

# Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance



## TRIO: VOICES RISING

2019-2020 Oklahoma Programs Fact Booklet

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### Acknowledgements

The Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance (ODSA) TRIO Booklet Committee is pleased to present the 2019-2020 edition of the Oklahoma TRIO Statistics booklet. The goal of this publication is to increase awareness of the TRIO programs and provide insight into their purpose. Many use this booklet as a means of informing individuals of the various efforts of TRIO programs and their effects on education within the state of Oklahoma.

We thank everyone who responded to the call for nominations for the Hall of Fame section. For those of us who work in TRIO, we know of the many success stories our participants have to share, both past and present. The Hall of Fame section represents ODSA's effort to recognize those students for their academic and personal achievements.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank those who work to ensure the accuracy of the information published in this booklet by providing data and information via the internet:

Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance: [www.ods.org](http://www.ods.org)

Council for Opportunity in Education: [www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us)

U.S. Department of Education: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

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## History & Purpose of TRIO Programs

Initiated in response to President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, TRIO programs began with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 which created the *Upward Bound* program. One year later the Higher Education Act of 1965 produced the *Talent Search* program. The Higher Education Amendments of 1968 transferred Upward Bound into the Higher Education Act and authorized *Student Support Services*, the third in a series of federal educational opportunity programs that would be known as "TRIO."

In the following decades, the TRIO programs expanded and improved, providing a wider range of services to participants and reaching more students who would need assistance. The Higher Education Amendments of 1972 added the fourth program to TRIO through implementation of the *Educational Opportunity Centers*. In the summer of that same year, *Veterans Upward Bound* was established by Congress as part of a special appropriation. The 1976 Education Amendments authorized the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs.

New revisions in 1986 helped to create TRIO's sixth program, the *Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement* program. Four years later, in 1990, the *Upward Bound Math Science* program was formed. In 1998, further Higher Education Amendments authorized the TRIO Dissemination Partnership Program, designed to encourage the replication of successful practices of TRIO programs.

The primary purpose of the TRIO Programs is to identify qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, to prepare them for a program of post-secondary education, to provide support services for such students who are pursuing programs of post-secondary education, to motivate and prepare students for doctoral programs, and to train individuals serving or preparing for service in programs and projects so designed. Depending upon the specific program and its authority, there are a number of different permissible and/or required services offered to eligible participants.

- Academic advice and assistance
- Assistance in completing college admission and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance examinations
- Guidance and assistance in secondary school re-entry
- Personal and career counseling
- Tutorial services
- Exposure to college campuses, as well as cultural events, academic programs, and other sites or activities
- Workshops and mentoring programs
- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics through pre-calculus, laboratory science, foreign language, composition, literature, and other subjects
- Special services to enable veterans to make the transition to post-secondary education
- Activities designed to assist students in 2-year institutions secure admission and financial assistance for enrollment in a four-year institution
- Opportunities for research or other scholarly activities designed to provide students with effective preparation for doctoral study

PROGRAM & AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UPWARD BOUND</b> Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 [P.L. 88-452]</p>	<p>Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families and from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The 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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TALENT SEARCH</b> Higher Education Act of 1965 [P.L. 89-320]</p>	<p>The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. Talent Search provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their post-secondary education. Talent Search programs publicize the availability of financial aid and assist participants with the post-secondary application process. The program also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or post-secondary level to enter or reenter and complete post-secondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their post-secondary education.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES</b> Higher Education Amendments of 1968 [P.L. 90-575]</p>	<p>Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and motivate students toward the successful completion of their post-secondary education. Student Support Services (SSS) projects also may provide grant aid to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants (# 84.063). The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VETERANS UPWARD BOUND</b> Second Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1972 [P.L. 92-306]</p>	<p>Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of post-secondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete post-secondary education programs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS</b> Higher Education Amendments of 1972 [P.L. 92-318]</p>	<p>The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of post-secondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in post-secondary education institutions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RONALD E. MCNAIR POST BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM</b> Higher Education Amendments of 1986 [P.L. 99-498]</p>	<p>Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants 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. Institutions encourage participants to enroll in graduate programs and then track their progress through to the successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UPWARD BOUND MATH SCIENCE</b> Higher Education Amendments of 1986 [P.L. 99-498]</p>	<p>The Upward Bound Math and Science 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 math and science and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in math and science, and ultimately careers in the math and science professions.</p>

## Professional Organizations

The TRIO programs have both state and regional professional organizations. These non-profit organizations provide their members the guidance and support needed to promote and guard the idea of educational opportunity for all TRIO eligible individuals. These associations assist the TRIO community in achieving its educational goals. The purpose of these organizations is to:

- Promote professional competency, efficiency, and to partner members and others associated with, and concerned about, student assistance programs
- Foster the development, improvement, and extension of educational opportunities for TRIO eligible persons
- Provide for improved communication between institutions and agencies sponsoring student assistance programs
- Foster a commitment to develop bold and innovative educational programs designed to provide opportunities for eligible participants to initiate, continue, or resume secondary and/or post-secondary education
- Promote and provide individual and cooperative studies, research, workshops, seminars, conferences, effective models, and related activities to fulfill the purposes of the association
- Develop, maintain, and disseminate data pertinent to resolving issues to all bona fide participants and officials of student assistance programs
- Participate in ethical efforts geared to guarantee all membership equal rights, privileges, and benefits

### ***Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance (ODSA)***

Oklahoma established its first TRIO programs in 1966, which is the year six Upward Bound programs opened their doors for their first summer component. Over the next four years, the program directors held informal meetings to discuss the challenges and issues they faced.

Walter O. Mason, often known as “The Father of TRIO,” called for his fellow program directors to organize state-wide professional associations. Through his encouragement, a handful of program directors (including Mr. Mason) established the Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance in 1971, becoming one of the first states to have a professional organization for TRIO personnel.

Today, ODSA serves nearly 300 TRIO professionals within the state of Oklahoma and membership continues to grow. Through its annual conference, ODSA continues to promote, develop and improve the educational opportunities for eligible individuals in Oklahoma.

### ***Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP)***

Under President Nixon’s administration, the TRIO programs were decentralized and administered from 10 regional centers. These regional agencies were given full authority to fund, defund, and administer programs in their area. This environment created inconsistency in policy and priorities among TRIO programs.

In an effort to restructure their relationship with Washington officials, regional associations emerged. In 1972 the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas formed the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs. Later on, the regional associations were realigned and SWASAP no longer includes the state of Arizona.

Currently serving over 130,000 participants, SWASAP encourages and supports members in their endeavor to serve the national and regional needs of the targeted population by conducting an annual meeting of TRIO members from each participating state.

## What are the Federal TRIO Programs?

Upward Bound  
Talent Search  
Student Support Services  
Veterans Upward Bound

Educational Opportunity Centers  
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement  
Upward Bound Math Science  
Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs

TRIO offers seven educational outreach programs that are designed to motivate, support, and advocate for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many of the students that receive help through the TRIO programs may not otherwise have the opportunity for an education beyond high school. Training programs were also established to educate individuals and organizations regarding the objectives of TRIO. The programs provided by TRIO can be found in over 1,000 colleges, universities, and other agencies in America, and assist students in conquering not only economic difficulty, but class, social, and cultural barriers, as well.

The TRIO programs have had a major impact on education in America, with more than 2,800 programs currently serving nearly 790,000 low-income, first generation individuals. The TRIO programs are committed to providing an equal educational opportunity to all individuals and currently serve over 7,000 disabled students and approximately 6,000 military veterans. Participant's ethnic backgrounds vary with 35% Caucasian, 35% African-American, 19% Hispanic, 4% Native American, 3% Asian-American, and 4% listed as "Other," which includes multiracial students.

In many communities, the TRIO Programs are some of the only programs available that help students to overcome the class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. The educational and human services offered through the TRIO Programs are distinguishable from all other counseling programs in America because TRIO Programs are:

### **One-on-One**

As most TRIO Programs serve fewer than 250 students, TRIO counselors have an opportunity to work one-on-one with each student. TRIO professionals get to know each student on a first-name basis. TRIO counselors are personally committed to the success of their students.

### **Performance Based**

Each TRIO Program operates against specific, measurable outcome objectives as clearly defined in each approved grant proposal. TRIO Program Directors are held accountable and must meet their stated objectives each year to remain funded and able to help participants in their targeted service area.

### **Focused on Early Intervention**

Three of the TRIO Programs, Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math Science are early intervention programs. These programs effectively reach students in grades six through 12 who have "college potential" but often do not recognize or understand their academic and career options beyond high school. Each year, these three programs keep thousands of promising young low-income and minority students in school and focused on career and college success.

### **Targeted Toward First Generation and Low-Income**

Two-thirds of the students in the TRIO Programs come from families with incomes under 150% of the poverty level, where neither parent earned a baccalaureate degree. In most cases, parents who have no higher education experience, do not understand the post-secondary process, and do not necessarily value a higher education.

**Built on Relationships**

Over a period of several months or years, TRIO professionals build both personal and professional relationships with their students. Such positive relationships are critical to the success of every TRIO Program. The staff of each TRIO Program creates a climate of support for students as they strive to move out of poverty and dependence. As a result of these strong positive relationships, many TRIO college graduates periodically return to their programs to encourage and inspire current students.

**Committed to Tough Cases**

In most cases, students in the TRIO Programs are poor and are desperately trying to climb out of "the vicious cycle of poverty in America." Many students come to TRIO from neighborhoods that are filled with violence, discouragement, negativity and hopelessness. A single parent raising several children, an older child helping to raise younger siblings, a physically-disabled person with few financial resources, and a struggling high school student trying to escape a life of poverty describe the young people and adults who turn to the TRIO Programs for assistance.

**Consistent and Intense**

TRIO Programs and TRIO professionals are consistently available to their students. Many TRIO programs enable students to meet with counselors during the summer, in the evening or on weekends. In fact, some TRIO professionals, as part of their specified program objectives, visit students at home to discuss courses or career plans.

**Comprehensive and Cultural**

The academic and human services as administered through the TRIO Programs are comprehensive and must go far beyond the traditional services offered by high school or college counselors. Many students in the TRIO Programs receive instruction in literature, composition, foreign languages, mathematics and science. In addition, students receive assistance in completing college admission and financial aid applications, tutorial services, and exposure to cultural events.

**Reality Based**

Like their students, many TRIO professionals had to overcome class, social, academic and cultural barriers to succeed in higher education. As a result, they can effectively relate to their students and know how to motivate young people and adults in spite of the obstacles that often serve to discourage students from low-income families.

**Community Based**

Community need is determined by the community, not the federal government. TRIO Programs are funded based on clear evidence that the program is needed in a particular community or town. Criteria used in determining need in a specific area include income level, education attainment level, dropout rates, student-to-counselor ratio, social and economic conditions, and overall demographic data.

**Non-Bureaucratic**

TRIO Programs do not involve a large federal bureaucracy because they are direct grant programs funded in rank order on the basis of competitive proposals. In fact, TRIO Programs only exist where local organizations see the need for such services and have successfully applied for federal support. Despite substantial increases in the number of TRIO students and programs, fewer federal employees are working with TRIO today than 20 years ago.



**National TRIO Funding**

**Totals FY 2019**

<i>TRIO Program</i>	<i>Funding FY 2019</i>	<i>Number of Projects</i>	<i>Number of Participants</i>
Upward Bound	\$343,356,535	966	70,744
Talent Search	\$179,852,905	473	309,905
Student Support Services	\$337,107,672	1,066	202,255
Veterans Upward Bound	\$19,064,429	62	8,157
Educational Opportunity Centers	\$54,100,779	140	193,530
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Programs	\$50,027,266	187	5,242
Upward Bound Math Science	\$63,521,110	212	13,184
TRIO Training Programs for Federal TRIO Programs	\$3,216,692	12	2,695 <i>(number of staff trained)</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,050,247,388</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>805,712</b>

**Total Funding .....\$1,050,247,388**

**Total Number of Awards ..... 3,118**

**Total Number of Participants ..... 805,712**

**Oklahoma TRIO Funding**

**Totals FY 2019**

<b>TRIO Program</b>	<b>Funding FY 2019</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Upward Bound	\$8,145,505	23	1,668
Talent Search	\$5,254,161	15	8,781
Student Support Services	\$8,552,699	29	4,986
Veterans Upward Bound	\$891,538	3	379
Educational Opportunity Centers	\$2,820,566	6	9,955
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Programs	\$1,300,795	5	133
Upward Bound Math Science	\$2,185,290	7	445
TRIO Training Programs for Federal TRIO Programs	\$474,436	2	450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,624,990</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26,797</b>

**Total Funding ..... \$29,624,990**

**Total Number of Awards .....90**

**Total Number of Participants ..... 26,797**

## Upward Bound (UB)

**Program Description:**

The Upward Bound program attempts to generate skills and motivation necessary for success in education beyond high school. Participants are students currently enrolled in high school who meet the low-income and/or potential first generation college student requirements and who are willing to prepare themselves for entry into post-secondary education.

