TRIO OVERVIEW

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 society. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Opportunity Act and are referred to as the TRIO programs (initially just three programs, now encompassing eight unique programs).

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from low-income backgrounds with neither parent having graduated from college with a bachelor’s degree. More than 2,800 TRIO programs currently serve close to 790,000 low-income Americans. Thirty-five percent of TRIO students are classified as White, 35% African-American, 19% Hispanic, 4% Native American, 3% Asian-American, and 4% list themselves as other. More than 7,000 students with disabilities and approximately 6,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO programs as well.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the TRIO programs is to prepare disadvantaged individuals for successful entry into, retention in, and completion of post-secondary education. In general, these programs identify low income, first-generation college bound students and students with disabilities and provide them with assistance, support and encouragement necessary to complete a post-secondary education.

WHILE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, TRIO PROGRAMS HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME CLASS, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.
As students from high-income families are eight-times more likely than their low-income peers to complete college degrees, TRIO is a worthy investment in our nation’s future. The tables below illustrate that, often in less than two years in the workforce, TRIO alumni easily “repay” the federal investment as their increased earnings yield greater tax revenues.

### Upward Bound/Upward Bound Math-Science Participant Tax Repayment of Investment in Years for Participants Earning a Postsecondary Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Attainment</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
<th>Tax Payments</th>
<th>4 Year TRIO Investment</th>
<th>Years to Repay Investment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>$44,800</td>
<td>$8,600</td>
<td>$17,200</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>$56,500</td>
<td>$11,400</td>
<td>$17,200</td>
<td>1.5 Years</td>
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### Educational Talent Search Participant Tax Repayment of Investment in Years for Participants Earning a Postsecondary Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Attainment</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
<th>Tax Payments</th>
<th>4 Year TRIO Investment</th>
<th>Years to Repay Investment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>$44,800</td>
<td>$8,600</td>
<td>$1,732</td>
<td>0.2 Years</td>
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<td>Associate Degree</td>
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<td>$11,400</td>
<td>$1,732</td>
<td>0.2 Years</td>
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### Student Support Services Participant Tax Repayment of Investment in Years for Participants Earning a Postsecondary Degree

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<th>Education Attainment</th>
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<th>Tax Payments</th>
<th>4 Year TRIO Investment</th>
<th>Years to Repay Investment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>$44,800</td>
<td>$8,600</td>
<td>$4,170</td>
<td>0.5 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
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<td>0.4 Years</td>
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</table>

Educational Talent Search (also referred to as ETS, Talent Search, or TS) is primarily an early intervention TRIO program which serves students aged 11-18, encouraging them to complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education. Additionally, Talent Search programs may also serve high school dropouts or college stopouts to age 27 by encouraging and preparing individuals to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

**SERVICES**

- Academic, financial, career counseling
- Tutorial services and referral
- Information on post-secondary education
- Exposure to college campuses
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance completing college admissions/financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Financial literacy information
- Workshops for families of participants
- Service learning and leadership activities

**STATS**

- 5 Projects in Idaho (BSU, ISU, LCSC, UI)
- Number of students served by Talent Search: 3648
- Annual grant total: $1,653,432
- 99% Non-senior next grade promotion
- 97% Senior graduation rate
  - 72% With rigorous program of study with intent of pursuing post-secondary education
  - 25% With regular high school diploma
- 84% of seniors completed FAFSA
- 66% of seniors completed FAFSA and enrolled in post-secondary education
  - 45% at a 4-year institution
  - 24% at a 2-year institution
- 14% of all students were in dual enrollment programs
Born to a methamphetamine addicted mother, Tara’s journey from that unfortunate beginning is one of inspiration and tenacity. After being removed from her family at the age of two, Tara entered the foster care system and bounced around from home to home until she was finally adopted at 11 years old. Unfortunately, that adoption was another terrible experience for her and ended a few years later. Currently she is living with a family that has taken her in and given her what she has always wanted: stability.

This stability has allowed Tara to thrive at her school. She participates in a variety of clubs, organizations, and groups. Singing is her passion and she is now in All State for Women’s Select Choirs and plays with the school orchestra. Set to graduate this spring with a 3.5 GPA, she plans to begin her college career at North Idaho College in the fall.

