

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

2017 Policy Seminar~ An Overwhelming Success!

March 21-22, 2017

There were 45 New Englanders in DC to meet with our Members of Congress. The four big questions asked were:

1. Will the Member of Congress support an omnibus appropriations bill to fund the remainder of FY2017? [*A Continuing Resolution would be flat funding for TRIO and GU, the Omnibus has an increase for both.*]
2. Will the Member of Congress reject devastating cuts to "non-defense discretionary programs" including TRIO and Gear Up in FY2018? [*The President's budget recommends a 10% cut to TRIO and 32% cut to GU resulting in a loss of services to 92,000 students.*]
3. Will the Member of Congress sign the FY 2018 TRIO Appropriations Letter?
4. Would the Member of Congress be willing to join the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional TRIO Caucus?

The Annual Policy Seminar Through the Eyes of a TRIO Alumni

From March 19-23, 2017, a small delegation from New Hampshire participated in the Council for Opportunity in Education's 37th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington DC. The delegation was led by Melissa Goyait, Associate Director of Talent Search at UNH, and was further comprised of Kyle Virgin, Educational Counselor at Keene State Upward Bound; Dan Gordon, Director of Upward Bound at UNH; Randy Schroeder, Educational Coordinator of Student Support Services at UNH; Corey Austin, an Upward Bound Alumni who now works as a

Systems Analyst at Dartmouth College; and me, Stefanie King, an Alumni of Student Support Services (SSS) who recently returned to UNH after a decade of teaching high school English to pursue my doctorate in education.

Together with more than 700 other advocates representing every state and US territory, our collective purpose was to fight for the continuation of the federal government's TRIO programs, which increase college access and support for low-income and first-generation college students. Specifically, we wanted to thank our members of Congress for their past support of these programs and to urge them to pass an omnibus appropriations bill to fund the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2017, thereby rejecting the Trump Administration's devastating proposed cuts to domestic discretionary spending which would reduce TRIO funding by 10% and could entirely eliminate future GEAR UP funding (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a competitive grant program that supports equity in college preparedness and college access for low income middle/high school students.

The first TRIO program, Upward Bound, was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty spurred the creation of Talent Search through the Higher Education Act a year later in 1965, and in 1968, the addition of Student Support Services created a "TRIO" of educational opportunity programs which sought to provide equity in higher education access for first-generation and low-income college students. In recognition of the formidable challenges this demographic of students faces, TRIO programs have since expanded to include supports for Veterans and students pursuing their masters and even doctoral degrees. The array of services that TRIO programs offer students is truly stunning: tutoring, workplace and college tours, college application assistance, personal counseling, financial literacy, career counseling, financial aid, and intensive residential summer academies, just to name a few.

The Policy Seminar in Washington DC united diverse perspectives to focus on the critical need for the continuation of these TRIO services in our country. Under the banner of "Now, More than Ever," we came together to understand how the federal budget works, and to demonstrate how we could participate in our democracy and advocate for equity in access to higher education. Distant political systems I had only vaguely understood in 9th grade suddenly came into focus as I soaked in the series of break-out sessions and speakers. Executive Vice President of Qorvis MSLGROUP, Stan Collender, elucidated the federal budget in a crash course I wish every American could have seen. And in this era of bifurcation, I was deeply impressed at the courage of the Democratic and Republican members of Congress who came together to express their disgust at the Administration's proposed assault on educational opportunity programs (and their proposed budget as a whole). I was especially moved by Representative Alma Adams (D-NC) and Representative Mike Simpson's (R-ID) stories of their own struggles to navigate the world of higher education as first generation students. Education had broken the cycle of poverty in their own families, and they personally understood how intimidating the world of higher education can be when you have no one in your network who has done it before.

As Alumna, Corey and I found that our stories were remarkably similar to Representative Adams' and Representative Simpson's, purely by virtue of what had qualified us for TRIO services. We had been chosen from the multitudes of TRIO Alumni to tell our stories to the overwhelmingly supportive audiences/offices of U.S. Senator Jean Shaheen, U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan, U.S. Congresswoman Annie Kuster, and U.S. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, and as we did, we were keenly aware that our histories were not unlike those of the 1,900 students in New Hampshire who are currently being supported by TRIO programs and the tens of thousands who have been served since the funding began in 1964:

I am the daughter of hard-working parents who never had the opportunity to go to college. My father grew up in poverty and was drafted to Vietnam at age 19. When he returned, he slowly moved up at his manufacturing plant to do all the work of an engineer by virtue of his raw brilliance, but his lack of a degree meant he earned far less than his peers. My mother emigrated here from Poland when she was 19, carrying only a suitcase with a few heirlooms, learning English as she found work as a secretary. I am one of their five children, and I was titillated and terrified by the idea of college. On my first day of orientation at UNH, as I was about to run clear off the campus with anxieties and fear, a counselor at Student Support Services took me aside, looked at my grades and test scores, and said, "You are going to *fly* here, Stefanie." It is no hyperbole to say that those six words changed my life, and in turn, have affected the lives of the thousands of students I have served in my career as a teacher here in New Hampshire.