**Participant Eligibility:**

Student must have completed the eighth grade, be between the ages of 13 and 19 (unless they are a veteran participant), be enrolled in high school, be planning to attend college, and need the services Upward Bound provides in order to fulfill their goals. Two-thirds of the participants must be low-income and be potential first generation college students. The remaining participants must be low-income or first generation. Participants are selected based on recommendations from their counselors, teachers, and social service agencies.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

Upward Bound programs may be sponsored by institutions of higher education, public and private non-profit agencies, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for regular Upward Bound funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Instruction in math through pre-calculus, lab science, foreign language, composition, literature, & other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school
- Academic, financial, or personal counseling
- Exposure to cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Information on post-secondary education opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing college admissions testing and applications as well as financial aid applications
- Exposure to the range of career options where the disadvantaged person might be under-represented

**Oklahoma UB Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$8,145,505  
 Number of Awards..... 23  
 Number of Participants ..... 1,668

**National UB Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded .....\$343,356,535  
 Number of Awards..... 966  
 Number of Participants ..... 70,744

UB 2012-2013 Annual Performance Report Data				
	Oklahoma		National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Graduates	443	-	15,686	-
Graduates Enrolled in College	340	76.7	13,334	85.0
Total Successful Outcomes		95.6		96.3

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*

## Talent Search (TS)

**Program Description:**

The Talent Search program identifies eligible young people who have the desire and potential for success in post-secondary education. TS encourages participants to continue in and graduate from secondary schools, or to return to high school if they have dropped out. The goal of TS is to have participants enroll in some form of post-secondary education.

**Participant Eligibility:**

Students must be between the ages of 11 and 27, and have completed five years of elementary education. In any given project, two-thirds of the participants must be low-income persons who are also potential first generation college students.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

Talent Search programs may be sponsored by institutions of higher education, public and private non-profit agencies, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for Talent Search funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Student academic, financial and personal counseling
- Career exploration and aptitude assessments
- Assistance with the re-entry process to high school or college
- Information on post-secondary education
- Personal development workshops in areas such as test taking and study skills
- Assistance in completing college admissions testing and applications as well as financial aid applications
- Personal growth activities focused on sixth, seventh and eighth graders
- Tutoring sessions for students with academic needs
- Parental involvement
- Mentoring
- Workshops for families of participants

**Oklahoma TS Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$5,254,161  
 Number of Awards..... 15  
 Number of Participants ..... 8,781

**National TS Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$179,852,045  
 Number of Awards..... 473  
 Number of Participants ..... 309,905

TS 2013-2014 Annual Performance Data				
	Oklahoma		National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total # Participants	8,997	-	305,983	-
Graduates Enrolled in College	986	73.9	48,750	79.7
Graduates Applied for Financial Aid	1,021	79.8	53,079	84.5
Total # Successful Outcomes	8,549	95.6	284,012	92.8

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*

## Student Support Services (SSS)

**Program Description:**

The Student Support Services Program provides supportive services to disadvantaged college students to enhance their potential for successfully completing the education program in which they are enrolled and to facilitate their transition to the next level of higher education.

**Participant Eligibility:**

To receive assistance, student must be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in a program of post-secondary education at a sponsoring institution of higher education and have an established need for academic assistance. All participants must be low-income, first generation, and/or physically disabled.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

Student Support Services Programs may only be sponsored by institutions of higher education. Each applying institution must be prepared to assure that each student participating in the project will be offered sufficient financial assistance to meet that student's full financial need.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for Student Support Services funding are held every five years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school
- Tutorial services, mentoring, and information about career options
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Exposure to cultural events
- Assistance in obtaining student financial aid
- Assistance in securing admission and financial assistance for enrollment in four-year institutions (function of SSS at two-year institutions)
- Assistance in securing admissions and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate and professional programs (function of SSS at four-year institutions)
- May be specifically designed for students of limited English proficiency

**Oklahoma SSS Funding, FY 2019:**

Total Awarded ..... \$8,552,6990  
 Number of Awards ..... 29  
 Number of Participants ..... 4,986

**National SSS Funding, FY 2019:**

Total Awarded ..... \$337,107,672  
 Number of Awards ..... 1,066  
 Number of Participants ..... 202,255

SSS Annual Performance Report Data 2012-13 and 2013-14				
	2012-13 Cohort		2013-14 Cohort	
	OK	National	OK	National
Persistence	84.9%	87.3%	87.0%	87.9%
Completion at 4 year	43.2%	50.4%	40.9%	50.7%
Completion at 2 year	44.8%	39.0%	44.1%	39.2%
Successful Outcomes	80.9%	84.3%	82.0%	84.2%

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*

## Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

### Program Description:

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of post-secondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete post-secondary education programs.

### Participant Eligibility:

Participants must meet military service requirements stipulated in the authorizing statute and be low-income, prospective first-generation college students who are preparing to enter a post-secondary institution. The program requires that at least two-thirds of the participants in a project be both low-income and first-generation. The remaining participants must be either low-income or first-generation military veterans who served in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for more than 180 days and received other than a dishonorable discharge; was discharged because of a service connected disability; was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; or was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001; and have a high risk for academic failure.

### Sponsoring Institutions:

Institutions of higher education, public and private agencies and organizations including community-based organizations with experience in serving disadvantaged youth, combinations of such institutions, agencies and organizations, and as appropriate to the purpose of the program, secondary schools.

### Application/Funding Process:

Competitions for Veterans Upward Bound funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

### Services Provided:

- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school
- Academic, financial, or personal counseling
- Exposure to cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Information on post-secondary education opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing college admissions testing and applications as well as financial aid applications
- Exposure to the range of career options where the disadvantaged person might be under-represented

### Oklahoma VUB Funding, FY 2019:

Awarded .....\$891,538  
Number of Awards..... 3  
Number of Participants ..... 379

### National VUB Funding, FY 2019:

Awarded ..... \$19,064,429  
Number of Awards.....62  
Number of Participants ..... 8,157

## Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)

**Program Description:**

The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides assistance and information to adults who seek to enter or continue in a program of post-secondary education.

**Participant Eligibility:**

The program targets persons who express a desire to enroll, or re-enroll, in a post-secondary program, and those who request information and assistance in applying for admission and/or financial aid. At least two-thirds of the students must be low-income, first generation college persons, age 19 or above, who need services in order to pursue a post-secondary education. If the services of an Talent Search program are not available in the target area, persons under 19 may be served by an EOC.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

Educational Opportunity Centers programs may be sponsored by institutions of higher education, public and private non-profit agencies, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for Educational Opportunity Centers funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Academic, financial and personal counseling
  - Career exploration and aptitude assessments
  - Personal and group counseling
  - Assistance with entry or re-entry into a GED or other program of secondary education
  - Assistance in completing college admissions applications and testing
  - Assistance with financial aid applications
  - Coordination with nearby post-secondary institutions
  - Basic academic skills classes
  - Media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities
  - Tutoring and mentoring programs

**Oklahoma EOC Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$2,820,566  
 Number of Awards ..... 6  
 Number of Participants..... 9,955

**National EOC Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$54,100,779  
 Number of Awards ..... 140  
 Number of Participants..... 193,530

EOC Annual Performance Report Data 2013-14		
	OK	National
Total Low Income, First Generation Students Served	9,254	186,481
College Ready Participants Enrolled in Postsecondary Education	4,004	69,932
Rate of Postsecondary Enrollment	62.3%	57.6%
Total Successful Outcomes	53.9%	44.4%

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*

## Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair)

**Program Descriptions:**

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program (also known as the McNair Scholars program) provides opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate levels for research or other scholarly activities at institutions or graduate centers designed to provide students with effective preparation for doctoral study.

**Participant Eligibility:**

Students must be enrolled in a degree program at an eligible institution. In any given project, two-thirds of the participants must be low-income persons who are also potential first generation college students. The remaining participants must be from a group who is under-represented in graduate education.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

McNair Scholars programs may only be sponsored by institutions of higher education.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement programs funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Opportunities for research
- Summer internships
- Tutorial services
- Academic counseling
- Seminars
- Assistance in obtaining student financial aid
- Assistance in securing admission to graduate programs
- Mentoring programs
- Exposure to cultural events

**Oklahoma McNair Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded..... \$1,300,795  
 Number of Awards ..... 5  
 Number of Participants ..... 133

**National McNair Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded..... \$50,027,266  
 Number of Awards ..... 187  
 Number of Participants ..... 5,242

McNair Scholars Annual Performance Report Data 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13				
		# Bachelor Degree Recipients	# Enrolled in Graduate School	Cumulative Enrollment Rate
2012-13 Cohort	Oklahoma Programs	37	26	70.3%
	All Programs	1,939	1,152	59.4%
2011-12 Cohort	Oklahoma Programs	37	28	79.6%
	All Programs	1,958	1,103	56.3%
2010-11 Cohort	Oklahoma Programs	37	26	63.6%
	All Programs	1,958	1,171	59.0%

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*



## Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS)

**Program Description:**

The Upward Bound Math Science program initiative seeks to strengthen the math and science education of participating students and assists them in demonstrating competency in those areas.

**Participant Eligibility:**

Students must have completed the ninth grade, be between the ages of 13 and 19 (unless they are a veteran participant), be enrolled in high school, be planning to attend college, have an interest and aptitude for careers in math and science, and need the services UBMS provides in order to fulfill their goals. Two-thirds of the participants must be low-income and be potential first generation college students. The remaining participants must be low-income or first generation. Participants are selected based on recommendations from their counselors, teachers, and social service agencies.

**Sponsoring Institutions:**

Upward Bound Math Science programs may be sponsored by institutions of higher education, public and private agencies and organizations, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.

**Application/Funding Process:**

Competitions for funding are held every four years. Second, third, and fourth year funding is based on approval of a non-competing continuation application.

**Services Provided:**

- Six weeks of intensive math (including computer science) and science programs during the summer (this summer instructional component is designed to simulate a college-going experience)
- Year-round academic, financial, or personal counseling
- Exposure to experts performing research activities in math and science
- Tutorial services
- Core curriculum instruction including mathematics through pre-calculus, laboratory science, hands-on experience in laboratories, as well as in computer facilities and at field sites
- Computer training
- Participant-conducted scientific research under the guidance of a faculty member or graduate student serving as the participant’s mentor

**Oklahoma UBMS Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$2,185,290  
 Number of Awards ..... 7  
 Number of Participants..... 445

**National UBMS Funding, FY 2019:**

Awarded ..... \$63,521,110  
 Number of Awards ..... 212  
 Number of Participants..... 13,184

UBMS Annual Performance Report Data 2012-2013				
	Oklahoma		National	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Graduates	50	-	2,267	-
Graduates Enrolled in College	40	80.1	1,981	87.4
Total Successful Outcomes	-	94.90	-	97.3

*\*most recent APR data available at time of publication*

## Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs

Directors and staff employed by the Federal TRIO Programs are able to receive funding for further enhancement of knowledge, abilities and proficiency in their specific projects by means of the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs. Through this program, employees may obtain experience by means of conferences, seminars, internships, workshops and/or publication of manuals. Topics for learning will be established by the Secretary of Education, and announced in the Federal Register notice for application.

The Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs can include:

- Improving student retention
- Counseling services
- Student testing
- Working with specific TRIO populations
- Legislative and regulatory requirements
- Program evaluation
- Assisting students in securing adequate financial aid
- The design and operation of model TRIO projects
- New directors training
- Use of appropriate educational technology
- Training Opportunities for Federal TRIO Programs' Personnel

### Oklahoma TRIO Training Funding, FY 2019:

Awarded ..... \$474,436  
Number of Programs Awarded ..... 2  
Number of Staff Trained ..... 450

### National TRIO Training Funding, FY 2019:

Awarded ..... \$3,216,692  
Number of Programs Awarded ..... 12  
Number of Staff Trained ..... 2,695

### National Comparisons By Fiscal Year

<i>TRIO Program</i>	<i>FY Year</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Projects</i>	<i>Participants</i>
<b>Upward Bound</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$343,356,535</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>70,744</b>
	FY 18	\$355,592,015	967	70,914
	FY 17	\$312,052,710	956	70,001
	FY 16	\$270,228,385	810	61,747
	FY 15	\$263,412,436	813	61,361
	FY 14	\$264,578,959	814	61,458
	FY 13	\$249,857,649	816	59,143
	FY 12	\$269,229,023	826	62,576
<b>Talent Search</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$179,852,045</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>309,905</b>
	FY 18	\$158,260,406	473	309,905
	FY 17	\$151,772,998	473	312,855
	FY 16	\$150,635,825	481	318,723
	FY 15	\$134,520,595	449	310,199
	FY 14	\$134,613,873	450	310,747
	FY 13	\$128,116,544	452	299,683
	FY 12	\$135,968,652	454	313,641
<b>Student Support Services</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$337,107,672</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>202,255</b>
	FY 18	\$322,608,056	1,069	202,880
	FY 17	\$310,042,423	1,069	202,913
	FY 16	\$302,405,536	1,071	203,290
	FY 15	\$297,256,676	1,081	205,263
	FY 14	\$288,631,903	1,027	202,492
	FY 13	\$274,739,441	1,027	197,663
	FY 12	\$290,325,810	1,028	202,750
<b>Veterans Upward Bound</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$19,064,429</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8,157</b>
	FY 18	\$18,384,370	62	8,157
	FY 17	\$18,186,172	64	8,407
	FY 16	\$13,852,595	49	6,587
	FY 15	\$13,548,241	49	6,566
	FY 14	\$13,706,511	49	6,566
	FY 13	\$13,036,887	50	6,404
	FY 12	\$14,392,377	51	6,831

National Comparisons By Fiscal Year, continued from previous page

<i>TRIO Program</i>	<i>FY Year</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Projects</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Educational Opportunity Centers	FY 19	\$54,100,779	140	193,530
	FY 18	\$51,681,910	140	193,530
	FY 17	\$50,649,719	142	199,722
	FY 16	\$56,186,996	165	225,678
	FY 15	\$46,606,423	126	189,733
	FY 14	\$46,876,529	126	189,733
	FY 13	\$44,063,593	126	181,581
	FY 12	\$45,901,792	126	189,131
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program	FY 19	\$50,027,266	187	5,242
	FY 18	\$47,872,986	187	5,242
	FY 17	\$45,896,206	187	5,234
	FY 16	\$36,589,491	151	4,338
	FY 15	\$35,701,197	151	4,293
	FY 14	\$35,600,323	151	4,293
	FY 13	\$34,060,382	152	4,191
	FY 12	\$37,270,374	158	4,482
Upward Bound Math Science	FY 19	\$63,521,110	212	13,184
	FY 18	\$67,687,618	212	13,184
	FY 17	\$58,256,458	211	13,132
	FY 16	\$44,050,368	162	10,176
	FY 15	\$43,050,368	162	10,034
	FY 14	\$43,083,035	162	10,034
	FY 13	\$40,519,232	162	9,687
	FY 12	\$44,141,410	166	10,265
TRIO Training Programs <i>* # of programs</i> <i>^ # of staff trained</i>	FY 19	\$3,216,692	12*	2,695^
	FY 18	\$3,078,175	12*	2,695^
	FY 17	\$2,804,995	13*	2,536^
	FY 16	\$2,736,577	13*	2,536^
	FY 15	\$1,524,998	8*	1,306^
	FY 14	\$1,524,998	8*	1,306^
	FY 13	\$1,326,776	6*	1,101^
	FY 12	\$1,399,998	6*	1,161^
TOTALS	FY 19	\$1,050,247,388	3,118	805,712
	FY 18	\$1,025,165,536	3122	806,507
	FY 17	\$949,661,681	3,115	814,800
	FY 16	\$876,924,679	2,902	788,755
	FY 15	\$835,620,934	2,839	786,629
	FY 14	\$828,616,131	2,787	759,453
	FY 13	\$785,720,464	2,791	790,837
	FY 12	\$838,629,436	2,815	799,748

### Oklahoma Comparisons By Fiscal Year

<i>TRIO Program</i>	<i>FY Year</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Projects</i>	<i>Participants</i>
<b>Upward Bound</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$8,145,505</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,668</b>
	FY 18	\$8,415,513	23	1,668
	FY 17	\$7,476,973	23	1,668
	FY 16	\$7,252,383	23	1,672
	FY 15	\$7,186,627	23	1,656
	FY 14	\$7,314,521	24	1,713
	FY 13	\$7,047,691	24	1,656
	FY 12	\$7,436,627	24	1,713
<b>Talent Search</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$5,254,161</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8,781</b>
	FY 18	\$4,480,334	15	8,781
	FY 17	\$4,308,514	15	8,781
	FY 16	\$4,143,778	15	8,943
	FY 15	\$4,143,778	14	9,075
	FY 14	\$4,143,778	14	6,075
	FY 13	\$3,927,058	14	5,943
	FY 12	\$4,143,778	14	6,075
<b>Student Support Services</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$8,552,699</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4,986</b>
	FY 18	\$8,184,403	29	4,866
	FY 17	\$7,850,750	30	4,986
	FY 16	\$8,092,748	30	5,286
	FY 15	\$7,869,663	24	4,470
	FY 14	\$6,371,729	24	4,378
	FY 13	\$6,160,087	24	4,470
	FY 12	\$6,500,039	24	4,470
<b>Veterans Upward Bound</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>\$891,538</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>379</b>
	FY 18	\$853,146	3	379
	FY 17	\$818,366	3	379
	FY 16	\$540,908	2	254
	FY 15	\$525,153	2	250
	FY 14	\$525,153	2	250
	FY 13	\$497,687	2	236
	FY 12	\$525,153	2	250

<b>TRIO Program</b>	<b>FY Year</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity Centers</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$2,820,566</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9,955</b>
	FY 18	\$2,699,107	6	9,955
	FY 17	\$2,589,071	6	9,955
	FY 16	\$2,525,922	6	9,955
	FY 15	\$2,240,491	5	8,955
	FY 14	\$2,240,491	5	8,955
	FY 13	\$2,083,558	5	8,654
	FY 12	\$2,240,491	5	8,955
<b>Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$1,300,795</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>133</b>
	FY 18	\$1,244,779	5	133
	FY 17	\$1,194,032	3	133
	FY 16	\$711,714	3	83
	FY 15	\$690,988	3	81
	FY 14	\$690,987	3	81
	FY 13	\$654,848	3	80
	FY 12	\$690,987	3	81
<b>Upward Bound Math Science</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$2,185,290</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>445</b>
	FY 18	\$2,330,426	7	445
	FY 17	\$2,005,936	7	445
	FY 16	\$1,957,009	7	445
	FY 15	\$1,900,008	7	435
	FY 14	\$1,900,008	7	435
	FY 13	\$1,800,638	7	426
	FY 12	\$1,900,008	7	435
<b>TRIO Training Programs</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$474,436</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>450</b>
	FY 18	\$474,436	2	450
	FY 17	\$262,882	1	300
	FY 16	\$262,882	1	300
<b>Totals</b>	<b>FY 19</b>	<b>\$29,624,990</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26,797</b>
	FY 18	\$28,661,714	89	26,797
	FY 17	\$26,506,522	85	26,797
	FY 16	\$24,556,708	84	26,797
	FY 15	\$24,556,708	79	25,742
	FY 14	\$23,186,667	79	24,982
	FY 13	\$22,171,567	79	24,373
	FY 12	\$23,437,994	79	24,982

# Oklahoma TRIO Programs Overview (by program)

## Adult Programs

**SSS**

Bacone College	\$323,779.00	Regular
Cameron University	\$445,101.00	Regular
Carl Albert State College/ Poteau and Sallisaw	\$486,836.00	Regular
Conners State College	\$284,756.00	Regular
East Central University	\$253,032.00	Regular
East Central University	\$253,032.00	Veterans
Eastern Oklahoma State College	\$323,779.00	Regular
Murray State College	\$408,370.00	Regular
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College	\$290,799.00	Regular
Northeastern State University	\$332,028.00	Regular
Northwestern Oklahoma State University	\$240,082.00	Regular
Oklahoma City Community College	\$264,065.00	Regular
Oklahoma State University	\$253,032.00	Regular
Oklahoma State University/Oklahoma City	\$334,687.00	Regular
Redlands Community College	\$291,019.00	Regular
Rose State College	\$253,032.00	Regular
Seminole State College	\$253,032.00	STEM
Seminole State College	\$284,758.00	Regular
Southeastern Oklahoma State University	\$396,951.00	Regular
Southeastern Oklahoma State University	\$253,032.00	TeacherPrep
Southern Nazarene University	\$264,938.00	Regular
Tulsa Community College	\$253,032.00	Regular
University of Central Oklahoma	\$253,032.00	ESL
University of Central Oklahoma	\$253,032.00	STEM
University of Central Oklahoma	\$253,032.00	Veterans
University of Central Oklahoma	\$253,032.00	TeacherPrep
University of Central Oklahoma	\$265,802.00	Regular
University of Central Oklahoma	\$253,032.00	Disabled
Western Oklahoma State College	\$278,565.00	Regular
<b>Total: 4,986</b>	<b>Total: \$8,552,699.00</b>	

# Oklahoma TRIO Programs Overview (by program)

Adult Programs Cont.

<b>EOC</b>	Carl Albert State College	1675	\$570,383.00
	East Central University	1456	\$501,056.00
	Rogers State University	3204	\$661,936.00
	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	1620	\$559,128.00
	Tulsa Community College	1000	\$264,534.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	1000	\$263,529.00
<b>Total: 9955</b>			<b>\$2,820,566.00</b>

<b>VUB</b>	East Central University	129	\$306,464.00
	Redlands Community College	125	\$287,537.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	125	\$287,537.00
<b>Total: 379</b>			<b>\$891,538.00</b>

<b>McNair</b>	East Central University	28	\$283,397.00
	Oklahoma State University	25	\$253,032.00
	Southern Nazarene University	28	\$252,789.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	25	\$253,023.00
	University of Oklahoma	27	\$258,554.00
<b>Total: 133</b>			<b>\$1,300,795.00</b>

Secondary School

<b>TS</b>	American Indian Resource Center, Inc.	737	\$434,963.00
	Cameron University	775	\$443,601.00
	Carl Albert State College/Poteau	508	\$308,532.00
	Carl Albert State College/Poteau	687	\$416,820.00
	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	500	\$307,995.00
	Northeastern State University	500	\$307,995.00
	Northeastern State University	500	\$307,995.00
	Oklahoma State University	500	\$302,732.00
	Oklahoma State University/Oklahoma City	513	\$274,964.00
	Quality Educational Services for Today & Tomorrow, Inc.	500	\$307,995.00
	Rose State College	500	\$307,995.00
	Seminole State College	500	\$307,995.00
	Seminole State College	700	\$415,194.00
	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	861	\$501,488.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	500	\$307,995.00
<b>Total: 8,781</b>			<b>\$45,254,161.00</b>



# Oklahoma TRIO Programs Overview (by program)

## Secondary School Programs Cont.

	Cameron University	66	\$340,842.00
	Carl Albert State College	105	\$507,215.00
	East Central University	60	\$287,246.00
	East Central University	124	\$583,773.00
	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College	68	\$337,181.00
	Northeastern State University	60	\$287,536.00
	Northern Oklahoma College	62	\$287,536.00
	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	61	\$287,536.00
	Oklahoma City Community College	75	\$357,260.00
	Oklahoma Panhandle State University	63	\$301,121.00
	Oklahoma State University	60	\$307,563.00
<b>UB</b>	Oklahoma State University/ Oklahoma City	78	\$390,338.00
	Quality Educational Services for Today & Tomorrow, Inc.	63	\$301,913.00
	Quality Educational Services for Today & Tomorrow, Inc.	63	\$301,913.00
	Redlands Community College	64	\$329,417.00
	Seminole State College	77	\$385,154.00
	Seminole State College	52	\$287,537.00
	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	60	\$287,537.00
	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	110	\$547,885.00
	Southwestern Oklahoma State University	85	\$435,437.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	75	\$352,025.00
	University of Oklahoma	63	\$287,512.00
	Western Oklahoma College	74	\$354,040.00
	<b>Total: 1668</b>		<b>\$8,145,505.00</b>
	Carl Albert State College	74	\$355,232.00
	East Central University	66	\$341,594.00
<b>UBMS</b>	Northwestern Oklahoma State University	61	\$287,537.00
	Seminole State College	52	\$287,537.00
	Seminole State College	52	\$287,537.00
	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	68	\$338,316.00
	University of Central Oklahoma	62	\$287,537.00
	<b>Total: 445</b>		<b>\$2,185,290.00</b>