Since 2012 Tara has been an active participant in the University of Idaho TRIO Educational Talent Search Program. She has participated in the past two Idaho Association of TRIO Professionals (IATP) Student Leadership Conferences and has worked closely with her Educational Talent Search Advisor to help plan ETS events and to promote the program to younger students.

TARA HAS HAD TO FACE MORE CHALLENGES IN HER YOUNG LIFE THAN MOST PEOPLE DO IN A LIFETIME.
Upward Bound (UB) provides intensive academic support to participants for college entrance. To be admitted into the program, students must be between the ages of 13 and 19 and enrolled in high school. UB participants are students who are planning to go to college but need services in order to accomplish their aspirations. The overall goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education. Upward Bound programs also provide a six-week summer residential experience on a college campus to acclimate and prepare students for college entrance.

### SERVICES
- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, math, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, foreign language, and other academic subjects
- Academic and financial counseling
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Tutorial and mentoring programs
- Information on post-secondary education opportunities
- Assistance completing college entrance and financial aid applications and for college entrance exams
- Service learning and leadership activities
- Six-week summer residential program

### STATS
- Number of students served by Upward Bound: 636
- Annual grant total: $2,552,373
- 9 Projects in Idaho (BSU, ISU, UI)
- 80% Academic performance of 2.5 GPA or greater
- 87% Proficient on standardized tests (Reading, Language Arts, and Math) by senior year
- 97% Secondary school retention and graduation
- 89% Secondary school graduation with rigorous program of study
- 69% Post-secondary enrollment
I joined the TRIO Upward Bound program as a high school freshman. I was highly motivated, but fairly directionless when it came to college. Through TRIO, I got to work with an Educational Specialist who guided me through the college preparation process, believing in me every step of the way and pushing me to achieve my full potential. After four years in the program I was accepted into one of my top choice schools and I earned approximately $77,000 in scholarships and grants to go there—many of which I wouldn’t have even known to apply for if I hadn’t been in TRIO.

I am now in my junior year of college, pursuing a degree in secondary education and preparing to teach Spanish and English. As I move from the world of higher education to the classroom, I will carry with me what I learned in TRIO so that I may help students like me to achieve their dreams of higher education.

KARA FLEMING

NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND FORMER TRIO UPWARD BOUND PARTICIPANT FROM MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL
The Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) program is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students. The goal of the program is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in these areas and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in math and science, and ultimately careers in the math and science profession. Upward Bound Math-Science also provides a summer residential experience on a college campus to acclimate and prepare students for college entrance.

SERVICES
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Academic, financial, or personal counseling
- Tutorial services
- Mentoring programs
- Information on post-secondary education opportunities
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications
- Information on the full range of federal student financial aid programs and benefits
- Six-week summer residential program

STATS
- Number of students served by Upward Bound Math-Science: 133
- Annual grant total: $510,544
- 2 Projects in Idaho (ISU, UI)
- 83% Academic performance of 2.5 GPA or greater
- 97% Proficient on standardized tests (Reading, Language Arts, and Math) by senior year
- 99% Secondary school retention and graduation
- 84% Secondary school graduation with rigorous program of study
- 67% Post-secondary enrollment
Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) helped me find a career that has never ceased to inspire me. My high school courses were seriously lacking in math and science; the UBMS courses provided the foundation I needed to be a successful engineering student. Before UBMS, I had a poor background in math and science. I never considered a career in those fields, because I didn’t know they were even an option! Once I attended my first engineering course, I found a passion for math and science I didn’t know existed.

Additionally, I gained further appreciation and understanding of environmental stewardship; values which eventually led me to pursue a career in renewable energy and sustainable systems. I am currently employed as an Energy Engineer for an energy efficiency-engineering firm in Portland, Oregon, after graduating from Oregon Tech with a degree in renewable energy engineering in the spring of 2013.

The impact UBMS had on me cannot be overstated. The values established during those glorious summers have shaped every aspect of my life. Attending that program during those formative years was the best thing that has ever happened to me.
The Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program is designed to help veterans prepare for and succeed in post-secondary education. The program serves veterans planning to attend college, universities, technical schools, certificate programs and more. Services include assessment, individual and group instructional programs, career planning, and other services to support veterans’ educational goals.

