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Montana TRiO Fact Book 2007

**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 low-income students completing Bachelor’s degree within 6 years	8.6%**	29%

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

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

- 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 425 students

A Success Story - Rabih Najjar



Rabih Najjar's family moved to Anaconda from Lebanon to work in the smelting industry. When the smelter shut down in 1980, his family was left with no income and little opportunity for employment. A first generation US citizen, Rabih was active in Montana Tech's Upward Bound program during high school. In 1997 Rabih became the first in his family to graduate from high school and to attend college. After enrolling at Montana State University in Bozeman, Rabih was able to leverage his summers at Upward Bound and become a resident assistant. Following graduation, his impressive people skills and work ethic landed him a job as a resident director at MSU. Rabih currently resides in Portland and works for Target as an Operations Manager where he has direct responsibility for a large budget and the oversight of 150 employees. He is active in the UB Alumni Association and has traveled to Washington DC to speak to congress on the impact UB had on his success. *"Upward Bound provided me many experiences to make new friends and the staff really taught me to be open and appreciative of new opportunities. The positive exposure to diversity gave me confidence to embrace the challenges of college and what would be different experiences for me there. I really felt comfortable making new friends and approaching other people not just those from my hometown. I credit Upward Bound for teaching me how to maximize relationships from meeting friends, creating study groups, interacting with professors, finding employment and now working effectively as a manager."*

Montana Outcomes 2006

Number of students served	402
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	74%
Yearly retention rate in project	80%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	79%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2000 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	38%
% of 2000 grads still enrolled in PSE program	24%
(2005-2006 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 3,485 students

A Success Story - Brittany Don't Mix



Brittany Don't Mix, an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe, is currently a senior at Lodge Grass High School. Brittany has worked hard to maintain a high GPA throughout high school and will graduate 3rd in her class this spring. She has been involved in many extracurricular activities, especially sports and has particularly excelled in basketball. Brittany has been active in Educational Talent Search since middle school and as a freshman she received the Sylvester Spotted Bear memorial award, which included a trip to a youth leadership conference in Washington D.C. *"Going to Washington D.C. was a great experience, it really opened my eyes to the world beyond Montana. I had a great time and learned a lot about leadership. I was also able to meet people from all over the country and share my experiences with them. I would have never had that opportunity if it weren't for Talent Search."* Brittany plans to attend Little Big Horn College next fall and major in elementary education.

Montana Outcomes 2006

Number of students served	2,843
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	80%
Yearly retention rate in project	95%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	59%
% of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end	94%
(2005-2006 Report Data - Does not include data from newly funded ETS program at MT Tech)	

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 2,500 students

A Success Story - Erin Smith



Erin Smith is a sophomore at Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. She is a single mother who received her GED in 2001 and struggled to maintain numerous minimum wage jobs while living in Great Falls. Erin realized that the best way for her to improve her life and the life of her son, Ty, was to continue her education. In 2004 she met with an Educational Opportunity Center counselor and in the fall entered MSU-GF COT. *"I am so thankful for the commitment and encouragement given me by the Educational Opportunity Center. The goals I am reaching for are far more accessible with the help of the EOC counselor. The people working here to help others have shown in many ways that by investing time and effort in oneself, new accomplishments and challenges can be met with grace and confidence."* Upon entering college Erin worked for the student newspaper and in time assumed an editor position, one of the most rewarding experiences she has ever encountered. She is also a work study student for the Dean of the COT and has gained an array of diverse and valuable skills from this position. After graduating in 2007 with an AS degree, Erin's goal is to work in an alternative high school where she will be able to help others achieve an enriched and fulfilled life.