## U.S. Congressional Delegation from Oklahoma



Senator Jim Inhofe  
[www.inhofe.senate.gov](http://www.inhofe.senate.gov)  
202-224-4721  
@InhofePress

Senator James Lankford  
[www.lankford.senate.gov](http://www.lankford.senate.gov)  
202-224-5754  
@SenatorLankford



Rep. Kevin Hern  
District 1  
[hern.house.gov](http://hern.house.gov)  
202-225-2211  
@RepKevinHern



Rep. Markwayne Mullin  
District 2  
[mullin.house.gov](http://mullin.house.gov)  
202-225-2701  
@RepMullin



Rep. Frank Lucas  
District 3  
[lucas.house.gov](http://lucas.house.gov)  
202-225-5565  
@RepFrankLucas



Rep. Tom Cole  
District 4  
[cole.house.gov](http://cole.house.gov)  
202-225-6165  
@TomColeOK04



Rep. Kendra Horn  
District 5  
[horn.house.gov](http://horn.house.gov)  
202-225-2132  
@RepKendraHorn

## Oklahoma TRIO Programs Overview (By Congressional District)

### District 1: Representative Kevin Hern

Tulsa Community College—SSS, EOC  
 Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow —TS,UB

TRIO Programs ..... 4  
 Total No. of Students Served ..... 1,725  
 Total Amount Awarded ..... \$985,025

### District 2: Representative Markwayne Mullin

American Indian Resource Center, Inc.—TS  
 Bacone College—SSS  
 Carl Albert State College—UB, TS (2), SSS, EOC, UBMS  
 Choctaw Nation—TS  
 Connors State College—SSS  
 Eastern Oklahoma State College—SSS  
 Murray State College—SSS  
 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College—UB, SSS  
 Northeastern State University—TS, SSS  
 Quality Educational Services for Today & Tomorrow, Inc.—UB (2),TS  
 Rogers State University—EOC  
 Southeastern Oklahoma State University—UB (2), TS, SSS(2), EOC,  
 UBMS

TRIO Programs .....27  
 Total No. of Students Served ..... 13,308  
 Total Amount Awarded ..... \$9,334,376

### District 3: Representative Frank Lucas

Northern Oklahoma College—UB  
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University—UB, SSS, UBMS  
 Oklahoma Panhandle State University—UB  
 Oklahoma State University—UB, TS, SSS, MS  
 Redlands Community College—UB, SSS, VUB  
 Southwestern Oklahoma State University—UB  
 Western Oklahoma State College—UB, SSS

TRIO Programs ..... 15  
 Total No. of Students Served ..... 1,844  
 Total Amount Awarded ..... \$4,095,285

### District 4: Representative Tom Cole

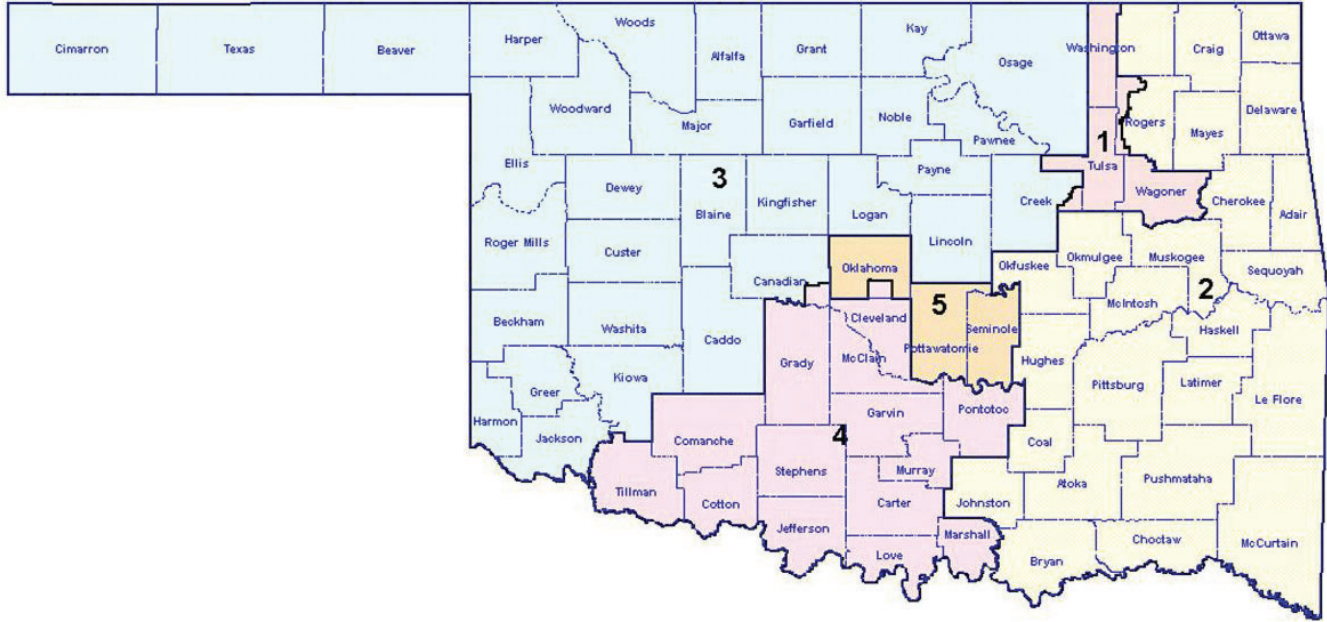
Cameron University—UB, TS, SSS  
 East Central University—UB (2), SSS (2), VUB, EOC, MS,  
 UBMS  
 Rose State College— TS, SSS  
 University of Oklahoma—UB, MS

TRIO Programs ..... 15  
 Total No. of Students Served ..... 3,937  
 Total Amount Awarded ..... \$4,659,592

### District 5: Representative Kendra Horn

Oklahoma City Community College—UB, SSS  
 Oklahoma State University/OKC—UB, TS, SSS  
 Seminole State College—UB(2), TS (2), SSS(2), UBMS(2)  
 Southern Nazarene University—SSS, MS  
 University of Central Oklahoma—UB, TS, SSS(6), EOC,  
 UBMS, MS, TRIO Training(2), VUB

TRIO Programs ..... 29  
 Total No. of Students Served ..... 5,833  
 Total Amount Awarded ..... \$7,432,244



Congressional District & Representative	# of TRIO Programs	# Students Served	Funding Totals
1: Representative Kevin Hern	4	1,725	\$985,025
2: Representative Markwayne Mullin	27	13,308	\$9,334,376
3: Representative Frank Lucas	15	1,844	\$4,095,285
4: Representative Tom Cole	15	3,937	\$4,659,592
5: Representative Kendra Horn	29	5,833	\$7,432,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26,647</b>	<b>\$26,506,522</b>

# 2019 ODSA TRIO Achiever



## Catherine Dixon-Shelton

I first enrolled at Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City Campus during in June of 1999 and graduated in May of 2003. I was a single parent with an active toddler and a new baby on the way. I did not have any goals other than surviving and providing basic needs for my children and to keep a shelter over our heads. I gave birth to my second child in between summer and fall semesters in August of 1999. I returned to classes in Fall of 1999 when my baby was only two weeks old. It was during this semester, I truly began to struggle with the balance of life and school.

I was a first-generation college student and I required remedial education in Math and English. I could not grasp or comprehend the course requirements and struggled with assignments. I even struggled to understand the syllabus.

Mid-semester I was referred to Student Support Services by another student who saw me upset in the cafeteria. She told me to go downstairs walk to the back and ask for assistance. Little did I know; the program was going to change the course of my life.

Student Support Services offered me tutoring and a quiet study area. I also struggled with computer programs and typing, and the area had computers for our use and allowed me to complete assignments without added stress. I was able to sit at the tables and thoroughly review my work and I had the ability to ask questions without feeling embarrassed or ashamed of my ability to understand the course materials and requirements. I had no idea that my academic growth would surpass my expectations.

The tutoring provided by student support services afforded me the opportunity to earn a “B” in College Algebra after withdrawing from the class two semesters in a row. I was also able to earn an “A” in Basic Composition after withdrawing from the class due to my inability to comprehend the material. After overcoming these academic obstacles my confidence in my ability to obtain a degree increased.

Student Support Services not only supported me academically, they referred me to agencies and services to assist with my family’s needs. We were placed on the Salvation Army tree and referred to Christmas Connection for food, coats, and clothing. I became pregnant with my third child and married in Fall of 2001. By this time, I was doing well in class and did not require as much assistance, but I still continued to visit and speak with the staff and update them on my progress. I established a respect for and love for the Student Support Services staff and they became a part of my family and their encouragement helped me push myself beyond my own expectations.

Since I began my journey at OSU-OKC I continued my education. I graduated from OSU-OKC with my Associate of Science in Substance Abuse Counseling and a 3.48 GPA in May of 2003. I transferred to the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) and graduated with my Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Substance Abuse Studies in May of 2006 with a GPA of 3.39. I pursued my Master’s Degree and graduated from UCO with a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice and a GPA of 3.52.

Additionally, I have worked as a drug rehabilitation specialist, juvenile probation officer, adult probation officer, and I have provided direct care for people who have disabilities. Additionally, I wrote a chapter in an anthology sharing part of my life’s experiences to help others. I continue to strive and look into areas where I can help others achieve greatness in their own unique way. I thank TRIO for giving me the opportunity to bloom when I did not believe in my own potential.

# 2019 ODSA Scholarship Recipients

**Walter O. Mason Scholarship \$500.00:**  
Chinyere Stanfield  
University of Central Oklahoma - UBMS

**Dr. Arnold Mitchem Scholarship \$500.00:**  
Brooke Mangold  
Oklahoma State University - SSS

**\$200.00 Awards:**

Andrea Burk -- Southeastern Oklahoma State University - SSS  
Candace Ervin -- East Central University - UB  
Mackenzie Hill -- East Central University - UB  
Belinda Hodgins -- Southeastern Oklahoma State University - SSS  
Kalin Koechel -- Oklahoma State University - SSS  
Dylann Lowery -- Oklahoma State University - SSS/McNair  
Yoselyn Mendiola -- Oklahoma State University - SSS/ McNair  
Trinity Pruitt -- Northeastern Oklahoma State University - SSS  
Sade Sogunro -- Rose State College - TS  
Jaela Washington -- Rose State College - TS



**TRIO Day Design Winner:  
Wayland Millarr  
Tulsa Community College  
Student Support Services**



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**Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance**

ODSA  
2019-2020  
Hall of Fame  
VOICES RISING



# DISTRICT 1



Tammi Green  
Tulsa Community College  
Educational Opportunity Center

If it was not for TRIO I would not have gone to school. I decided to start school after being out of high school for 15 years. When I applied to Tulsa Community College and spoke with an academic advisor, my interaction was a little uninspiring. A friend recommended I speak with a TRIO/EOC representative for assistance. At my appointment I told Penny Walston that I had a list of questions. She said great! We will go over them all.

My questions, assisted me with my FAFSA, explained the classes I would need and what to expect for my college experience. She even encouraged me to apply to for a job at the school. The last thing she said to me was you can do this.

I graduated in December 2019 with my bachelor's degree in Business and will be pursuing a Masters degree next spring.

Matt Sadler  
Tulsa Community College  
Educational Opportunity Center

I am no stranger to hard work and will be working while attending college. I live with my Dad who has to work two jobs to put me through college. I recently won a New Beginnings scholarship from TRIO EOC that is going to contribute to my tuition and make me worry less on paying for college and more time on my class work, family and my job. By being able to focus on my job, I already received a \$3 raise! Which can contribute to my education.