It is no coincidence that we had to fly to Washington to attend the Policy Seminar. There is symbolism in flight, in the lifting off and perfect tension that is required to soar. When I was young, my father would often read to us from the encyclopedia his favorite entry about the Wright Brothers. In our world today, we are all capable of flight because of those who have come before us to lay down the runways and build the aircraft, but to become pilots, we have to be willing to take the controls and let our hands be steadied by those who have flown before us.

I am grateful that TRIO was there when I wanted to ascend, and I am optimistic that our Congress will make sure it is there always.

Stefanie King, TRIO Alumna
SSS, University of New Hampshire

MEEOA Conference ~~~~ January 4-5, 2017

Maine held a very successful annual conference January 4-5 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, ME for over 70 members. MEEOA recognized four alumni with two MEEOA Achievers and two MEEOA Rising Star awards.

NEOA Claiborne-Pell Award 2017

Congressman Tom Cole



NEOA President, Ramon Gonzalez, presents the Claiborne-Pell Award to the Honorable Tom Cole at the Capitol on March 22, 2017.

VEOP TRIO Day at the State House March 17, 2017

TRIO Day at the Vermont State House is an annual opportunity for students to get the opportunity to tour the State House and meet State



Legislators. Student Support Services and Upward Bound students from 5 colleges attended. Participating colleges were UVM, CCV, Lyndon State, Castleton, and Vermont Technical College. Awesome day in Montpelier with TRIO students from around Vermont! They toured our Statehouse, heard the TRIO Day Resolution read on the House floor, met with their legislators and with Governor Shumlin; all-in-all a great time! [#TRIOWorks](#)

VEOP Legislative Reception April 6, 2017

Seven alumni representing EOC, TS, GU, SSS and UB participated in the 3rd VEOP Legislative Reception at the Vermont State House. Over 50 guests attended



including 1 State Senator and 4 State Representatives, Aides from Senators Leahy and Sanders and Representative Welch's offices, the College Presidents from Southern Vermont College and Vermont Technical College as well as 5 TRIO professionals.

TRIO & Gear Up: Our Remarkable Students!!!

From Educational Opportunity Center and Student Support Services...University of Maine

Kevin Arkin started his pursuit of a college education in the Summer of 2009, at the University of Maine at Augusta's Bangor Campus. His goal was to become a Licensed Veterinary Technician, and maybe a Vet someday. He struggled at first, needing some pre-college work in math and writing. But he kept at it.

After a year of struggling with a heavy load, he joined the TRIO Student Support Services grant, known as Cornerstone at the time. Kevin started to come into his own, both academically and socially. He continued to attend year round, but cut back to 12 credits per semester, to increase his chance at success. By Fall 2011, he was taking a class or two at a time at UMaine while still taking his Vet Tech classes in Bangor. In November of 2012 he joined TRIO EOC where he gained confidence as the goal he knew he could reach was manifested in his studies. His hard work was rewarded in Spring 2011 with a highly-coveted TRIO scholarship that rewarded his perseverance: the Blanche Garrity Scholarship.



In Fall of 2013, Kevin transferred to the UMaine Animal & Vet Science program, and hasn't looked back since. In giving me permission to write his story, Kevin wrote:

"I am doing great. I'm working on my senior project on sheep parasites and I'm just about done with the experiment. I know it has been a very long 8 years and I am thrilled about getting my bachelors in animal vet sciences. It has been worth it! I made it through the chemistry and the math, which are my weakness courses. I plan to work in a lab for a few years then go for masters or doctorate so I can teach college level sciences. I hope to work here at UMaine, maybe even the new tick lab we're getting soon. I also hope to help find cures for diseases and cancers in both people and animal due to what I have seen and what pain it can cause.

"I am grateful on how the TRIO program has helped me through these years with tutoring services and the other many services they provided. Without the extra help I would have had a difficult time here. I plan to graduate and walk on May 13th 2017. Thanks, Kevin"

From Upward Bound Math/Science.....

