

YOU ARE A TRIO STUDENT!

WHAT IS TRIO?

TRiO refers to a group of approximately 2700 federal education programs in the nation, funded out of the US Department of Education in Washington, DC. These programs include 770 Upward Bound programs, over 123 Upward Bound Mathematics/Science programs, 471 Educational Talent Search programs, 156 Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Programs, 938 Student Support Services and 139 Educational Opportunity Centers. Each year, Congress votes on how much money the federal government should spend to operate these programs.

TRiO programs help over 873,000 students across the nation each year at a cost of \$836 million dollars annually. Two-thirds of TRiO students come from families whose income is 150% of the poverty level; most are academically under-prepared and must overcome tremendous class, social and financial barriers in order to participate in higher education. The majority of TRiO students (62%) are students of color. Nationwide, 35% are African American, 19% are Latino/Chicano, 4% are American Indian, 4% are Asian American. 16,000 are physically handicapped. **TRiO programs are able to serve 6% of eligible students in the nation.** There are 50 TRiO programs in Minnesota that serve approximately 13,773 students.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TRIO PROGRAMS?

TRiO programs were created in 1965 to help low-income, first-generation (of their family to go to college) students get past barriers to achieving educational goals. TRiO programs provide resources, information, counseling, academic instruction and support services to disadvantaged students in high school and college to help them overcome the lack of information, income and motivation toward higher education that many students experience. Too often, students with high potential and dreams of success are not encouraged or guided to prepare for college. TRiO programs help students make their dreams come true.

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) provide information regarding opportunities for post-secondary enrollment to low-income adults, often concentrating their services on displaced or under-employed workers. EOC's assist their clients in making informed choices among institutions as well as informed choices regarding financing their educational program. EOC's serve about 217,836 clients.

The *Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program* began providing services to students in 1989. 3774 low income and first generation college undergraduates work with McNair and are encouraged to consider careers in college teaching and preparing for doctoral studies. A particular focus of this program is providing research opportunities for the McNair scholars as well as faculty mentors who are able to facilitate the attainment of the students' academic goals.

Student Support Services (SSS) projects operate at 938 colleges and universities. They have a mission to increase the retention and graduation rates of low income, first generation, and

disabled students enrolled as well as increasing the number of students transferring from two-year to four-year institutions.

Educational Talent Search (ETS) works with young people from middle school through college enrollment. Over 387,604 students receive ETS services. ETS staff work with students and their parents to encourage them to consider college, to make sure they are enrolled in college preparatory programs, and to assist them in completing admissions and financial aid applications.

Upward Bound (UB) provides intensive academic and personal support designed to motivate and prepare low-income students and other first generation students for college. Students receive instruction in literature, composition, math, and science. Instruction is scheduled both after school and on Saturdays during the academic year, and during the summer when the students may reside on campus and attend classes on a full-time basis at the host college. During the summer of 1991, the Department of Education began a special initiative to establish UB Math and Science centers at 29 colleges and universities. There are over 123 such programs throughout the country. These programs stress mentoring by professionals working in the sciences, and provide research opportunities for the students enrolled.

Answer the following questions about TRiO.

1. How many federal TRiO programs are there in the United States? _____
2. Who decides how much money TRiO programs receive each year? _____
3. How many students are helped by TRiO programs each year? _____
4. What percentage of eligible students are TRiO programs able to serve? _____
5. *When* and *why* were TRiO programs created?