I am a graduate of Tulsas Booker T. Washington and am now a freshman at TCC. I am on a path to receive my Business Associate Degree from TCC with plans to transfer to a 4-year institution to complete my bachelors in Marketing and Advertising. Once I have my degree, I will enter the advertising industry where I hope to create new and innovative ideas for future businesses.



# DISTRICT 1



**Elizabeth Ryan**  
**Tulsa Community College**  
**Educational Opportunity Center**

The most impactful advantage I have experienced so far from TRIO/EOC was the generous scholarships I received. I could not afford to go to school without them. Being a full-time student, working part-time and being a full-time mom is extremely difficult. Financially, it is a real struggle. It is hard to make ends meet sometimes but with this amazing opportunity through TRIO/EOC it helped me to make ends meet. I could not afford to go to school full-time if I did not have the help I have received from this amazing TRIO/EOC program and I am beyond thankful for it.

**Barujah Sarrieff**  
**Tulsa Community College Center**  
**Student Support Services**

Life has been a struggle because I was raised in foster care from age 3. I lived in different foster homes, group homes, or shelters. Despite these circumstances, school has always remained important to me. I ran away at 16, but I earned my high school diploma a year early in 2016. I desired college, but I was uncertain what to pursue, since I was not given much guidance or support. In 2017 I enrolled at Tulsa Community College, and I struggled. College was unfamiliar, but after joining TRIO and using their resources, I began to manage college expectations making goals easier to accomplish. TRIO has been my backbone. When I changed my major, I became discouraged, but the TRIO staff helped me reevaluate and choose a new career plan. TRIO was amazing and has become my consistent home. TRIO motivated me to continue my education and never give up!



# DISTRICT 1



Justin West  
Tulsa Community College  
Student Support Services

Trapped, living in a 50-year-old mobile home without the most basic utilities, I lived in complete social and economic isolation. However, TRIO empowered me by offering resources that I did not know I needed. My success is due to the programs help on my first major hurdle in mathematics. Through hours with pencil in hand spent with the Learning Centers tutors, I gained the confidence to tackle my future. The devoted TRIO counselors enabled me to find my voice, encouraging me to lead sustainability research towards Zero Waste at our college, regionally, and at two national research conventions. TRIO's guidance led me to three semesters of Presidents Honor Roll and Honor Society President. I entered college disadvantaged and deficient in many subjects; Now I am a model student who believes so strongly in the program that I devote twenty hours a week towards tutoring other TRIO students to succeed.

Yari Cabrera Westerheidy  
Tulsa Community College  
Student Support Services

TRIO is a blessing because of the tutoring services that taught me how to excel academically. My TRIO tutor helped me navigate through the jungle called college. Courses such as Biology and Chemistry were understandable using the tutoring. The tutor helped me to problem solve and I was able to pass my exams and obtain top grades. He did not give answers, but he taught me to make progress towards a solution. He understood that learning is a process of comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Thanks to TRIO my classes were conquered. My tutor was adaptable when I did not understand, he was enthusiastic which made me want to do my homework, he was available when I needed him, and he showed humility which made me respect him. Thank you, TRIO, for helping me to excel academically.



# DISTRICT 1

Dylan Bruton

Northeastern State University - Broken Arrow  
Talent Search



"Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery." - Horace Mann.

The barriers I encountered while obtaining my education were mostly economic. This is a common thread among TRIO students, as many of us are from disadvantaged families. Throughout high school, I saw many advanced students who were able to achieve success on their merit, but also didn't have to worry about economic stressors.

Examples of which would be working a part-time job, worrying about transportation, or making sure one of two parents would be home from work to babysit so they could study. TRIO provided an equalizer to the great equalizer, by providing me with resources such as counseling, assistance with the college admissions process, and information about financial aid. All of these helped me overcome the barriers I faced to obtain my education.

# DISTRICT 2



**Blanca Martinez-Morris**  
**Northeastern Oklahoma A &M**  
**Student Support Services**

As a first generation college student, SSS was a bountiful resource of knowledge, guidance, and fruitful experiences. I received assistance with academics through tutoring and preparation for job interviews/applications. In my experience, obtaining this type of information without TRIO support would have been extremely difficult.

**Erica Brady**  
**Northeastern Oklahoma A &M**  
**Student Support Services**

I experienced many barriers while trying to obtain my education at NEO A&M, often times it felt like the world was working against me. The biggest barriers were financial hardships, loss of my mother and having a newborn baby all in the year. TRIO and their amazing staff is how I succeeded. Along with their ongoing emotional support to motivate me, Bobbie, Lenny, and Julie taught me financial skills and helped me plan my education accordingly. Most importantly, Student Support Services taught me to always give my best. SSS understood the challenges of juggling a busy family life and school. Every morning I was provided a quiet workplace and a tutor to review my homework and answer any questions I may had. This positive atmosphere allowed me the chance to succeed each and every day.



# DISTRICT 2



**Darren Mize**  
**Northeastern Oklahoma A &M**  
**Student Support Services**

After a crash resulting in a serious head injury, I decided to go back to school in order to leave behind my truck driving job for a more rewarding career in physical therapy, so I could help others as my therapists had helped me. I still could not remember anything without writing it down, so I entered classes at NEO with great determination but very little confidence in my ability to succeed academically after my head injury. Having on-campus support was vital to my success in that crucial time, but with the support, friendships and tutoring I received through Student Support Services, I was able to not only pass but excel in my classes, making the Dean's List and the President's Honor Roll before graduating with all the knowledge and confidence I needed to pass my board exams and launch a successful career in physical therapy.

# DISTRICT 2



Savanna Hale  
Northeastern State University  
Talent Search

Throughout my high school career, my Talent Search counselors provided so much assistance with preparing me for college. They offered ACT fee waivers, took me on college tours, and prepared me for scholarship interviews. Without this program, I would not have known the importance of getting involved, holding leadership positions, and what to do in order to reach my goal of attending college. They even gave me the opportunity to further my leadership skills by sending me to the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. This not only allowed me the ability to gain leadership skills, but it opened my eyes to so much diversity that I had never experienced before. TRIO is the main reason I was even able to attend college, but this program also prepared me for life beyond my degree.

Montana Hale  
Northeastern State University  
Talent Search

Participating in a TRIO program gave me numerous advantages throughout my academic career. TRIO helped me immensely with my educational journey, but it also allowed me to further my leadership skills and learn about diverse cultures that are all around us. TRIO helps those in its organization to be more prepared for the challenges or obstacles that one will face in his or herself in high school and college career. More than anything though, TRIO has provided me with resources, or skills, that helped me receive a number of scholarships in the fact that I will not have any college debt. On top of all the amazing leadership opportunities, college experiences, and educational road trips I obtained by being a part of a TRIO program, I also found a family within my small group of mentors I know I can always turn to for anything.



# DISTRICT 2



**Maria Magdalena Gonzalez**  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Student Support Services

TRIO has helped me excel academically by supporting my decision to become an English teacher. I had help to enroll in the right classes and take the state tests. TRIO programs became a group of people that I could turn to when I felt like I could not continue with some of my courses. I was offered multiple services and options to help me get back on track and encourage me to move forward. I honestly do not know if I would have made it this far without the help of such a supporting group. In all my years of being a TRIO participant I always loved how my advisors made time to help me. Even as a senior, I still look forward to enrolling for the next semester. I know that I have support to get me through it. I have a group of people that I call whenever I feel stuck or confused in one of my classes. However, the feeling does not last long, thanks to TRIO.

**Sarah Winnett**  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Student Support Services

My TRIO Student Support Services program (Project: TEACH) has given me a multitude of opportunities to grow. When I first arrived on campus, Project: TEACH helped me become successful academically and socially, as well as find other education majors that share similar goals. They served as mentors to help with just about anything, and be a listening ear whenever I needed it. The most valuable experience they have offered me was the opportunity to attend the Ron Clark Academy. This trip provided me with valuable insight that will help me greatly as I move towards my first year of teaching. I am very thankful that this program has been there for me every step of the way. The faculty have been some of my biggest motivators in college and I am so proud to be involved in this program.





# DISTRICT 2



Vivianne Wesley  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Student Support Services

The advantages of participating in a TRIO program are most apparent in its provision of services through qualified and experienced individuals who genuinely care - people who are willing to assist its participants and model behaviors and skills that matter and make a difference. The employees of the Project TEACH office were always willing to read over my assignments and guide me as I constructed my teacher work sample and learned all the intricacies of becoming a real teacher, including the complicated testing and certification process. I look back on that time and reflect on how welcome I felt and how I was treated by those individuals, and hope that I can create an environment in my own classroom that allows my students to feel as comfortable and confident in asking questions and relying on me as TRIO did for me. TRIO provided excellent role models for an aspiring teacher.

Nicole Reed  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound

TRIO has helped me excel academically by believing in my ability as a student, but even more importantly, my worth as individual. Like so many other students/children in Oklahoma, I come from a background of adversity. Upward Bound became a place fortified with opportunities to gain knowledge and perception both in and out of the classroom, and never once doubted my ability to achieve greatness in the world of academia. I am grateful for the advisement and direction Upward Bound provided me, and it was through their entrance of higher education, I was able to pursue not only a Bachelor of Science, and a Master of Public Health, but now onto my doctorate degree. I am eternally thankful for their love, kindness, and dedication to students like me. I am where I am today due to the support of TRIO programs.



# DISTRICT 2



**Kathryn DeCaire-Voorhees**  
**Southeastern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound**

Upward Bound provided a huge advantage that assisted me academically. It started with meeting all of the diverse students and instructors. Coming from a small town, I wasn't exposed to a variety of cultures so UB was an amazing experience. Living the dorm life was an experience like no other. It really set the tone of what a college atmosphere was like so I was not shell-shocked on moving day of my university. The classes were fun, open-minded and extremely helpful. I do not remember ever dreading getting up for those UB classes. Lastly, our mentors and advisors. They made you feel so extremely supported and completely independent at the same time. When I got to my college, that was the first relationship I established because I knew my UB mentor was such an integral part of my learning. In closing, UB boosted my confidence to take on college life, formed life-long friendships and set me on my career path that continues to assist children with achieving their goals.

**Rusel Smith**  
**Southeastern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound**

Being in Upward Bound pushed me beyond what I thought possible of myself. Because of Upward Bound, I was able to excel academically in high school as well as while achieving both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. Upward Bound challenged me consistently and provided me with ample opportunities to learn more about myself and my chosen career path. During my undergraduate work, I was also a member of Project Teach. The Trio programs definitely allowed for me to constantly excel academically. If I ever found myself in a spot where I was struggling, I knew that I could turn to my advisers for either program. They would advise me on classes to take as well as provide emotional guidance. Without these programs, I do not think I would have succeeded academically or continue to succeed academically.



# DISTRICT 2



Jamie Price  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound Math Science

As a student of the Upward Bound Math Science Program, I was given opportunities to attend advanced classes, earn college credits and be surrounded by people who inspired me to want success for myself. Although neither of my parents attended college, they always told me to find a career that I love and to get a degree. The summer classes, field trips and connections that I made while attending Southeastern have benefited me on numerous occasions. My Academic Advisor helped me fill out my FASFA when my parents did not know how to and also took me on campus tours when I found a college that had my degree program. Ultimately, I chose education to teach and am now the Principal of our Intermediate Campus. It is my vision and mission to show students their potential just like the Upward Bound program did for me!

Seth Fairchild  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound Math Science

When someone asks me about the opportunities that made the most significant difference in my life, the TRIO program always makes the list. But somehow, I can never give it enough credit. Upward Bound Math Science allowed me and my brother to experience places and participate in events that otherwise wouldn't have been possible. And it was precisely that participation that led us to graduate with degrees that statistically weren't likely to happen.

Today my brother's a successful Pharm-D, and I have had the opportunity to receive my MBA and speak all around the country, including giving a TEDx speech and addressing the United Nations in New York.

The TRIO Program was created for this exact purpose. It took two teenage boys, one with Cerebral Palsy, adopted by a single mother living well below the poverty level, and invited us to be part of something that inspired us to believe in ourselves.



# DISTRICT 2



**Brandon Boatner**  
**Southeastern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound**

The process of maturing into adulthood is filled with questions and curiosities. Honestly, it feels scary sometimes. Even in our victories, self-doubt has a way of creeping into the mind. I am not sure how some people manage to excel within the vacuum of their own accomplishments. I am not built that way. I would not be who I am without those people that served as counselors and guides through my time at Upward Bound.

