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Montana TRiO Fact Book 2010

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 Students
% of low-income High School graduates enrolling in postsecondary education	24.7%*	73%
% of low-income students completing Bachelor’s degree within 6 years	8.6%**	27%
<small>Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$36,000 *Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, December 2004, Number 150 **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 Indian Community
 - MSU-Billings
 - Salish Kootenai College
 - Chief Dull Knife College
- Funded to serve 605 students

A Success Story - Isaiah Winslow Whitecrane



Isaiah Winslow Whitecrane is in his Junior year at Morning Star High School in Lame Deer on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Isaiah was one of the first participants to sign up for the UB program at Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC). He joined UB to "search for a college to attend when I graduate from school." He has been active in UB, attending two summer programs, participating in the student government portion of the program, and attending all of the cultural and recreational activities.

Not only is Isaiah very active in UB, he has perfect attendance at school and maintains a grade point average of 3.0 to 4.0, earning on a spot on his school's honor roll. Isaiah likes school "because that's where we get our education and, yes I do plan on going to college after graduation." Isaiah is also very active in sports, participating in cross country, basketball, and track. When asked how UB has helped him, he stated: "it has helped in many ways, mostly academically." Because Isaiah is active and knows what his goals are, he makes the most of all the opportunities before him and has thoroughly utilized the CDKC UB program to his advantage. Isaiah thoroughly enjoys his electronic toys and plans on pursuing a career in gaming systems.

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	706
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
Yearly retention rate in project	85%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	79%
Freshman to sophomore year PSE persistence	76%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2003 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	43%
% of 2003 grads still enrolled in PSE program	19%

(2008-2009 Report Data)

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 Indian Community
 - Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- Funded to serve 3,500 students

A Success Story - Mallory Johnston



Growing up in a large, low-income family, Mallory had the desire and motivation to attend college, but wasn't sure she had the what it takes to succeed in college. She was one of five children and watched her older siblings as they graduated from high school and started their college lives. Scholarship opportunities were few and far between for her sisters and it became discouraging for her family of first-generation college students. Mallory was a bright student with potential and drive, but had no one to really push her to work for the things she wanted until she joined ETS during her junior year of high school. She began to study for the SAT and ACT and started researching college scholarships. ETS helped her create deadlines, organize study sessions to help prepare for tests, apply for scholarships, and even fill out her college application and FAFSA. *"With the assistance, guidance and support of ETS I could see my life changing and my opportunities emerging."* In college Mallory joined SSS and received assistance with tutoring, registering for classes, and connecting with a mentor that was attending college for a similar degree. She received a TRiO achiever award and a scholarship for her participation and dedication. *"Through it all, I had an incredible group of people I could always count on to motivate me and encourage me to push through any obstacles that came my way."* Mallory graduated in May of 2008 with a degree in Business Administration and Management and started a corporate career with Farmers Insurance as a Marketing Specialist. *"ETS and TRiO encouraged me to succeed and provided the tools I needed to do so. I am thankful for the opportunities and services they provided to me and my family."*

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	3,089
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	69%
Secondary school retention	99%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	67%
% of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end	98%

(2008-2009 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 - Dawna Jo Calf Looking



Dawna Jo Calf Looking is a member of the Blackfeet tribe and a participant in the EOC program at Salish Kootenai College (SKC). Dawna Jo received her certificate in Office Profession in 2001 and her AA degree in Business Management in 2005. EOC has played an important role in Dawna Jo's education, especially assisting her with FAFSA applications and scholarships to finance her education.

In addition to attending college, Dawna Jo is a single mother of five children and her dedication to education has obviously been passed on to her children. Her son Kollin is in the Upward Bound program at Ronan High School. A second son, Devin, is in the Junior Chapter of AIBL and her daughter is now attending the nursing program at SKC. Dawna Jo is an active member in her community and has brought both local and national motivational speakers to the college and Flathead reservation. She is currently completing her BA in Business Management at SKC while working at the Kicking Horse Job Corps as the STARS Coordinator. She plans to pursue her master's degree in the future.

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	2,500
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	79%
% of secondary school drop outs re-entered secondary ed.	91%
% of college-ready participants enrolled in or admitted to PSE for 1st time	89%
% of postsecondary stopouts re-enrolling in postsecondary	97%
% of college-ready participants receiving assistance in applying to PSE	89%
% of college-ready participants receiving fin. aid assistance	94%
(2008-2009 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 - Anthony Archdale



U.S.M.C. Veteran Anthony Archdale is a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine-Sioux tribe who is trained as a Harrier mechanic and has earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. Anthony's Harrier mechanic skills from the Marines provided the required background for his employment with Boeing Company where he worked on the Integrated Defense System Program as a Mechanic Technician. After his return to Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Anthony was employed in construction. In fall 2009,

Anthony committed to work toward his certification in welding at Fort Peck Community College. His goal is to start his own small mobile welding business.