**SERVICES**
- Academic assessment and instruction
- Basic skills improvement in Math, English, and Computer Skills
- Individual tutoring
- Online programs
- Counseling, advisement, college skills development workshops
- Assistance with financial aid forms and the admission process
- Referrals to additional college and community services
- Career interest inventory

**STATS**
- Number of students served by Veterans Upward Bound: 126
- Annual grant award: $250,000
- One program in Idaho (BSU)
- 97% Academic improvement on standardized tests*
- 94% Education program retention and completion*
- 85% Postsecondary enrollment*

*Academic data for Veterans Upward Bound are from the 2012-2013 school year
I graduated from Boise High School as “Artist of the Year” in 1977 and joined the Idaho Air National Guard soon after. In the Guard, I worked as an “Avionics Electro-Optical Sensor Repair Technician.” Basically, I maintained aerial recon cameras. I did this on several aircraft until I retired from the Guard in 2011 as a master sergeant. My two great children and wife have always supported me through these times.

My total time in the military was 31 years, but I never gave up on art. Throughout that time, I painted many murals on my deployments to Saudi Arabia, Norway, Turkey, Alaska and Kuwait. In my community, at churches, and schools, I have done extensive and intricate murals involving students of all ages.

I am currently enrolled as a senior at Boise State University seeking a bachelor’s of fine arts degree in painting. I became a Veteran’s Upward Bound student and this was instrumental in helping me transition from my military career into a successful academic path.

UPDATE:
PAUL GRADUATED ON DECEMBER 19, 2014!
Student Support Services (SSS) programs increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. The program provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and motivates students toward the successful completion of their post-secondary education. Student Support Services programs 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 and mentoring programs
- Academic, financial aid, and personal counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate and professional programs
- Information about career options
- Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to current participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants
- At 2-year institutions, SSS provides assistance securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in 4-year institutions

**STATS**

- Number of students served by Student Support Services: 969
- Annual grant total: $1,439,960
- Five projects in Idaho (BSU, ISU, LCSC, NIC, UI)
- 91% Program retention rate
- 95% Good academic standing
- 49% Associate’s degree or certificate attainment (2-yr institution)
- 39% Associate’s degree or certificate attainment and transfer from 2-yr to 4-yr institution
- 40% Bachelor’s degree attainment (4-yr institution)
My parents immigrated from Mexico with very little education. It was all about getting a job and making money to help the family. After graduating from high school, I started working 12-hour days on the potato farm. I hated that lifestyle and I thought there must be a better way. After talking with my parents, we decided that I could give college a try even though there would be no financial support coming from home.

On my first day at Idaho State University, I was terrified. As a first generation college student, I had no connections. I started to feel like I couldn’t do it and had no chance of getting through school. Then I came across a sign that said “Free Tutoring” above the TRIO office door. So I signed up without really knowing what it was, because they offered the tutoring I really needed.

I soon found that TRIO was best thing that could happen to me. I found the support system that I was missing, got the tutoring I needed, and they helped me decide on a major. Not only were they providing me with academic support, they also helped me financially by offering me a job as a tutor.

With all their assistance and guidance, I was able to overcome and graduate with my bachelor’s of science in microbiology. I have also decided to continue my education and work towards a Ph.D.
The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program prepares students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with participants as they complete their undergraduate requirements and encourage participants to enroll in graduate programs. They track their progress through to the successful completion of the advanced degree.

**SERVICES**
- Research opportunities, seminars, and summer internships
- Exposure to cultural events
- Mentoring programs
- Tutoring services
- Academic counseling
- Financial assistance
- Guidance for student seeking admission and financial aid for graduate programs

**STATS**
- Number of students served by McNair Postbaccalaureate Program: 25
- Annual grant total: $213,232
- One project in Idaho (BSU)
- 64% Post-baccalaureate program - Graduate school enrollment
- 100% Post-baccalaureate program - Continued enrollment in graduate school
- 100% Doctoral degree attainment
As a McNair Scholar from the first cohort of Boise State University McNair Scholars, Dr. Mathias graduated cum laude in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He now holds a law degree and a Ph.D. in law and public policy from Northeastern University with a focus on subnational incident management. Later, he returned to Boise State University for a temporary appointment in the Office of the President.