I am the first in my family to graduate from college. How does someone reach for that kind of success when it has not been modeled for you? Even though I felt the motivation to succeed educationally, motivation wanes without constant encouragement. Those leaders in Upward Bound gave me the tools for advancement. They served as my teachers but became my family and loved ones.

**Eulojio Sanchez**  
**Southeastern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound**

SOSU Texoma Upward Bound has helped me tremendously by preparing me for my next steps in life which was to go to college. Thanks to TRIO, I was able to enroll into college courses while being in high school and showing me all the different resources that I would have otherwise not known I had in college. My relationships made during my time with TRIO have also been very beneficial because I could always have someone I could count on with college experience. They could sit down and explain in detail what I needed to do to have the most success since I was a first-generation college student. I will forever be grateful to TRIO because they not only helped me by having success in college but teaching me the importance of relationships and how to be successful in life.



# DISTRICT 3



Abbigale Hall

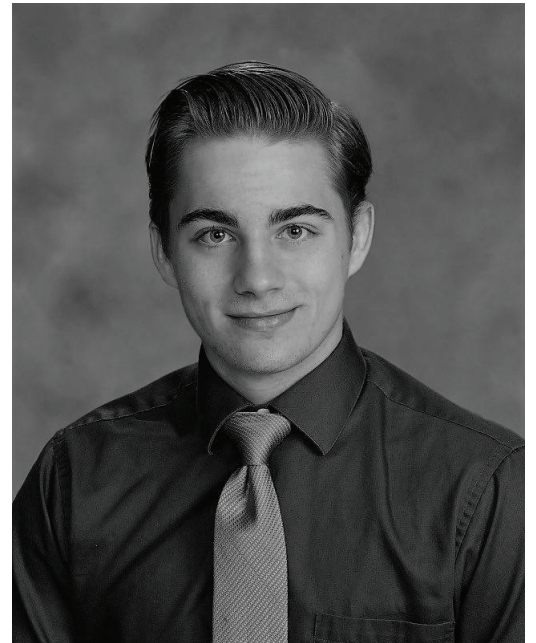
Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound

My TRIO program gave me a family. I come from a broken home, and until three years ago, I never had a group of more than two people that genuinely wanted to see me succeed. Through Upward Bound, I have met some of my closest friends, people that I would have never even had the chance to meet without this amazing program. I would not be half of the person I am today if I had not joined this program. The impact has not only been on my life outside of school, but in school too. Through all of the workshops and classes during the summer, my grades have drastically improved and, I was able to handle three college classes the first semester of my senior year.

William Cospers

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound

The advantages of TRIO are vast. When one is a student like me who comes from a family that could not pay for a child to go to college, yet made too much to receive grants like Oklahoma's Promise, you take what you can get. TRIO not only helped me get a foothold of what I wanted to do, TRIO gave me hope of actually getting where I want to be. The people of my TRIO program gave me hope that I could go to college, and gave me hope that I could graduate college. People like me, the writer of this answer, and you, the reader, give out hope to people searching for their dream of a college education. So my answer is simple; the advantages of TRIO include people having your back, people giving you hope, and people making your path clear.



# DISTRICT 3



Chloe Barnes  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound

Being in a TRIO program has many advantages. They help you get out of your comfort zone. They push you to be your very best and help you in any way they can to further your education or things going on in your life. I was a part of Upward Bound and I can say that it was so much fun, and also very rewarding at the same time. I made new friends, learned new things, and most importantly found myself. I want to thank the TRIO programs and my directors for helping me get this far.

Destiny TeLinde  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Upward Bound

When I first heard of Upward Bound through TRIO, I thought it was just a tutoring program that helped you stay on track for college. I was and still am taking some pretty advanced classes and knew I could use some help as I went through high school. Staying in the dorms and going to classes every morning in the summertime has helped prepare me to be independent and to be prepared for college life. Upward Bound has helped me to be able to enroll in concurrent college classes and to take my ACT. Living in the dorms each summer has helped me to know what I am going to need to bring to college and how life is going to feel. I know how to be independent, but I also have learned that it is okay to ask for help, and that often there are more than two solutions to a problem.



# DISTRICT 3



**Kila Hamen**  
**Northwestern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound**

Taking part in trio has really benefited me to say the least. TRIO has helped me find my inner self and guided me down the right path towards my future goals and plans. My cultural trips have helped me open my eyes to what is out there. Taking summer classes on campus has helped me experience campus life and the realism of time management. This program has positively influenced my self confidence. I will forever cherish the opportunities and memories trio has given me.

**Dylan McGuire**  
**Northwestern Oklahoma State University**  
**Upward Bound Math Science**

While growing up, I always dreamed of going to college, but, I never believed I could. I did not grow up as a wealthy student or the most popular student. I grew up as the kid that was always in the back of the class. I did not have the money to fit in with the cool kids. Joining the TRIO Upward Bound program gave me hope and showed me that I do not need a lot of money or fame to go to college. It does not matter who you are, because the students in the program want to be your friend. The TRIO program paid for my classes during the school year which helped me catch up and realize that college is definitely for me. I am currently a Freshman at the University of Oklahoma and will continue to share my experience with other young people, because Upward Bound changed my life!



# DISTRICT 3

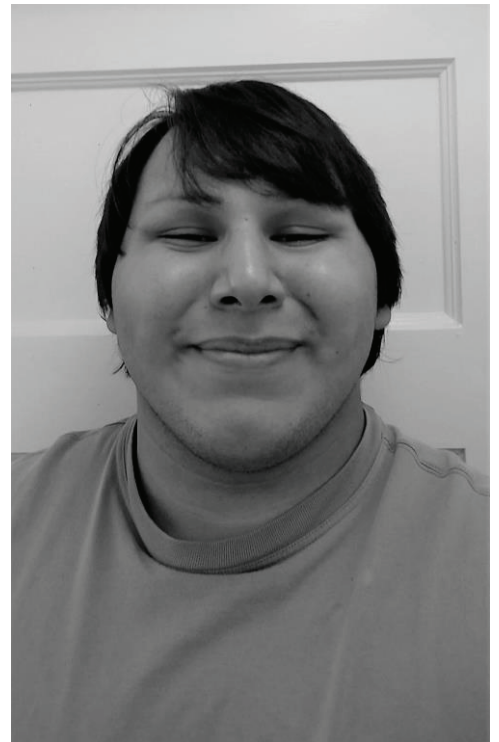


Madison Stevens  
Oklahoma State University  
McNair Scholars

TRIO programs have provided the opportunity to explore new academic prospects by opening doors I never thought I would be able to walk in. Programs such as the McNair Scholars Program have allowed me to be surrounded by a community of like-minded scholars who are just as driven and passionate about research. Throughout this experience, I have met some of my closest friends who will hopefully become my future colleagues. I no longer worry about college challenges because I have a support network of people during the times when I fall and when I need encouragement. Whenever I have questions about college or need help finding my path, I always know there are people from TRIO with their doors open who are ready to assist me in becoming the best version of myself.

Sky Triece  
Oklahoma State University  
McNair Scholars

I would say TRIO program has helped me excel academically by providing knowledge I would otherwise not have when preparing for graduate study. I now feel more prepared and confident that I will excel in the field of psychology. I learned invaluable information during the Summer Research Institute within the McNair Scholars program concerning the overall research process and applying to graduate programs. Additionally, I was given peer support that allowed me to communicate the unique challenges that first-generation, low income, minority scholars face. That type of support is a key part of my continued success since I am a very social person. I am a strong believer, along with my fellow McNair Scholars, that this program had one of the biggest impacts on my personal and academic success at Oklahoma State University





# DISTRICT 3



Alexis Stephenson  
Oklahoma State University  
McNair Scholars

Many valuable advantages come along with being involved in TRIO. My program in particular the McNair Scholars program has helped me excel academically through the numerous opportunities and resources provided. The McNair Scholars Program requires individuals to obtain a GPA of 3.0 or above therefore, individuals are provided with resources that will help the individual obtain this grade point average. My TRIO program also has provided me with numerous research and travel opportunities that I would not have received otherwise. The TRIO program has helped me tremendously through my undergraduate experience but there are also additional opportunities that will help me in my graduate school ventures as well. Being a McNair Scholar/ TRIO recipient has been an extremely worthwhile experiences. The resources and opportunities provided through the TRIO programs are invaluable assets for the underrepresented and/or disadvantaged students under discussion.

Dylann Lowery  
Oklahoma State University  
McNair Scholars

The campus resources available to students offer substantial help as they navigate through their careers. However, what happens to the students who need more individualized attention? I was that student and TRIO filled in the gap. I was unaware of how to access resources in order to become successful. It was not until I had joined Student Support Services and the McNair Scholars Program, that I became to navigate the treacherous waters of the college campus. TRIO programs provide accountability both academically and personally, encourages you to conduct research, and provides preparation when applying for graduate schools. I have been able to expand my knowledge base, sharpen my critical thinking skills and become a more well-rounded person. I contribute a substantial amount of my success to the McNair program otherwise I might not have been able to achieve my goal of obtaining an advanced degree.



# DISTRICT 4



**Hannah Spoon**  
**Cameron University**  
**Student Support Services**

I have been in TRIO since high school; I started in Upward Bound and then transferred into Student Support Services once I entered college. During this time, I was able to experience many advantages of participating in this program. One of the biggest advantages for me was that it gave me a support system to get me into college and keep me in it. The TRIO advisers go out of their way to help you succeed and make your college experience go as smoothly as possible. Other advantages include the resources they offer, tutoring, and helpful workshops.

**Lindsey Edwards**  
**Cameron University**  
**Student Support Services**

I had been bullied for most of my school life, so I did not go to college right after high school. I have mild Autism, ADD, and several eye problems which makes things very challenging for me. Growing up I knew that I wanted to be in the world of wrestling because I am a huge WWE fan. I decided to be a Wrestling Commentator or an Entertainment Reporter but you would need to get a Bachelors Degree in Journalism, that is when I decided that I would go to college and pursue my Bachelors Degree but I was worried that it would be like my past, however I knew that I had to face my fear. In my first semester I heard about a program called Student Support Services (SSS) immediately I knew the program was for me. From the moment I met my advisor, SSS has been very supportive ever since.



# DISTRICT 4



**Tammar Williams**  
Cameron University  
Student Support Services

When I started Cameron University in summer of 2017, there were many barriers that I had to navigate. The first thing that helped me was Student Support Services (SSS) Fast Track program because I had been out of school, the program prepared me. I had a variety of obstacles due to my visual impairment, some of my electronic books would not work, but SSS was always willing to help me figure it out. I have taken advantage of all of the workshops, cultural trips and tutoring labs. Having a visual impairment is still very new to me, so it does not feel as overwhelming when I have a support system like SSS where I can go when different unexpected situations arise. They are always willing to help me. I feel very honored and grateful for this opportunity to come back to school and excel.

**Christopher Magee**  
Cameron University - Open Doors  
Talent Search

Participating in the TRIO program has helped me figure out what college is going to be like. The director really wants kids to excel in academics and not worry about numbers but gets to know the kids heart.



# DISTRICT 4

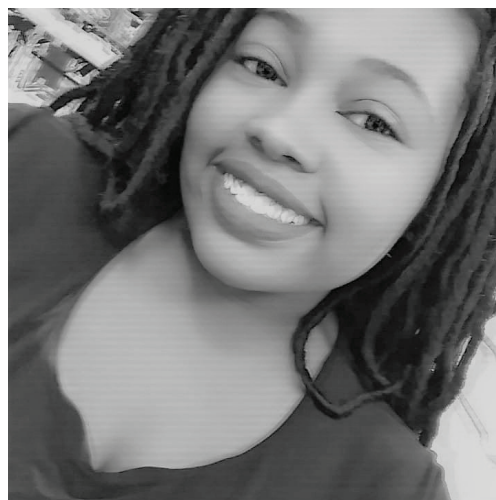


## Derrick Murph Cameron University - Open Doors Talent Search

Being in Open Doors has given me many opportunities and many fun experiences. I started off in Open Doors, my 6th grade year and ever since then, I have gone to many schools and met many advisors and many different people from different walks of life. My siblings are also in Open Doors and have enjoyed every trip that has come with it. We appreciate Open Doors because it has opened our eyes and given us a new view on going to college. Without the program, I wouldn't have learned everything I need to know about college and everything that comes along with it. I will always be grateful for the program and all the help they've given me and my family.

