

# TRIO Field Review

TRIO Pre-College Programs, Boise State University  
Educational Talent Search & Upward Bound

## Watch Out For Financial Aid Scams

FastWeb ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)) gives these warnings to help parents and students avoid scholarship scams:

**Fees:** Scholarships are intended to give you money, not take yours.

**Credit-card or bank information:** Legitimate benefactors do not need this information.

**Guarantees:** Scholarships cannot be guaranteed because no one controls how judges choose recipients.

**No work involved:** All scholarship applications require some work.

**No contact information:** If a sponsor is legitimate, it will provide contact information.

**Unsolicited scholarships:** If you win a scholarship you have not applied for, it is typically a scam.

**Pressure tactics:** If the sponsor is asking for money upfront, this usually is a sign of a scam.

**"Exclusive" scholarships:** Real scholarships are not available only through one service.

**Questions are not answered directly:** Be cautious if a sponsor does not answer your question about what will be done with your information.

For more information on financial aid and scholarships, visit these Web sites:

- [www.collegeboard.com/student/pay](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay)
- [www.financialaidsupersite.com/fafsa.htm](http://www.financialaidsupersite.com/fafsa.htm)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com)
- [www.scholarshipsoup.com](http://www.scholarshipsoup.com)
- [www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com)

## No time for senioritis when scholarship money is out there waiting for you

By Katie Mussman, McClatchy Newspapers, Modesto California

A few nights ago, scholarship applications blanketed my desk, but I was hoping to put them to bed soon. I wasn't able to sleep, thought. Once my desk was cleared of paper, there were more applications to do online.

By the beginning of second semester, most high school seniors, like me, have pretty much finished their college applications. Time to kick back and relax, right? Wrong. If you want to be responsible and make sure you can afford your college education, it is time to get serious about applying for scholarships.

I started my journey into the world of scholarship applications by picking up a monthly scholarship bulletin that my high school puts out. There usually are up to a dozen or so scholarships listed. Many of them are locally sponsored, and our counselor says we have a better chance of winning them than the national scholarships.

Sounded good to me. Then I took a closer look at the bulletin. Since I was not going to Fresno State, applying for ROTC, enrolling in agriculture classes or willing to read a 900-page book and then write an essay about it, I had to eliminate a number of opportunities.

I circled the ones I might qualify for. Definitely making progress, right? Well, maybe. There is the problem, however, of actually completing the paperwork. One weekend, after hours of working

away, it felt like I had filled out dozens of applications and labored over numerous essays, when really I had completed only two or three!

I did get a boost when I found out I was a finalist for one of the scholarships. I went to school feeling like a million bucks until I overheard two girls whispering in class about how they were finalists for the same scholarship. Was everyone a finalist, I wondered?

After a few more weekends, I found it worthwhile to apply for a scholarship only if it had narrow requirements that fit me. I also found a resume helpful for reference, and sometimes I could just attach it to an application and save myself some time.

Counselors and colleges also emphasize the need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. A friend who graduated last year explained that it is sometimes surprising how much financial aid students get after filling out just a FAFSA.

My high school college counselors also suggested starting a FastWeb account. My FastWeb online account sends me e-mails about scholarships, based on questions I answered when I started the account. While helpful, I have found that some of the FastWeb scholarships are not applicable to me. Also, most of the time, I just do not have the time to look at all the e-mail FastWeb sends. I am beginning to

think that students could make a career out of applying for scholarships.

But FastWeb may have helped me out recently with a reminder about certain University of California scholarship applications that were due that night. I finished two large applications and five essays with two minutes to spare. Maybe not my best work, but they were done before the deadline.

So, high school juniors, enjoy your evenings. Next year, you too may find that when most of the world is sleeping, you could be at your computers, busy tapping away and hoping you can put your scholarship applications to bed, even if it means you won't be getting too much sleep yourself.

### **BIG MISTAKES**

Here are five common mistakes that college counselors say students make when it comes to scholarships:

- Failing to apply.
- Failing to meet deadlines (this is important because if the scholarship application comes in early, those determining who will receive it will see that you are dedicated).
- Failing to complete the entire application.
- Failing to respond to requests for more information.
- Putting in the wrong social security number.

## Idaho TRIO Student Leadership Conference

Students from the TRIO programs in Idaho gathered in the Hatch Ballroom for an Idaho TRIO Student Leadership Conference on Friday, February 22, 2008. The student group consisted of:

- 30 students from the Boise State University Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs.
- Four students from the University of Idaho Educational Talent Search program.
- Four students from the Lewis and Clark State University Student Support program.
- Two students from the Idaho State University Educational Talent Search program.

After a short delay in starting because of a blizzard, the morning began with a lesson from Donnie Hale, Assistant Director, Boise State University Upward Bound II and III about the history of TRIO, NASP, and COE and what it means to be a TRIO Leader. Donnie was followed by Valerie Cleary, the Director of Student Enrichment, BSU Athletics and a former ETS student from California State University, Chico. Valerie spoke about how she reached her dreams, setting goals, and the importance of becoming a leader. She shared about the importance of making sure you always have something in your mind that will motivate you, even if it is a new Lexus!

