

TRiO

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What is TRiO?

TRiO programs grew out of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, and specifically the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Higher Education Act of 1965. The federally funded programs provide access to higher education, and educational equality and opportunity, to students from low-income backgrounds and those who are first-generation to college. The first TRiO program was **Upward Bound**, followed closely by **Educational Talent Search** and **Student Support Services**; hence, the term TRiO. Currently, there are eight TRiO programs, including the original three, serving close to 1 million low-income, first-generation high school and college students in the United States and Puerto Rico; **Educational Opportunity Centers**, **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program**, **Upward Bound Math Science**, **Veterans Upward Bound**, and **TRiO Training**. TRiO's 50 year proven track record of student success remains strong.

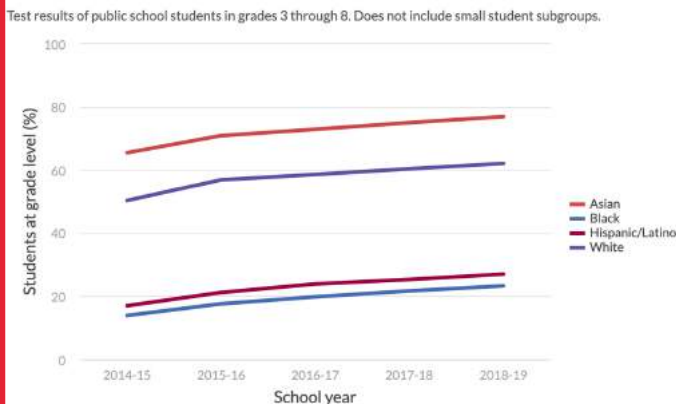
"Education is the key to opportunity in our society, and the equality of educational opportunity must be the birthright of every citizen."
~Lyndon B. Johnson

Need for TRiO in CT

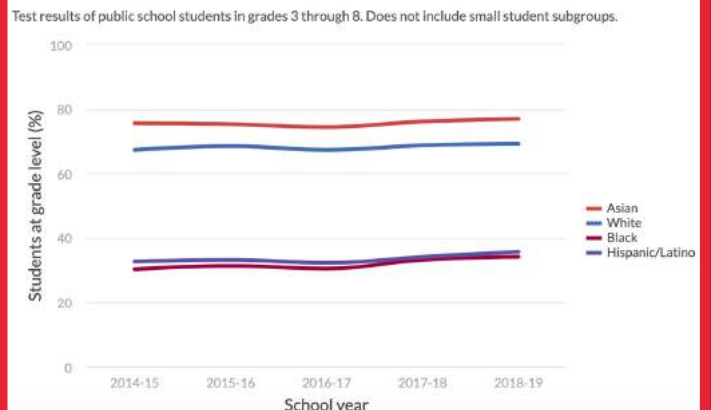
Connecticut has one of the largest achievement gaps in the country. Connecticut is home to some of the nation's wealthiest and poorest towns and cities. This income disparity is apparent in the public school system, with poor cities and towns having some of the lowest

performing schools in the nation. Though the achievement gap is narrowing, with black and Hispanic students' standardized test scores climbing at a higher rate than the state's student population as a whole, there is still a considerable achievement disparity, leaving lower SES students at a marked disadvantage. TRiO helps to level the playing field for students in these schools by offering intensive academic support and preparation for admission to and success in post-secondary education.