A participant of VUB's Tribal Program, during his first semester Anthony enrolled for 22 credits and made the College's Dean's List. Anthony believes in *"hard work and always trying your best in whatever you do makes anything possible."*

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	230
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	72%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	44%
Freshman to sophomore year PSE persistence	16%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2003 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	41%
% of 2003 grads still enrolled in PSE program	44%
(2008-2009 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 - Cynthia Sharples



Cynthia Sharples is a 44 year old non-traditional student from Chinook. Upon graduation from Havre High School, Cynthia had a strong desire to continue her education; however, she decided to postpone her education when she met and married her husband after they had known each other for only two weeks. They now have nine children: four sons and five daughters. She is also the grandmother to twin granddaughters and one grandson.

In 2008, when their youngest child turned five, her husband encouraged Cynthia to do something she had always wanted to do: attend MSU-Northern. Cynthia is now in her third semester and is enjoying great success in all her classes, earning a 4.0 GPA. Upon completing her core curriculum requirements, she plans to study biology with an interest in the medical field.

Cynthia is a tremendous inspiration to her fellow students. Her positive attitude and motivation are personal attributes that are immediately noticeable upon meeting her. She is a valuable addition to the MSU-Northern SSS Program.

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	1,857
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	69%
Persistence toward completion of degree or transfer	78%
Good academic standing	89%
6-year graduation rate	34%
Bachelor's degrees awarded	394

(2008-2009 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 - James Flansburg



James Flansburg was born and raised on the southern end of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in the small community of Hays. He was the 6th child and 1st born son of Arden and Velma Flansburg. Typical of all children born on Indian Reservations, James entered a world of relentless and seemingly hopeless poverty, but was brought up in a nurturing environment filled with family traditions, culture, and a great deal of love and encouragement. These factors, and his three daughters, were essential elements in this single father's decision to enter into the world of higher education. With feelings of apprehension, he began his journey at Fort Belknap College in the fall of 2002, pursuing an AA Degree in Computer Information Systems. With the help of SSS, he received his degree in May 2004. Having the support of SSS created opportunities for James to achieve his goals and develop a plan to further his education. With his associate's degree in hand James transferred to Montana State University-Northern as a more confident student. He graduated with his Baccalaureate degree in May 2006. James wanted "to give back to and help others attain their educational goals," so he applied and was hired as an Information Specialist at Fort Belknap College. Along with his regular duties, he teaches a course or two each semester and continues to pursue educational excellence by studying for his master's degree in Information Systems Management through Colorado Technical University.

Montana Outcomes 2009

Number of students served	1,365
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	81%
Persistence toward completion of degree or transfer	71%
Good academic standing	84%
4-year rate of graduation or transfer to a 4-year college	37%
Degrees awarded	225

(2008-2009 Report Data - 6 of 7 programs reporting)

TRiO in Montana

Program Location	Students	Funding
Student Support Services - 4 year		
Montana State University-Billings	250	\$328,680
Montana State University-Bozeman	300	414,078
Montana State University-Northern	240	276,222
Rocky Mountain College	250	312,179
University of Great Falls	230	312,554
University of Montana-Missoula	375	429,146
University of Montana Western	160	267,676
Program Total	1,805	2,340,535
Student Support Services - 2 year		
Blackfeet Community College	170	321,387
Dawson Community College	130	296,839
Flathead Valley Community College	350	347,235
Fort Belknap College	110	305,427
Fort Peck Community College	175	312,838
Little Big Horn College	160	254,922
Salish Kootenai College	230	315,862
Program Total	1,325	2,154,510
Student Support Services Combined Total	3,130	4,495,045
Educational Opportunity Centers		
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		
Program Total	2,500	597,371

Program Location	Students	Funding
Educational Talent Search		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	835	317,274
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,250	584,694
Montana State University-Billings	600	226,600
University of Montana-Montana Tech	800	226,600
Program Total	3,485	1,355,168
McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement		
Montana State University-Bozeman (New project in 2009-2010)	26	220,000
Classic Upward Bound		
Chief Dull Knife College	60	250,000
Flathead Valley Community College	65	296,344
Fort Belknap Indian Community	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	287,881
Ruby Valley	60	250,000
Program Total	605	2,759,675
Veteran's Upward Bound		
Montana State University-Northern	230	526,727
Upward Bound Combined Total	835	3,286,402
Grand Total for 30 programs	9,976	\$9,953,986

Impact of TRiO

Students served by ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	33%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino	3%
White	59%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<1%
More than one race reported	3%
(2008-2009 Report Data)	

Students served by gender	
Male	48%
Female	52%
(2008-2009 Report Data)	

For more information on TRiO...	
Montana Aspire	www.mtaspire.org
Regional Aspire	www.aspireonline.org
Council for Opportunity in Education	www.coenet.us
U.S. Department of Education TRiO Homepage	www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