## Keayla Anderson Cameron University - Open Doors Talent Search

Some of the advantages of being in a TRIO include being able to have an outlet for help as it pertains to academic success, as well as being able to have a source for college and career information in preparation for the future.



# DISTRICT 4



## Austin Aguilera Cameron University Upward Bound

A TRIO program offers students advisors who help he/she with anything and everything. The advisors will help students with their classes, personal issues, or just any questions a student might have. A TRIO program offers tutors for any and all classes and help students raise their class grades and/or their ACT score. A TRIO program is very warm and welcoming to anyone and everyone. I will remember the many happy memories and knowledge I gained from my TRIO program.

## Brenna Hefley East Central University Student Support Services

When I first heard about TRIO, I did not think it was for me. I did not believe that I needed help because I was a straight A student and seemed to be handling college fairly well. I finally convinced myself to join TRIO and it was a great decision. TRIO has made me a better student. Without their help, I would not be the successful student I am today. They provide support and guidance whenever I need it and even when I don not. They offer great programs that provide ways to become a better person. The academic coaches understand what you are going through as a student and offer great advice when you are feeling lost or defeated. I encourage everyone to join, because they will not be joining just a program, they will be joining a family.



# DISTRICT 4



Darron Rich  
East Central University  
Student Support Services

It cannot be stated enough that the individuals running the Veterans Student Support Services (VSSS) program at East Central University are simply amazing. I would not have been able to attend, succeed, or graduate without their support and guidance. The U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO programs funds VSSS and therefore, has played an immeasurable role in the lives of myself and so many others. I would be remiss without acknowledging and continually stating, the funding provided from the TRIO program has been the sole reason I was able to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree and graduate with honors.

Vontrick Davidson  
East Central University  
Student Support Services

The TRIO service has helped me in many ways. I have excelled academically with this program because of the resources it provided for me. Books, tutors, and knowledgeable assistant workers that were there to lend their expertise to any problem I had. If I needed to stay and study late due to tedious projects, the program offered space for me to get assignments done. Participating in this program allowed me to lower cost in buying books, calculators, and other supplies essential for everyday use for my business program. TRIO also provided necessary information about scholarships and important guests that would be at the school to help with claims. There is no limit to what this service can do for veterans here at ECU.



# DISTRICT 4



**Whisper Denton**  
**East Central University**  
**Student Support Services**

There are an abundance of advantages of participating in a TRIO program! Student Support Services on my campus offers a variety of services to students in need. As a senior in college, I have had many opportunities to meet with my academic success coach over the last three years. In my meetings, I have been advised about classes, how to manage my time, and ways to stay on track to have a successful future. I have also had access to beneficial workshops focused on making college life easier, and free tutoring was always available to me if I ever needed it. Throughout my college experience, every time I came across a difficult situation, I knew exactly where to go - my TRIO program director.

**Zachary Huff**  
**East Central University**  
**Student Support Services**

The TRIO program has helped me excel academically in almost every way imaginable. They have helped with specific problems such as receiving FAFSA, but also in general ways such as helping me adjust to college life after six years in the military. Veteran Student Support Services has helped me tremendously in all areas, and I would not have done nearly as well as I have if it was not for their support and resources. I believe anyone participating in this program has a significantly better chance of high academic success and graduating.



# DISTRICT 4

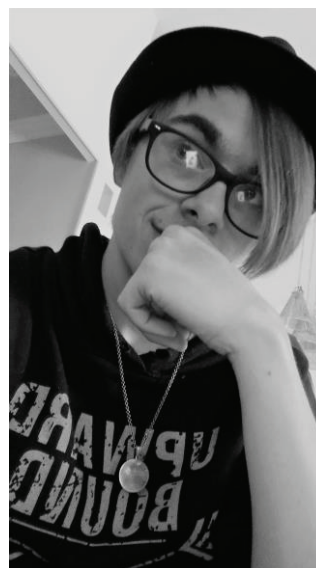


**Kaitlynn Moore**  
**East Central University**  
**Upward Bound**

Participating in the TRIO program has allowed me to experience and learn things that financial barriers had prevented me from experiencing before. It has helped me grow academically and socially. Staying on campus over the summer has helped prepare me for college life after graduation.

**Kavin Keenom**  
**East Central University**  
**Upward Bound**

When I first started Upward Bound I had trouble with my math classes and my social skills. They helped me greatly on math subjects like Geometry. My social skills are so much better, I am starting to meet and talk to new people because of Upward Bound. This program is like my second family, they have helped me get through some rough times in my life and I would love to be a part of the family again and help other kids like me get through their hard times.





# DISTRICT 4



Ashley Mieritz  
East Central University  
Upward Bound Math Science

There are many advantages to being in a TRIO program, but some of my favorites are the opportunities you receive and the people you meet along the way. TRIO gives me the chance to put my leadership skills to the test and show that I am able to successfully handle situations, while under pressure. TRIO has allowed me the opportunity to meet a diverse group of individuals from different places and has given me a fresh start with a new group of peers. It is a chance to make new contacts and network with individuals, which could be beneficial for my post-secondary education and life after college.

Jocelyn Keeling  
East Central University  
Upward Bound Math Science

When you are in a TRIO program you are able to learn about a lot of important things regarding college. TRIO programs help prepare you for college by assisting you with the ACT and teaching you about different types of scholarship and the ways to get into college. Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) has helped me raise my ACT score, learn about the many ways to pay for college and taught me about different types of majors. Before UBMS, I did not know about the different types of scholarships or even how to get into a college. Being involved in a TRIO program also allows you to meet new friends and have tons of cool experiences. Being in Upward Bound Math and Science allowed me to take college classes during the summer and also have an internship, where I got to experience a career I really enjoyed.



# DISTRICT 4



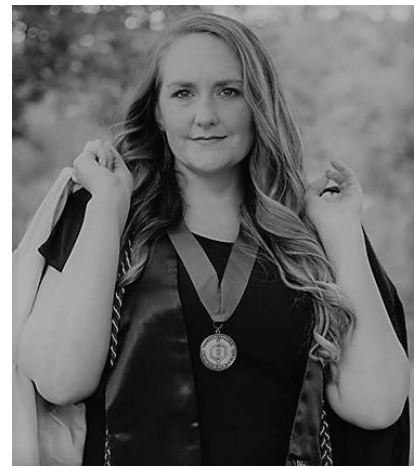
Laura Pineda  
East Central University  
Upward Bound Math Science

TRIO has helped me to excel academically in many ways. I learned skills to assist me in becoming more organized, ways to help me manage my time, communication skills and my self-confidence has increased.

TRIO has taught me how to stay focused and complete assignments on time (even though some assignments are difficult). I am now able to use critical thinking skills, allowing me to figure things out on my own. TRIO has helped me with my self-confidence and communication skills. TRIO gave me the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and start communicating with my classmates and my TRIO family. I am able to be myself around them. I know that if I ever need help on anything, I can ask without being scared or shy. I now have more confidence and feel like I can do anything I put my mind to.

Amber Keil  
East Central University  
Veterans Upward Bound

VUB has been an asset and a contributor to my academic success. Not only have they been here to help me make the difficult transition from military to civilian life, they have helped me evolve into a great student. They insured that I had the resources I needed to complete my education. They helped provide me with resources and guidance though difficult and traumatic times while I have been in college. I have become a better student and student veteran. I am graduating cum laude this spring with a double bachelors degree. I am more confident and I feel prepared and eager for my future. VUB has ensured that I have everything I need to succeed; and I am forever grateful. I couldn't have done it without Nancy Page. She has been a great mentor and friend. Her passion and dedication for helping veterans is contagious.



# DISTRICT 4



Amy Byerly  
East Central University  
Veterans Upward Bound

I had some unique challenges in obtaining my financial aid to attend school. I had applied for the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment program and my counselor required several documents from me that were difficult to obtain. The Veterans Upward Bound program was able to help me contact the right people to obtain those documents and secure my benefits. They helped me through the entire admissions process from completing the application to requesting my previous transcripts. They even went with me to meet my academic advisor when I went to enroll the first time. They also helped me learn how to check what books I would need for the new semester and how to get them from the bookstore. Without VUB I would not be in school today.

Zachery McGirt  
East Central University  
Veterans Upward Bound

I am a Creek member of the Muscogee Nation and a United States Marine veteran. VUB has been very supportive of me through the process of getting into and going to school. When I was denied admission, they got on the schools website and looked up the appeal process. We sat down and got everything that I needed to show the school I was not going to let them down if they gave me a chance. VUB has even taken me to a doctors appointment. Without VUB I do not think I would have had a chance at getting into school. I was in prison for 3 1/2 years and that did not stop VUB from helping me. I made some wrong choices but I want to change my life; with the help of VUB I am doing that. I hope my story will inspire other veterans.



# DISTRICT 4



**Robert Black III**  
**Rose State College**  
**Student Support Services**

TRIO has made my college experience worthwhile and helped mold me into the person I am today. From my father being in prison and my mom abandoning me, I have had many tests such as homelessness and dropping out of school before sixteen. I came from a family of modest means and we did not always know where we would sleep. These life tests have made me humble, hardworking and dedicated to my success. Since turning sixteen, I have always held two jobs to make a better life for myself. I always knew college was what I needed to succeed so I obtained my GED. Many times I wanted to give up, but Tish and Amber have helped me every step of the way. I will forever be indebted to the TRIO program. My goal is to become a social worker and I am expected to graduate in May 2020 with my Associates Degree.

**Jeffrey Habel**  
**Rose State College**  
**Student Support Services**

Coming into college, I did not know what to expect other than people telling me that it is hard. The first week of school, I made the best decision I could have which was attending the workshop about what TRIO was and I instantly wanted to get in. After being in the program for a year, the leader inside me wanted to do more, therefore I decided to apply for the student ambassador position. This position has helped me become a better leader, has shown me how I can make a difference in the community, and has taught me that: if you want something really bad, you will go get it. TRIO has done so much for me from academically improving myself to even just getting a snack in between classes. It has truly been a blessing to be part of this program.



# DISTRICT 4

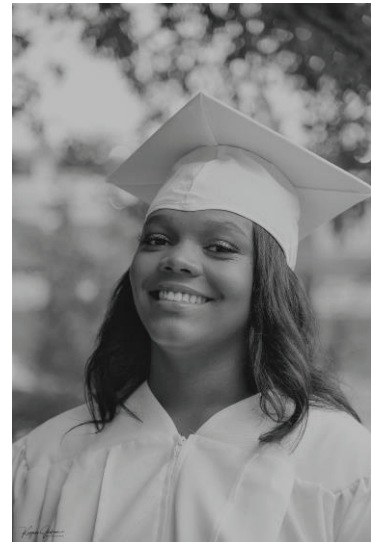


**Selena Williams**  
**Rose State College**  
**Student Support Services**

The Rose State TRIO Student Support Services has made a tremendous impact on my life. I attribute a great deal of my academic success to TRIO's tutoring program. Being able to have a personal tutor was extremely beneficial because I acquired the individual attention I needed to succeed in my classes. My academic advisor Kathleen Bower encouraged me to triumph over my fear of learning Spanish. TRIO's team encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and to enjoy taking risks. Because it's during those scary moments, those unsure steps taken, that I am able to see that I am just one step closer to achieving my Mass Communications Degree. TRIO made my dream of obtaining my Associates Degree possible because they never gave up on me, even when I gave up on myself. The staff is always there for me when I need some words of encouragement, they always inspire me to be better. Without the support from Amber Mitchell, Leticia Barrios, and their amazing team, I can honestly say that I would not have made it this far. Thanks TRIO!

**Ryan Craig**  
**Rose State College**  
**Talent Search**

One of the advantages that the TRIO program has given me is that it has given me the advantage in many areas into the upcoming future. For a while I was not sure if I wanted to go to college or not and TRIO helped me decide that I did. I am not a good test taker, I get very nervous and I start to doubt myself. I have been to two ACT boot camps and a few tours with the TRIO program and both have given me different techniques on how to work with the test anxiety that I get and how to prepare for it. Most people my age will read a couple of articles about these things and be done, but I got the opportunity to speak to a professional, and that experience resonated with me.