The achievement gap on the Math test, by race



The achievement gap on the English test, by race



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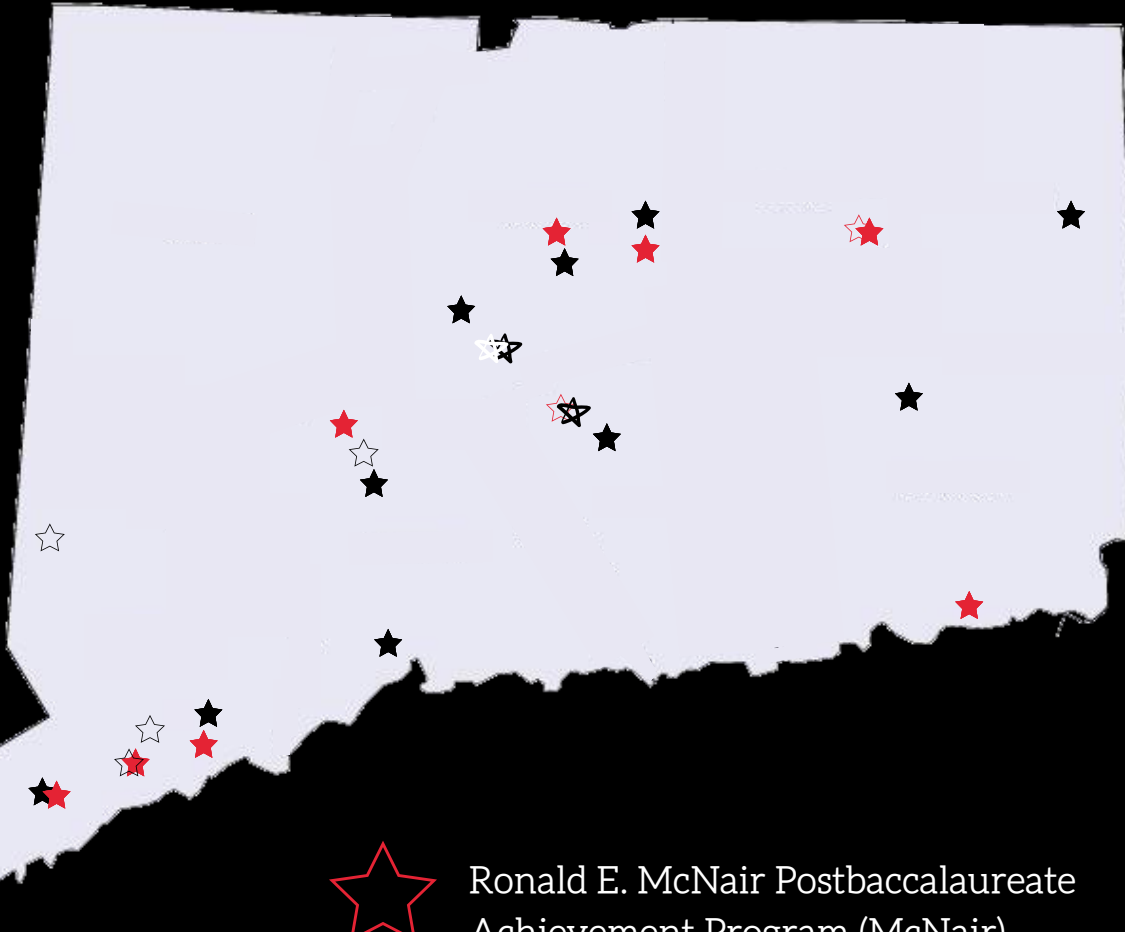
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Educational Talent Search (ETS) assists low-income students in grades 6-12 with high school completion and college preparation.

TRIO serves over 6,000 low-income, first-generation students in 21 programs at 18 institutions in Connecticut. The majority of Connecticut's TRIO students reside in the state's urban areas.

Upward Bound/Upward Bound Math Science (UB/UBMS) prepares low-income, first-generation youth for high school graduation and post-secondary education through academic support and programming.



Student Support Services (SSS) provides academic support, programming, and one-on-one counseling to first-generation, low-income students and students with disabilities with the goal of college retention and graduation.



Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair) prepares low-income, first-generation students and groups under-represented in graduate education for doctoral study.



Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) help adults enroll into post-secondary education. Assistance with the financial aid process, academic/career advising, and financial literacy target low-income first-generation individuals who are post-secondary stop-outs, formerly incarcerated, military connected students, veterans, GED holders, and underemployed workers. (Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative, Inc. – CONNTAC, Inc.)