After a break the students got into groups and began to discuss their concerns about their community, and what types of things they could do to help their communities. The students stayed in these groups at lunch to talk to our two guests, Julie Tensen from the Boise office of Representative Mike Simpson, and Mayor John Bechtel, of Wilder, Idaho. After lunch Sue B. Huizinga, Project Director, BSU TRIO Pre-College Programs gave Julie Tensen a "Friend of TRIO" award. She also gave one to Representative Simpson for Julie to give to the representative. Julie then

read for us a copy of the following statement for the record that Representative Simpson spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Statement for the Record  
Congressman Mike Simpson  
National TRIO Day  
February 23, 2008

"Madame Speaker —

I rise in recognition that today I National TRIO Day and in support of this important program and the positive influence it has on young peoples in our country.

Higher education is an important component of success in today's economy, as well as a valuable end in itself. A college education opens doors to exciting new job fields, new experiences, and a deeper understanding of the world. Yet many lower-income Americans face a multitude of obstacles when they consider furthering their education. Parental income is one of the top predictors of whether or not a child will succeed in college, and if he or she is the first in the family to pursue a college education, the challenges can seem insurmountable.

This is why I am a strong supporter of the TRIO programs, which were created to support Congress's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. TRIO programs help students exceed societal expectations and predictions by providing tutoring in college preparatory classes and help in navigating through the sometimes daunting maze of required forms and tests known as the college admission process.

Congress enacted the National TRIO Day in 1986 in order to increase awareness and support for the programs, as well as to recognize the



**TRIO Students participating in the Student Leadership Conference**

achievements of the TRIO programs and their important role in advancing equal opportunity in post-secondary education. Congress declared that February 23rd be dedicated as 'National TRIO Day, a day on which the nation is asked to turn its attention to the needs of disadvantaged youth and adults aspiring to improved their lives, to the investment necessary if they are to become contributing citizens of this country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made.'

National TRIO Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate this investment in the lives of young people and in the future of our nation. It is also a National Day of Service, and the TRIO programs in my state will be commemorating the day by doing a wide range of service projects throughout their communities.

As co-chair of the TRIO Caucus, it is my goal to make people aware of this important program and the profound impact that it is having on the lives of students in my home state of Idaho and elsewhere. National TRIO Day gives us a valuable opportunity to recognize that impact and commit ourselves to ensuring that these programs can continue to change the lives of students for years to come."

*Sue B. Huizinga, Project Director*

*Have confidence that if you have done a little thing well,  
you can do a bigger thing well, too.*

*David Storey, Novelist and playwright*

## What if I have questions while I'm in college?

At Lewis-Clark State College, University of Idaho, and Boise State University there are TRIO alumni groups for support. Boise State University's TRIO Student Association (TSA) is a club designed for students who were or currently are TRIO students. We are a support system away from home. As current TSA members we realize that there are many questions that a student has once they begin their journey in college. TSA's mission is to inform its members about the many resources that the university has to offer. We also believe that it's important to give back to TRIO and therefore we also mentor TRIO Pre-College level students. We also participate in service learning projects for example: Rake Up Boise, TRIO Day, and Earth Day. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Andrew Falen, [andrewfalen@boisestate.edu](mailto:andrewfalen@boisestate.edu) or [triostudent@boisestate.edu](mailto:triostudent@boisestate.edu). We hope to see you soon!

### JOIN US! TRIO Summer Service Learning!

You are invited to help TRIO feed the homeless and people in need at A Friendship Feast at The First Presbyterian Church, at 950 W. State Street, Boise, on Thursday, July 3, 2008 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

We will be serving dinner (you can eat too!) and then cleaning up afterwards. Everything (except transportation) will be provided including a service learning certificate. If you are interested and have a ride, please call Tia Short at 890-9441

### Get in the game! Serve. Learn. Change your Community!

Sign up with [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org) to find out about how you can spend your time making a difference for others in your community and earn valuable service learning hours to help you be competitive with scholarships! Go to the website ([volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org)), log in, choose areas of interest to you, enter your zip code and check your email regularly to find out who needs you and your friends' help!

## North Idaho College Tour

The North Idaho College Tour started out as a cold morning. By the time the bus got to the Caldwell, Idaho pick-up, it was full. We ended up with 52 students on the bus. Jim Wright, Educational Specialist for Capital and Borah High Schools drove a van with about seven more students. Our first stop was New Meadows, Idaho. Students got off the bus for a restroom break and to buy themselves treats. After about ten minutes we were on our way again.

We watched two movies before finding ourselves in Lewiston, heading for Lewis Clark State College. After lunch, a tour, and a presentation we said good-bye to eight seniors and headed up the hill to the Kibbie Dome on the University of Idaho's Campus. Tia Short, Educational Specialist for Nampa and Melba High Schools, and I walked 14 seniors to the Vandal Friday registration area. Once they were all settled in, we boarded the bus and headed to the hotel with 33 10th and 11th graders.