# DISTRICT 4



**Sade Sogunro**  
**Rose State College**  
**Talent Search**

When I arrived at the University of Oklahoma, I was taken back by the lack of diversity that I was faced with. During my first semester of college I struggled to find community. Feeling like I was a part of a community was vital to me and I felt as if I was an impostor, an outcast, I did not understand why I was not clicking with the community at OU or anyone on the campus. I was starting to regret my decision, when my high school TRIO representative referred me to Project Threshold a college level version of TRIO. The staff of Project Threshold reassured me that I had made the right decision and embraced me into their family. College is a journey of ups and downs and I am glad that I have a program like TRIO to count on even when you graduate high school they are still there supporting you.

**Jordan Williams**  
**Rose State College**  
**Talent Search**

The advantages of this amazing program is that you get to explore different campuses of colleges you may pursue or ever thought about visiting.



# DISTRICT 4



**Jaela Washington**  
**Rose State College**  
**Talent Search**

I took the ACT workshops, getting tips on how to study for the ACT. The FAFSA workshops were a big help. Receiving help on finding different scholarships, and also the opportunity to go to different colleges over the summer. Getting help on my search for college, and what is best for me.

**Karina Flores**  
**University of Oklahoma**  
**McNair Scholars**

As a first-generation student, my perception of a scientist was abstract, and lacking Latina scientists as role models, the steps to becoming one was unclear. Throughout my journey at the University of Oklahoma, TRIO programs become a catalyst in turning my academic goals into reality. I have gained a supportive community of mentors that guided me and helped me develop as a student and individual. The McNair Scholars Program has afforded me opportunities to gain diverse mentors and has been with me through every step of the research and graduate school process. My TRIO advisors have fostered my identity as a first-generation Latina. Each time I step into office of Dr. Sophia Morren or Mr. Scott Cady, I feel part of a greater community. I have committed to helping other students like myself empower and help them reach their dreams as TRIO has done for my future endeavors.



# DISTRICT 4



Emily Mee  
University of Oklahoma  
McNair Scholars

As a first-generation college student from a low-income background from rural Oklahoma, it is not lost on me how lucky I am to be graduating this May. Rural high school graduates are less likely to attend college and more likely to drop out compared to their urban counterparts. Coming to college as a financially constrained commuter student with no internet access at home meant spending up to 13 hours at school every day. During my worst days I faced exhaustion, food insecurity, financial stress, and persistent imposter syndrome. TRIO gave me a home on campus; a place to stay, a fridge to put meals in, a laptop to borrow, and a family to cheer me on. The McNair Scholars program taught me how to be resilient and grow from my challenges by embracing me as a promising scholar, before I could even see that potential in myself.



# DISTRICT 5



**Cathy Tuton**  
**Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City**  
**Student Support Services**

One of the biggest advantages in participating in a Trio Program is the tutoring they offer. I am able to get tutoring in Math, English, and many other subjects. Project SOAR also provides many workshops to help us be more prepared and to do well. I have attended workshops on writing resumes, essays, and works cited pages. This allows me to have the skills I need to excel in my classes that I am currently taking. They also provide us with the moral support and inspiration to keep pushing forward when we run into barriers that get in our way. I really appreciate all of the experiences and skills I have gained from Project SOAR Trio.

# DISTRICT 5



**Carlos Tapia**  
**Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City**  
**Upward Bound**

TRIO is my second family. Upward Bound helped me do things differently. They built my motivation to strive for success and greatness. I had a rough start in high school. I was not motivated to go to college, I was hanging out with the wrong crowd, and I was doing things the wrong way. I had the idea of college, but did not know how to get there. Towards the end of my freshman year, my cousin introduced me to Upward Bound and persuaded me to join. I was unsure about joining, but decided to do it anyway. When I started Upward Bound in the summer of 2017, it felt like I was starting a new school all over again. Yet, this time things were different. I met the most amazing people and created new friendships and bonds. I quickly took initiative to become a better version of myself. They have provided me support and guidance inside and outside the classroom. I have gained so much knowledge about college and what I have to do to get to where I want to be. I feel at home surrounded by a great group of students who are passionate and hungry for success. As a first-generation student, I look forward to making not only myself and my family proud, but TRIO as well. They have directed me in the right path. I am who I am, and I am where I am today thanks to Upward Bound.

**Karnesha Landry**  
**Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City**  
**Upward Bound**

Upward Bound has helped me in the process of overcoming the majority of my adversities. They helped me realize I am more than my struggles and I am an outstanding individual. TRIO has given me a multitude of resources to be successful and created a sense of ambition for a better future. I have learned to put my anger and pain into my academics and education. Not only have I learned to cope with challenges I have endured, I was also given the opportunity to surround myself with like-minded individuals who have experienced similar tribulations. I can honestly credit many of my accomplishments (both inside and outside of my academics) to these people.

I have been influenced by many people in my life; the majority have not been good influences. However, since I have invested my time into this program, having positive, influential people in my life is now a normal thing. I was introduced to a safe haven where I could express myself without feeling judged, embarrassed, or compelled to be like someone else. The purpose of TRIO is not only to motivate students to achieve future goals, but also to show students like me various important life lessons.

TRIO Upward Bound has helped me use my adversities to promote growth and positivity within myself. Three years ago, I was far from feeling optimistic and determined, which is definitely not the case anymore. I aspire to inspire others for generations to come and I will. Thank you Upward Bound.



# DISTRICT 5



Sydney Flores

Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City  
Upward Bound

TRIO has impacted my last two years of high school because it taught me to prioritize things such as academics, working hard, and a higher education. Before I was in Upward Bound, I did not see myself going to college or even finishing high school. However, my first year in this program I began to think of better things in life and what college could do for me. At Upward Bound, I learned to build a robot in robotics class, had extra help in mathematics, English, science, and college prep. In college prep, I learned about different things people go through, the good and the bad, why not to take out a bunch of loans, and how to pick the right college. I also became more social with the people in the program and made more friends. My TRIO program and the people involved are my family; they are there when I need them for anything. As a first-generation student, the counselors here have helped me with scholarships, getting out of my comfort zone, and learning to have fun. At first, I had no idea how I was going to navigate college, but with the help of Upward Bound, I know I am on the right track. My grades are always on track and I am a hundred percent sure that I will finish high school and attend and graduate college. TRIO has made me a better person.

Derrick Hill

Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City  
Talent Search

TRIO has opened my eyes to the many opportunities in front of me. Helping me with scholarship chances, to helping me in the classroom, to taking trips that have elevated my knowledge, to colleges visits, and also helped me with my academic excellence as well.



# DISTRICT 5

**Helen Arango**  
**Southern Nazarene University**  
**McNair Scholars**



The barriers I have faced in obtaining my education have centered around a lack of resources both financially and of information of the whole process. I had to figure out on my own how to apply for college and scholarships. I had no idea what a personal statement was or how to create an effective CV or resume. Thankfully during my time here at SNU I have received immeasurable amounts of support in guidance in all of these areas and many more. I've been able to participate in research and attend conferences that I otherwise would not have afforded. My personal statement has been a work in progress for years now. This year I got to see all of the work my director and I invested in my essay pay off in the form of an interview to graduate school.

**Meleah Marquis**  
**Southern Nazarene University**  
**McNair Scholars**

The TRIO McNair program has helped me academically as I have learned to conduct research, present the findings, and apply to graduate school. As a scholar, I have developed from viewing research as a series of tasks and objects toward an orientation that is focused on telling the story of people. When I noticed this transition within myself not only did my confidence increase, but it guided my ability to comprehend the story and the meaning of other projects that I read, analyze and conduct. Additionally, McNair is a support system of guidance when I have questions about taking the next steps into graduate school.



# DISTRICT 5



**Austin Cardenas**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**McNair Scholars**

The OSU-OKC Upward Bound program changed the direction of my life entirely. This program built the bridge for this first-generation college student and drove me to succeed beyond a high school diploma to college. The implications of this program changed the attitude, behavior and expectations I had of myself. In the spring of 2019 the last year of my college degree I was accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Program. This positively influenced my goal of becoming a professor. I know the academia world is where I am meant to be. I believe education and knowledge can alter the individuals perception and create an opportunity for personal growth. The McNair Program elevated my research and professional competency through summer research, conferences and networking with other scholars. Upward Bound prepared me for college, and the McNair Scholars Program prepared me for graduate school. TRIO WORKS Since 1964.

**Kedriuna Townsend**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**McNair Scholars**

Throughout my college career many barriers have presented themselves unto me that have included financial burdens, stress stemming from academics, and issues pertaining to my will to continue to receive my education. TRIO has helped me by providing me with the resources I need to continue to my education, encouraging me to know that I can and will be successful and helping me break down each wall that life tried to build to stand between me and my success.



# DISTRICT 5

**Jordan Broiles**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**McNair Scholars**



The TRIO (McNair) program has impacted me in so many different ways that I do not think I will be where I am if it was not for the program. I took advantage of the many different resources associated with the program. My cohort of peers was very adamant in challenging and supporting each other through our research journey. I had the opportunities to work with a faculty advisor that was very influential, not only on my campus but the Higher Education as a whole. Having the opportunities to attend/present at research conferences were amazing and impactful for my growth as a scholar activist. The GRE prep course was rigorous but useful. Lastly, granted the abilities to visit my different graduate programs because of TRIO was eye-opening because I do not know if I would have gotten to experience that without McNair.

**Dyana Salazar**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**Talent Search**

I joined the University of Central Oklahoma Talent Search program my junior year of high school. I wish I joined the program much sooner! From the first trip I attended, I noticed how committed UCO's Talent Search mentors and advisors were. They helped us figure out our goals academically and what we wanted in our personal lives. I know not only how to live my life, but I also know how to thrive in it. They always made me feel welcome. I know I have an amazing support system because of UCO's Talent Search program. My goals seem more possible. During events, I was always provided resources and encouragement for me to complete the task at hand. I am so grateful for the incredible experiences and opportunities I have had. I cannot thank them enough.



# DISTRICT 5



## **Katherine Miller** **University of Central Oklahoma** **Talent Search**

The UCO TRIO Talent Search program has given me many opportunities that I would not have if I decided not to be involved in the program. It was a lot of fun getting to know other students from different schools and my academic counselors. I was able to go to college trips that I would not be able to attend. Thanks to UCO TRIO Talent Search program, I was able to see Northeastern State University and the University of Central Oklahoma during TRIO Day. I had so much fun attending both campuses. These events helped me to decide in fact which school was best for me. Now, I will be able to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and work on becoming a teacher. Through the help of the UCO TRIO Talent Search program, I was able to make the right decision for me.

## **Maaliyah Livingston** **University of Central Oklahoma** **Upward Bound Math Science**

The advantage of participating in a TRIO Program, such as Upward Bound Math and Science, is that you get to explore your options. One thing I love about TRIO is that they take you on field trips to different colleges, not just the ones in your state, but also to ones in other states. This helps one see a variety of options and helps distinguish what colleges I may want to attend. If anything stood out about TRIO to me it is the fact that they want you to see all the opportunities that are available to someone.



# DISTRICT 5



**Samaya Parker**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**Upward Bound Math Science**

TRIO has helped me through a lot of barriers during my years of being a student. Pressure of being a first-generation college student and living in a poor area is an obstacle for me. Because of the TRIO family I have been able to build confidence and assurance in pursuing my dreams to further my education. In my family, college was nothing but a fantasy and it was for people with money, and that idea continued from generation to generation. I told my family that I was going to go to college and was sure of it. That dream then started to get shut down by the idea of how I would get there and be successful doing so. TRIO guided me through the steps and showed me how to keep everything on track so that I could graduate. So as of now, I can truly say that TRIO Works!

**X'Zavion Gurley**  
**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**Upward Bound Math Science**



I have been in the TRIO program for four years, but when I joined the UBMS program my freshman year, I did not know anything but that I was getting paid. As I continue being in UBMS I learned a lot about becoming a leader. UCO UBMS has allowed me to volunteer, go on college visits, and attend multiple summer programs. TRIO impacted my life because it got me ready for college, helped me throughout high school, and led me to scholarships to help me become a firefighter. I started being a good role model to young peers around me because when I started TRIO, I was a little boy, now I am becoming a young man. If you are a parent of a young future role model, I recommend you sign your children up because they will love this program. It will prepare them to be successful like I am right now. It was a blessing to know about this program and I am glad my auntie signed me up because before this program I did not know anything and now I feel like I can do anything. When I graduate I will always remember UBMS because it led to me who I am right now. Thanks TRIO!





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**Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance**

[www.odsas.org](http://www.odsas.org)