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2020 CAEOP

Achiever



Seanice Austin is director of the UConn School of Business Office of Diversity Initiatives and manager of the Travelers EDGE

Scholar Program. Seanice has worked at UConn for 20 years and has held various positions within the School of Business. As director of Diversity initiatives, Seanice focuses on the recruitment and retention of underserved students. Through her management of the Travelers EDGE program, a college to career pipeline program, she has helped many SSS EDGE participants prepare for careers in the insurance and financial services industry. Currently, she is charged with the development of strategic partnerships within the School of Business to create and sustain a diverse and inspiring environment for excellence in teaching and learning. Seanice has served on several University committees, including the University Senate's Enrollment and Diversity Committee and the School of Business Undergraduate Council. She earned her undergraduate degree from UConn, and completed a UConn graduate business certificate program.

Seanice is a proud University of Connecticut SSS alumna who remains actively involved with the SSS program. Seanice is dedicated to supporting SSS students enrolled in or seeking admission into the School of Business, offering them advice, guidance, and opportunities to excel. She has supported SSS students' success and accomplishments by sponsoring the annual SSS Leadership Conference and the Academic Achievers and Seniors Awards Ceremony. She has served as resident director for the SSS Summer Education Abroad Programs, accompanying students to Cape Town, South Africa and London, England. Additionally, she was an integral member of the 50th Anniversary Gala Committee for the Center for Academic Programs (CAP), the department that oversees SSS. Seanice is passionate about supporting the success of UConn students who are first generation to college and from populations underserved in higher education. Her generosity of time and spirit has helped many SSS students succeed at UConn and beyond.

Some TRIO program services include:

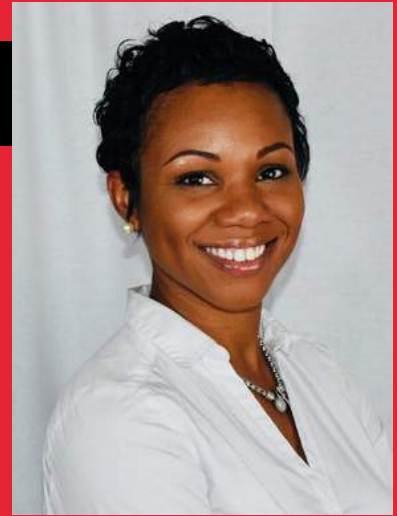
One-on-one academic, financial aid, career, and personal advising * Academic tutoring * Assistance with completing college applications and financial aid forms * Exposure to college academics and campus life through college visits, and residential and non-residential summer programs * Leadership and professional development opportunities * Opportunities to engage in research and develop relationships with faculty

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Student Success Stories

Wesleyan University, Upward Bound



Zakiya Edens was raised in Middletown, Connecticut. As a child, her parents, Ronald and Debra Edens, enforced the importance of education and understanding the significance of African American culture. During high school, Ms. Edens was an active model student in the Wesleyan Upward Bound Program. For her undergraduate studies, Zakiya attended Virginia State University. She earned her Master's degree in School Counseling from the University of Saint Joseph. In 2015, she was awarded the National Center for Women and Information Technology Educators Award for her work with high school females who aspire to engage in a career in technology. Currently, Ms. Edens is a school administrator for a National Health and Science Program for the District of Columbia Public Schools. Most recently, Zakiya was awarded a grant from the Verizon Foundation to implement coding, augmented reality, virtual reality, application development and entrepreneurship. In March of 2018, Ms. Edens was awarded the 2018 "100 Women of Color" Award for her work and dedication to education and her community. Zakiya lives by her late grandmother's favorite quote, "Education is the key."