We assigned rooms and gave the hotel staff our menus for the four

meals we would have at the hotel. The students voted to go to the Palouse Mall. The next morning we all ate breakfast together and then went over to the Kibbie Dome. We met Jesse Martinez and walked over to the Student Union building for a presentation with Jesse about CAMP. He also had Danny and Roy, both former ETS students speak.

Next the students took a campus tour. After the tour we boarded the bus and headed for Washington State University for lunch. After lunch J.J. Oliver arranged for WSU Ambassadors to give our students a campus tour. After the tour J.J. gave a presentation via power point about financial aid, scholarships and student life on campus. After the presentation J.J. had arranged for us to have ice cream made at WSU's dairy. After a short walk we arrived at the ice cream parlor and enjoyed ourselves.

We then took a short walk to one of the main streets on campus and meet Bruce our bus driver. The students had an hour before dinner and were allowed free time as long as they didn't

leave the hotel building.

After dinner some students went to the mall with Tia and Julie and some stayed at the pool with Jim and I. By 10:00 p.m. it was time for students to be in their rooms.

The next morning we got up and had breakfast and Tia, Julie and Jim made sure the bus was loaded. I collected the bill and had some of the students load up the box lunches. We picked up the seniors from the Kibbie Dome, and then the other seniors from LCSC and headed for home.

We stopped after Riggins, Idaho and passed out the lunches. We actually arrived back to Caldwell a little earlier than anticipated. Overall it was a good trip and the students seemed to really enjoy themselves.

*Keith Anderson, Educational Specialist and North Idaho College Tour Trip Leader*

Boise State University  
Trio Pre-College Programs  
Educational Talent Search  
Upward Bound

1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725-1770

Phone: 208-426-3572  
Fax: 208-426-4334  
<http://education.boisestate.edu/trio110G106112>

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## Program Contact Information

### Project Director

Sue Huizinga  
208-426-3572  
[shuizin@boisestate.edu](mailto:shuizin@boisestate.edu)

### ETS Assistant Director

Julie Bú  
208-863-9520  
[jbu@boisestate.edu](mailto:jbu@boisestate.edu)  
Borah High School

### ETS Programs

Keith Anderson  
208-841-0070  
[kanderso@boisestate.edu](mailto:kanderso@boisestate.edu)  
Wilder Middle School  
Wilder High School  
Parma Middle School  
Horseshoe Bend High School

Dawn Skeith-Baughner  
208-850-2507  
[dskeith@boisestate.edu](mailto:dskeith@boisestate.edu)  
Caldwell High School  
Vallivue High School

Kristin Fehrer  
208-761-4556  
[kristenfehrer@boisestate.edu](mailto:kristenfehrer@boisestate.edu)  
Skyview High School  
Capital High School

Julie Netz  
208-850-7566  
[julienetz@boisestate.edu](mailto:julienetz@boisestate.edu)  
Idaho City High School  
Fairmont Junior High  
South Junior High

Tia Short  
208-890-9441  
[tshort@boisestate.edu](mailto:tshort@boisestate.edu)  
Melba Middle/High School  
Nampa High School

Jim Wright  
208-794-1208  
[jwright@boisestate.edu](mailto:jwright@boisestate.edu)  
Borah High School  
Capital High School

Patty Alonzo  
208-791-4539  
[pattyalonzo@boisestate.edu](mailto:pattyalonzo@boisestate.edu)  
Fort Boise High School  
Mountain Cove High School  
Timberline High School  
Parma High School  
Homedale Middle/High School  
Caldwell High School

### UB Assistant Directors

Donnie Hale  
208-890-6339  
[donniehale@boisestate.edu](mailto:donniehale@boisestate.edu)  
Owyhee, NV  
Boise

Sari Byerly  
818-239-6572  
[saribylerly@boisestate.edu](mailto:saribylerly@boisestate.edu)  
Meridian  
Nampa  
Caldwell

### Upward Bound

Jaime Campbell  
208-863-7305  
[jcampbel@boisestate.edu](mailto:jcampbel@boisestate.edu)  
Nampa High School

Grace Casper  
208-585-7506  
[gracecasper@boisestate.edu](mailto:gracecasper@boisestate.edu)  
Caldwell High School

Vacant  
Capital High School  
Fairmont Junior High

Angie Day  
208-251-7686  
[angieday@boisestate.edu](mailto:angieday@boisestate.edu)  
Borah High School  
South Junior High

Kale Tarbet  
208-319-6372  
[kaletarbet@boisestate.edu](mailto:kaletarbet@boisestate.edu)  
Meridian High School

Pete Putra  
208-867-5685  
[peteputra@boisestate.edu](mailto:peteputra@boisestate.edu)  
Owyhee High School

### Office Staff

Mystina Hill  
208-426-3572  
[mystihill@boisestate.edu](mailto:mystihill@boisestate.edu)

Robin Michael  
208-426-1843  
[robinmichael@boisestate.edu](mailto:robinmichael@boisestate.edu)

Barbara Laubner  
208-426-2318  
[barbaralaubner@boisestate.edu](mailto:barbaralaubner@boisestate.edu)

Ali Sosnowski  
208-426-2317  
[alisosnowski@boisestate.edu](mailto:alisosnowski@boisestate.edu)