“For me, McNair was valuable because it provided me with the two types of support I really needed to succeed in graduate school,” Mathias said. “I needed financial support because just getting into graduate school can be prohibitively expensive and understanding the funding process was a major component of McNair. But much more importantly, I needed the emotional support, the kind that constantly reaffirms you with the message that you can succeed in graduate school so long as you continue to care and work hard. I think this type of support is very important for those who may never have experienced graduate level learning as modeled, normalized behavior.”

Dr. Mathias is currently the Chief Academic Officer for the Idaho State Board of Education and an adjunct graduate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Boise State University.
Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) increase the number of adult (19+) participants who enroll in programs of post-secondary education. Educational Opportunity Centers may also provide services to youth without access to a Talent Search program in the area.

**SERVICES**
- Academic advising and personal counseling
- Career workshops
- Information on post-secondary education opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Tutoring services and mentoring
- Assistance in completing applications for admissions and financial aid
- Coordination with nearby post-secondary institutions

**STATS**
- Number of students served by Educational Opportunity Centers: 948
- Annual grant total: $217,971
- One project in Idaho (UI)
- 42% Secondary school diploma
- 79% Financial aid applications
- 81% Postsecondary education admissions
- 43% Postsecondary education enrollment
I moved to Boise to have a new start. A friend told me about College of Western Idaho (CWI), how the teachers loved what they did and loved to help their students. I knew that was where I wanted to go but didn’t know how to begin. My friend told me about the TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) and how they were so willing to help with anything and everything you would need to get in to school. So I took a leap of faith and called and I couldn’t be more grateful that I did!

I was very nervous and didn’t know what to expect or what my out-of-pocket expenses would be in attending CWI. Holly, my EOC Educational Specialist, was amazing in how she walked me through what I needed to do and then gave me amazing news: that if I did my application with her I wouldn’t have to pay the application fee. For someone trying to relocate to a new city, find a job, and attend school, I couldn’t have had better news. From there, she helped me with my FAFSA, helped me complete all the documents I needed to fill out, schedule and sign up for classes, and has given me guidance and encouragement when I needed it. With her help, I haven’t ever had to redo any of my paperwork. I don’t know what I would have done without TRIO EOC and without the financial aid that CWI offers.
Currently, there are 24 TRIO projects funded in Idaho, bringing in about $7 million in federal funding and affecting over 6,500 students. In Idaho, TRIO has a solid record of achievement in working with low-income, first-generation, and disabled students. The following facts are from the 2012-2013 school year:

• 6504 students served by TRIO
• $6,837,512 total TRIO grant dollars in Idaho
• 95% of SSS students are in good academic standing
• 89% of UB students graduated from high school with a rigorous program of study
• 96% of McNair scholars are involved in research and other scholarly activities
• 71% of Talent Search and Upward Bound students enroll in post-secondary institutions
## TRIO Projects Among Idaho Colleges and Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funded to serve</th>
<th>Annual Grant Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boise State University</td>
<td>Educational Talent Search (ETS I)</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>$454,040</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Educational Talent Search (ETS II)</td>
<td>474</td>
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<td>Ronald E. McNair</td>
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<td>Upward Bound (UB I)</td>
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<td>Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)</td>
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<td><strong>9 TRIO Projects</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4 TRIO Projects</strong></td>
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<td>University of Idaho</td>
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<td><strong>7 TRIO Projects</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,179,206</strong></td>
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*FY2013*
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http://www.isu.edu/trio

Helpful Websites
Northwest Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (NAEOP): www.naep-trio.org
Council for Opportunity in Education (COE): www.coenet.us
U.S. Department of Education TRIO homepage: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html
Idaho Department of Education: www.sde.idaho.gov
Idaho State Board of Education: www.boardofed.idaho.gov
Idaho Association of TRIO Professionals: idahotrioassociation.wordpress.com