would’ve been able to do that on my own if I hadn’t known that in my heart and mind I was powerful enough to do whatever I want. Knowing that and being aware of my strength and intelligence was a result of my attendance at MSUB. I think of all that MSUB has done for me and of how many bright, motivated youths that are being held back just a little. With the help of a program such as MSUB, they could really open up and blossom fully.”*

Montana Outcomes for MSUB 2005

Number of students served	81
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	78%
Yearly retention rate in project	84%
PSE placement rate within 1st year	56%
(2004-2005 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 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 - Mike Moots



Mike received services from the Montana Veterans Upward Bound in the Spring semester of 2005. Mike served in the U.S. Army from 2001-2004. Mike's love of computers and technology proved an asset to the project. Not only was he able to assist fellow VUB students but he also rendered quite a bit of humorous technical expertise to some of our more technologically challenged staff. Mike is an Iraqi war veteran having served with the 3rd Infantry Division and was one of the first veterans who recorded their war experiences on a CD to share with fellow students and staff. He has put his interests and skills to good use. This spring he will graduate with an AS in Computer Systems with a 4.0 grade point average. He will further his education and graduate with a BS in Computer Information Systems in the spring of 07. Mike currently serves as a RA on the MSU Billings campus, is a Campus Student Ambassador, a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars and a founding member of the Campus Vets Club. And to think with all this going on, he still has time for computer games!

Montana Outcomes 2005	
Number of students served	230
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	67%
Yearly retention rate in project	91%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	62%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 1999 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	26%
% of 1999 grads still enrolled in PSE program	43%
(2004-2005 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 SSS/4-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. Student Support Services (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.

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 - Kim Guderjahn



Kim Guderjahn is currently a junior at the University of Great Falls. Despite being a single mother and working full-time, Kim had a dream of becoming an elementary school teacher with an emphasis in special education. Even though she has struggled with issues of conflicting responsibilities and budgeting her money, Kim continues undaunted toward completion of her degree program. She has utilized tutoring, advising, and mentoring services which has kept her on track with reaching her goals. She has maintained a

3.8 grade point average and remains committed to staying connected to the Center for Academic Excellence (SSS). Kim recently was accepted to the University's School of Education after successfully completing and excelling in her required core classes. This year, Kim became a mentor to freshman students. She has been able to inspire and encourage many struggling students to persevere through their coursework regardless of the challenges they face.

"When I came to the University, I knew no one and I found a warm, welcoming atmosphere in the Center for Academic Excellence (SSS). I felt a part of the groupand they always encouraged me to excel and to keep reaching for my dream of becoming a teacher."

Montana Outcomes 2005

Number of students served	2,169
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	71%
Persistence towards graduation	74%
Good academic standing	91%
Total BA degrees awarded in 2005	326

(2004-2005 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 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. Student Support Services (SSS) may also provide grant aid to current SSS 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 - Matthew Hopkins



Matthew Hopkins is a non-traditional student who started his academic career at Flathead Valley Community College in the fall of 2001. He initially intended to major in substance abuse counseling and pursue an AAS degree but soon realized that a BA would allow him to do more with his life and gain admittance into the social work program at the University of Montana. Having completed AA and BA degrees, (with high honors and a 4.0 GPA) he is currently enrolled in Missoula for his Masters in Social Work. Matthew's unique personal ac-

complishment has been collaborating with a private investor to purchase a house in Missoula that will be a residential transitional home for people who are struggling with substance abuse issues. Matthew will live there and will help develop a group/peer support culture in the facility.

"The most significant help in preparing me to move up concerning my education came from the writing and math labs, as well as the close personal attention from the staff. Whenever I needed any advice or direction I went directly to the TRiO office where I received a tremendous amount of support and guidance. It was a wonderful experience which produced lifelong friendships and empowered me to move forward in the social work field and gain the skills necessary to promote social justice for those in need. The staff deserves thanks for the patience and guidance that is so desperately needed in today's academic world."

Montana Outcomes 2005

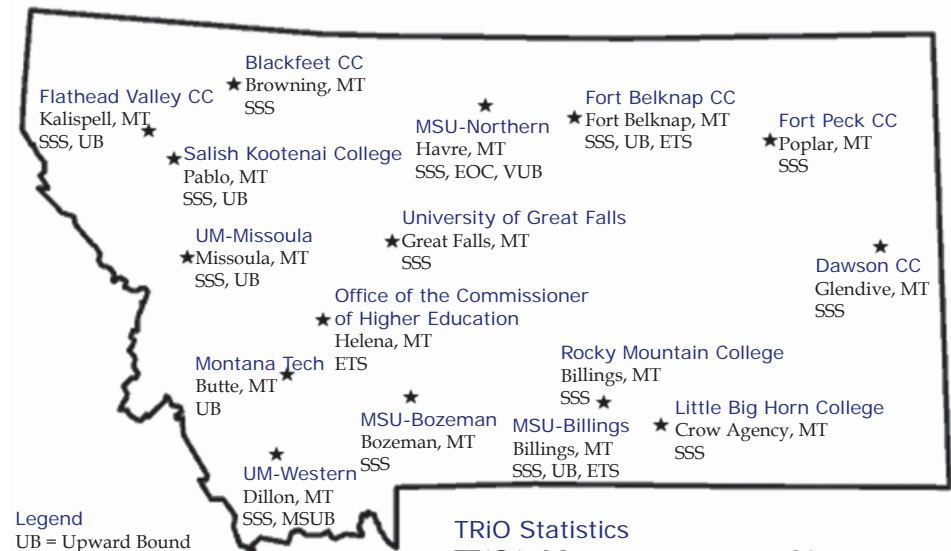
Number of students served	1,317
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	70%
Persistence towards graduation	70%
Good academic standing	81%
Transfer rate from 2 year to 4 year	39%
Total students transferred to 4 year in 2005	125
Total 2-year degrees awarded	171

(2004-2005 Report Data)

TRiO in Montana

Program Location	Students	Funding
Student Support Services - 4 year		
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
Program Total	1,805	2,082,259
Student Support Services - 2 year		
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
Program Total	1,325	1,890,628
Student Support Services Combined Total		
	3,130	3,972,887
Educational Opportunity Centers		
Montana State University-Northern	2,800	579,972
Educational Talent Search		
Fort Belknap College	835	308,033
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,250	567,664
Montana State University-Billings	600	204,000
Program Total	2,685	1,079,697

Program Location	Students	Funding
Classic Upward Bound		
Flathead Valley Community College	65	287,703
Fort Belknap College	65	314,374
Montana State University-Billings	75	318,833
Salish Kootenai College	80	351,419
University of Montana-Missoula	70	399,306
University of Montana-Montana Tech	56	279,496
Program Total	411	1,951,131
Veteran's Upward Bound		
Montana State University-Northern (Veterans')	230	526,727
Math/Science Upward Bound		
University of Montana Western	50	222,916
Upward Bound Combined Total	691	2,700,774
Grand Total for 26 programs		
	9,306	\$8,333,330



Legend
 UB = Upward Bound
 SSS = Student Support Services
 EOC = Educational Opportunity Center
 ETS = Educational Talent Search
 VUB = Veteran's Upward Bound
 MSUB = Math/Science Upward Bound

TRiO Statistics
 TRiO in Montana encompasses 26 programs and serves 9,306 students with \$8,333,330.