Yun Man joined UBMS at BU when she was a rising sophomore at Charlestown High School; one of the first group of students admitted to the program. As a recently arrived Chinese immigrant, Yun was placed in a special all Cantonese unit at her high school. Many of the students in this unit tend to socially isolate themselves from the rest of the school. Yun, however, sought out opportunities to interact with students of diverse backgrounds. UBMS was the first activity outside of school that she joined. Her participation in the program helped her gain the confidence needed to seek out other opportunities.



Yun (bottom, center) and other UBMS Students in the summer of 2008

As a part of UBMS Yun spent the summers of 2008 through 2010 on the BU campus. The summer of 2009 she also joined Summer Search, a trip-centered program for juniors and seniors. Many students who are accepted to both programs leave UBMS early and/or take a summer off so that they can go on their Summer Search trip. Yun, however, requested that Summer Search send her on the last trip available both years so that she could complete as much of the UBMS summer program as possible.

Yun’s parents do not speak any English and rely on her for translation. While Yun was in high school, her mother was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Yun began to shoulder additional family responsibilities, including working a part time job to help with household expenses. Despite these challenges, Yun took on a challenging course load. She graduated High School in 2011 with a 3.7 GPA and was accepted to several colleges.



Yun, surrounded by her parents at her MCPHS Doctor of Pharmacy Graduation ceremony in 2016

Yun enrolled at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy as a Pharmaceutical Sciences major. Yun faced a financial aid gap of nearly \$7,000 after loans but with the UBMS staff’s support, she secured enough scholarships to make it possible for her to attend MCPHS.

Yun’s exceptional academic focus paid off by earning her a very rare transfer spot into MCPHS’s Doctor of Pharmacy program in Worcester after her junior year. Because she could not afford housing, she commuted from Boston to Worcester every day to attend classes while also working part time at CVS to gain additional experience in her field. The negative impact of working and commuting while trying to keep up with her graduate level courses led her to successfully advocate for an increase in her Stephen Phillips Scholarship so she was able to live near campus and better manage her time while she completed her fourth year of college.

Yun earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2016. While in the doctoral program, she completed an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience in Ambulatory care at the New Bedford VA Hospital. Yun has continued her work with the VA Healthcare System, working at the VA hospital in Charlestown, Illinois and recently “matched” into a Pharmacy Residency program at the VA Hospital in Baltimore.

From Veterans Upward Bound.....

My first attempt at college was unsuccessful. Concentration and abstract learning were challenging for me, I was more involved with a social life than and academic life. The truth be told, I barely made it through high school. By the end of my first semester at Indiana University I was put on academic probation. By the end of my second semester I wasn't eligible for financial aid and I had to return to my hometown in Pennsylvania. I enjoyed a few semesters studying abroad, but did not have a focus or plan on how to earn my degree. I was the first in my family to attend college.

I joined the Air Force because I was told my education would be paid for. After a few years of stabilizing in the Air Force, in terms of housing, finances and friends, I was ready to attend community college. I started slowly, taking one course per semester, concentrating on paralegal studies. By the time I had 4 courses on my transcript my job changed and I wasn't able to continue my education.

Six months before finishing my active duty service, a recruiter from the Veterans Upward Bound program came to Hanscom Air Force Base to give a presentation. After her presentation I realized Veterans Upward Bound was the glue to help me connect the pieces of my education to finish my degree.

I attended Veterans Upward Bound for 2 semesters, fall 2006 and spring 2007. During that time, I developed amazing study habits, met new friends, met with tutors, enjoyed my core classes and finally I was supported in the application process in applying to UMASS Boston.

After I finished my Bachelor's Degree at UMASS, I applied to graduate school and am now 2 courses away from my Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration. My goal is to continue on to a doctoral program. ~

I am now the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions here at UMASS Boston and the Veterans Admissions Counselor. I am forever grateful for the mission of Veterans Upward Bound and how it had shaped my life.

***Lovelle Seymore, Assistant Director
Undergraduate Admissions, U Mass Boston***



Tea Time Speaker Series
Mount Wachusett Community College
February 27, 2017



Kim Jones of the Council for Opportunity in Education was the keynote speaker at the Tea Time Speaker Series. She discussed barriers of woman of color in the workplace, education, and in politics. The goal of the “Tea Time: speaker series” is to create a dialogue that engages the college community and community members in conversations

around diverse issues that are current in our community and society.