Wesleyan University, McNair

As an undergraduate at Wesleyan University, **Stephanie M. Huevo** majored in Latin American Studies and Spanish literature. The McNair program at Wesleyan provided her with the necessary resources, mentorship, and funds to explore her interest in the history of El Salvador. The program helped facilitate her research for her undergraduate thesis on commemorative acts in Chile and El Salvador. After graduating Wesleyan University in 2013 with High Honors, Huevo enrolled in the Ph.D. History Program at Indiana University. Thanks to the McNair fee waiver and fellowship, she chose the program that best fit her career aspirations. At Indiana University, Huevo immediately joined the McNair program as a graduate mentor and provided guidance and support to Indiana University undergraduate students interested in graduate school. Huevo has been awarded the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship as well as the Consortium for Faculty Diversity Dissertation Fellowship at Mount Holyoke College. In 2019, Huevo began her post-doctoral position at Mount Holyoke College and anticipates joining the professoriate in the fall. The McNair program at Wesleyan University provided Huevo with resources and funds to explore her academic interest but more importantly, the program **empowered her to believe that a first-generation Latina from the Bronx could one day become a professor.**

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Naugatuck Valley Community College, Upward Bound

SALMA AKTER is a first year Pre- Nursing student who moved to the United States from Bangladesh when she was 10 years old. When she arrived, she did not know any English, but soon she started picking up words from her classmates and teachers. In middle school, Salma became a part of the GEAR UP program, which sparked her interest in college. As a senior in high school, Salma became a part of the Upward Bound program and through the program enrolled into her first college class. She credits this opportunity as the reason she was invited to be a part of Naugatuck Valley Community College's WAVE (Workforce Achievers Value Education) program. She also participated in Upward Bound's summer bridge program before her freshman year.

University of Connecticut, Student Support Services

Emmanuel Omokaro is an alumnus of the Student Support Services program at UConn and the Corporate Citizenship Coordinator at ESPN. During his time with SSS at UConn, Emmanuel established himself as a global citizen through taking advantage of a study abroad program in Liverpool, England. Recognizing the impact of this program on his personal life, Emmanuel immediately began paying it forward to his mentees by encouraging them to study abroad. After completing his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Sport Management at UConn, Emmanuel has remained a committed member of the SSS community. He supports current and future generations of SSS students by funding annual scholarships for them to be able to study abroad. Emmanuel has held a number of professional roles since graduating. He currently oversees ESPN's employee volunteering program, while also funding and managing new opportunities for them to volunteer. In 2019, he was named ESPN's Volunteer of the Year. Outside of his work, Emmanuel continues his efforts as a volunteer, engaging with underrepresented populations on topics such as education, nutrition, and fitness, while also raising funds to help build schools in Senegal, Guatemala, and Chad. Through all of his roles as a professional and volunteer, Emmanuel has remained a tireless advocate for ensuring opportunity for other students to access education, both domestically and globally.



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Naugatuck Valley
Community College,
Upward Bound

JESSE FERMIN is a senior at Wilby High School. Since first entering the Upward Bound program, he has been adamant about pursuing a career in cyber security. Academically, he struggled in English, and the SAT was a growing concern. Jesse participated in the Upward Bound SAT preparation academy and went on to obtain significantly higher scores in both English and Math. He has recently been accepted into New England Institute of Technology for cyber security, and attributes the quality of his SAT scores to the services provided by Upward Bound.

University of Connecticut, McNair

CHELSEA GARCIA discovered her passion for cooking and baking in her grandmother's New Jersey kitchen where she found she was interested in not only the preparation but the nutritional content of food. Studying Nutritional Sciences was an obvious choice. As a Hispanic first generation college student from a low-income family, extra academic preparation for graduate education is important to Chelsea. She began her McNair connection after freshman year, writing a review of hypertension and shadowing a plant biology researcher. That same summer, she was a UConn Nutritional Sciences Bridging the Gap Fellow in their 10-week summer research program, and was selected as a McNair Scholar as a sophomore. Her McNair project focuses on metabolism and neuroinflammation; she has already co-authored a book chapter. During a semester of study abroad in Argentina, Chelsea embraced cultural aspects of nutrition and advanced her Spanish minor. Chelsea is the first McNair Scholar selected as a University Scholar, UConn's highest honor, which requires completion of a Master's level thesis. She plans to pursue a Ph.D in Molecular Nutrition when she graduates in May 2020.