Montana Outcomes 2006

Number of students served	2,500
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
% of secondary school drop outs re-entered secondary ed.	72%
% of college-ready participants enrolled in or admitted to postsecondary for 1st time	76%
% of postsecondary stopouts re-enrolling in postsecondary	75%
% of postsecondary participants who continued in or completed postsecondary	100%

(2005-2006 Report Data)

Math/Science Upward Bound

Created in 1990 to address the nation’s 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 selected from 135+ target schools

A Success Story - Victoria Miranda



Victoria received her baccalaureate degree in entomology from Cornell University in May of 2006. That summer she returned to Math/Science Upward Bound (MSUB) to lead a student research project on entomology. Victoria Miranda attended High School in Cascade, Montana (population 819). *“I was lucky enough to attend 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 2006

Number of students served	81
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	74%
Yearly retention rate in project	88%
PSE placement rate within 1st year	80%
(2005-2006 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 - George Lee



George Lee, a Vietnam veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Air Force from 1972-1982, said he is using his soldiering skills of "critical thinking, self-discipline and commitment" to finally realize his dream of becoming a nurse. Now a junior in the nursing program on the campus of MSU Billings, Lee began as a student in the Veterans' Upward Bound program in 2002. Lee attributes his collegiate success and the success of other veterans at MSU Billings to the Veterans'

Upward Bound program: *"The VUB program at MSU Billings has been an outstanding resource for my return to the college arena. Without their professional guidance and assistance my attempt to become a registered nurse would have failed before it began. My personal experience with the VUB Program has become not only the valuable resource I need at times to compete with younger, more computer-savvy individuals, but also one of a friendship that has assisted me in areas related to class course work, references to job placement, and recommendation letters. The critical thinking, self-discipline, and commitment to assisting those of the Armed Services has been both a moral booster to myself and the hundreds of others coming back to college who might not have tried to complete a college education without the assistance of VUB. To the Veterans' Upward Bound program, I personally say, Thank you for all you have done."*

Montana Outcomes 2006

Number of students served	230
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	71%
Yearly retention rate in project	90%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	54%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2000 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	26%
% of 2000 grads still enrolled in PSE program	44%

(2005-2006 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.

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 - Ana Henrickson



A native of Mexico, Ana began her adventures when she was seventeen and moved to California to be with her mother. Ana did not speak English or have a high school diploma and relied on a job her mom got her at a local Dollar Store. She recalls the first day quite vividly. She had no training, did not speak any English or know US currency, and was left completely alone to man the entire store.

She endured that first day at work, and continues to push through any obstacles she may encounter. Born with a competitive soul, Ana says she simply expects the best out of herself and will let nothing stop her from reaching her goals. Six months after arriving in California, Ana took her GED in Spanish and passed. She also met her husband, which led her to Billings where she signed up for her first semester of classes in the fall of 2001. Her first day was admittedly overwhelming as she still spoke little English and did not know how to use a computer. She kept in close contact with her instructors and worked twice as hard to make it through her first semester. Her tenacity and commitment paid off and she is pursuing an accounting major with an overall GPA of 3.38. You can still see Ana carrying her trusty Spanish to English translation dictionary, not because she needs it as much as it is a reminder of how far she has come and where she will go from here. With all her accomplishments, Ana is still very humbled by all the support she has received at MSU-Billings and particularly SSS. She says: *"SSS helped me with tutors and mentors. It has been very helpful. I would not be here if not for that."*

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 - William James Polk



William James Polk, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, graduated from Browning High School in 1992. William postponed his college enrollment and joined the Air Force where he served his country for 6 years. In 2003, William decided to pursue his dream of becoming a math teacher. He not only wanted to give his family a better life, but also wanted to make a difference in the lives of the children in his community on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. William graduated from the Blackfeet Community College (BCC) in 2005 with an AS degree in math and science. He was the class valedictorian at BCC with an impressive 4.0 cumulative GPA. William is currently a senior at the University of Montana majoring in math and working on a secondary education endorsement. William will be the first in his family to earn a Bachelor's degree and plans to begin working on a Master's degree this summer. He considers hard work and determination to be his most valuable strengths. *"The BCC Student Support Services program encouraged and supported me throughout my academic career. It was nice to know that whatever happened or was going on with me academically or personally, there was always someone there to assist me, point me in the right direction, or just listen to me. The SSS program hired me as a peer tutor while I attended school at BCC. Being a tutor helped offset my financial situation during the winter months while I was a student and wasn't able to work."*

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	220,000
University of Montana-Montana Tech	800	220,000
Program Total	3,485	1,315,697

Program Location	Students	Funding
Classic Upward Bound		
Flathead Valley Community College	65	287,703
Fort Belknap College	75	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	60	279,496
Program Total	425	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		
	705	2,700,774
Grand Total for 27 programs		
	10,120	\$8,569,330