<http://mwcc.edu/news/2017/02/21/tea-time-speaker-series-celebrates-black-history-month-with-kimberly-jones/>

Positions Available

Do you know someone who would be fantastic as a TRIO professional or who is a TRIO professional ready for a new challenge? Casey Henderson quietly and consistently sends out announcements to the membership and Ray Gonzalez just puts it right out there when he learns about positions. Please, consider the folks you know who might be a good fit for our community and forward the announcements to them. Current vacancies include:

Portland ConnectED: Executive Director <http://www.unitedwaygp.org/about-us/careers/>

York Community College: SSS Academic Advisor employment@yccc.edu

Castleton University: Academic Advisor <http://www.castleton.edu/about-castleton/employment-opportunities/>

TRIO Day 2017 Providence, Rhode Island



NEOA celebrated the annual TRIO Day on February 23rd and 24th 2017 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI. TRIO Day represents celebration, reflection, and action in honor of the accomplishments of TRIO participants and professional staff. Over 450 students were greeted by CCRI President Dr. Megan Hughes before they departed for 12 college tours in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. At dinner Jacqueline Mane of the Community College of Rhode Island delivered the proclamation on behalf of Rhode Island State Senator Harold Metts. Detective Anthony Roberson, TRIO alumnus, delivered a very relatable keynote address to the students. The first day of TRIO day ended with evening activities, including a dance, karaoke, scholars bowl, board games, and a banner making activity. Students also had the opportunity to show their support and advocate for TRIO by writing letters to their local representatives. On Day 2 of the event students attended a college fair attended by over 60 colleges and attended workshops about getting involved your first year and financial literacy. Omar Reyes, Admissions Officer for Rhode Island College, moderated a first generation student panel of TRIO alumni. The panel members shared their stories and took questions from participants as well.

Just Because.....

Do you know of some of the great things that happen within your states on behalf of the TRIO students you serve? If something is offered in your state, that is just being done because it adds value and is funded independently of your state or our regional association, please, please, let us know! We would love to feature it in the newsletter!!

Community Service Opportunities ~ Wonderful Additions for Our Students

VEOP: 2nd Annual “TRIO is Working in Your Community” ~ March 25, 2017

All TRIO Programs in Vermont and Northern New York dedicate a common day to provide service within their home communities. The main purpose of the annual TRIO IS WORKING DAY projects is to “bring together TRIO students and professionals from across the state each year in campus-based service projects designed to make a difference in their local communities and show their gratitude for the continued support of these important educational programs.”

Nearly 500 TRIO students were engaged in workshops and service projects over the last few months designed to raise awareness around the issue of food insecurity. Students organized and executed food drives to support local food shelves and emergency food shelves on each campus. Events were also held as part of their Wellness Week programming. The employees of Vermont Student Assistance Corporation also showed their concern about hunger and food insecurity among Vermont students by supporting their federally funded GEAR UP and TRIO (Educational Opportunity Center and Talent Search) programs through a statewide initiative challenge to collect 500 pounds of nonperishable food items to be delivered to CCV Academic centers and Johnson State College emergency food project.

On Saturday March 25th TRIO students gathered on the Johnson State College campus to participate in the **TRIO is Working Day** main event which included a keynote address from Tricia Coates, the Director of External and Governmental Affairs for Vermont State Colleges. During her address, she spoke of the problem of hunger that exists within our communities, but also touched on the growing trend of food insecurity on college campuses throughout the country. Following the keynote address students engaged in several hunger awareness workshops including creating educational posters to be displayed on the college campuses and individual slides used in a program ending PowerPoint student presentation to share what they’ve learned throughout the day. With assistance and guidance from JSC faculty member Amy May each participant also had the opportunity to create a unique ceramic flower pot that will be sold later this month to benefit the food shelf at Johnson State College. Each flower pot will also include vegetable seed packets which were donated by High Mowing Seeds.

Why not consider extending this initiative into your state????

Rolls-Royce Dreams
Ginger Andrews

Using salal leaves for money,
my youngest sister and I
paid an older sister
to taxi an abandoned car
in our backyard. Our sister
knew how to shift gears,
turn smoothly with a hand signal,
and make perfect screeching stop sounds.

We drove to the beach,
to the market, to Sunday School,
past our would-be boyfriends' houses,
to any town, anywhere.
We shopped for expensive clothes everywhere.
Our sister would open our doors
And say, *Meter's runnin' ladies,*
but take your time.

We rode all over in that ugly green Hudson
with its broken front windshield, springs poking
through its back seat, blackberry vines growing
through rusted floorboards;
with no wheels, no tires, taillights busted,
headlights missing, and gas gauge on empty.