

TRIO IN CONNECTICUT

"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

The TRIO logo consists of the word "TRIO" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "I" is colored red, while the other letters are black. The logo is enclosed in a white rectangular box with a black border.

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.

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. **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.

Where Connecticut's achievement gaps rank nationally

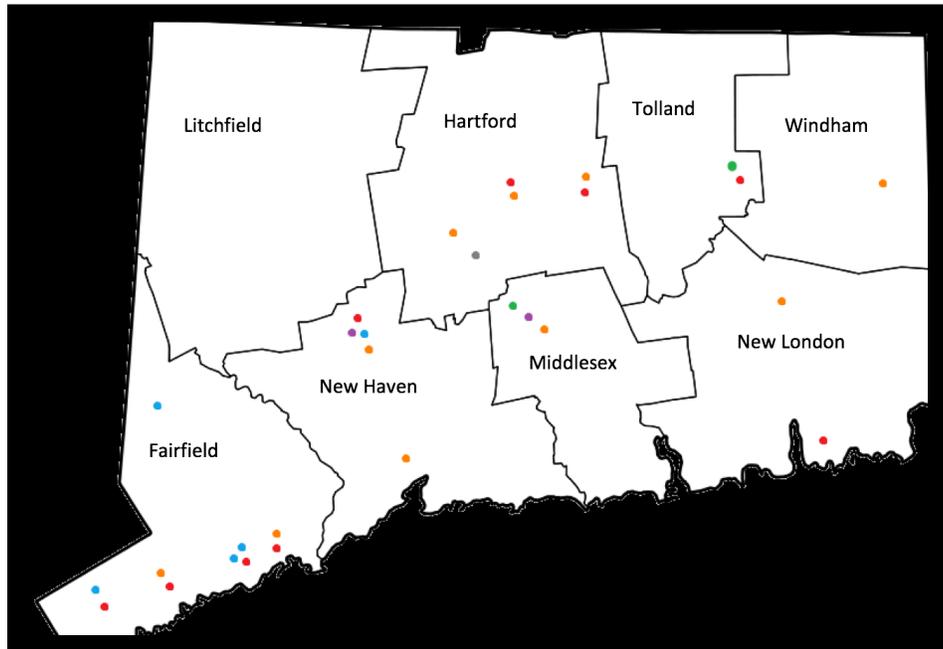
Gap Between	4 th Grade Math	4 th Grade Reading	8 th Grade Math	8 th Grade Reading
Low-income and Non-Low-income	3 rd worst	7 th worst	Worst	10 th worst
Black/African American and White	6 th worst	3 rd worst	5 th worst	3 rd worst
Hispanic/Latino and White	2 nd worst	6 th worst	Worst	4 th worst
English Language Learners (ELL) and Non-ELL	20 of 41	23 of 42	2 nd worst	5 th worst

Source: <https://ctviewpoints.org/2015/11/06/achievement-gap-starts-early-so-cts-pre-k-must-too/>

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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.



Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) primarily serve veterans and displaced or underemployed workers from low-income backgrounds. (10 CT community colleges)

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

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair) prepares low-income, first-generation and minority undergraduates for doctoral study. (University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University)

Student Support Services (SSS) provides academic support, programming, and one-on-one counseling to first-generation, low-income students with the goal of their retention and graduation from college. (Fairfield University, Manchester Community College, Norwalk Community College, University of Bridgeport, University of Connecticut)

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. (Fairfield University, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Sacred Heart University, Stamford Public Schools, Western CT State University)

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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*

Student Success Stories

2019 CAEOP Achiever



JESSICA HERNANDEZ, MSW is the Director for Community Engagement and an Adjunct Faculty member in the School of Social Work at Central Connecticut State University. As a higher education professional and alumnus of both the Upward Bound and Student Support Services Programs, Jessica is committed to developing partnerships that leverage university resources and expand educational opportunities for students in underserved communities. Over the last twenty years, Jessica has worked in TRiO and other programs to support low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students. She has served as an Upward Bound Counselor for the University of Connecticut Upward Bound Program, and most recently as the Associate Director for EOP at Marquette University where she helped oversee the Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math& Science, Student Support Services, and McNair Programs. Jessica has also worked at Georgetown University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill developing programs to assist first-generation, low-income, undocumented, and adjudicated youth learn about the college process and enroll in post-secondary education. Jessica holds a B.A. in Urban Studies and an M.S.W. from the University of Connecticut. She is currently enrolled in the Higher Education Leadership Ed.D. Program at Central. Jessica's interest in social justice and education policy is influenced by her participation in TRiO programs and hopes to continue advocating for TRiO and similar programs through future leadership roles within higher education. Jessica serves on the Boards of the Community Foundation, the YWCA of Greater New Britain, Community Mental Health Affiliates, and the United Way of Greater New Britain Regional Advisory Board.



Naugatuck Valley Community College, Upward Bound (John F. Kennedy High School): **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.

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Naugatuck Valley Community College, Upward Bound (Wilby High School): **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 high 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.



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Naugatuck Valley Community College, GEAR UP:

CHLOE VANLIEROP is a June 2018 graduate of the Naugatuck Valley Community College GEAR UP program. Chloe began her work with GEAR UP as a 7th grade student in 2012 at Wallace Middle School. Chloe was committed to GEAR UP from day one and spent six years learning and growing in the program. Upon graduating from Crosby High School in Waterbury, Chloe was accepted into the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She is an active participant in the Student Support Service program at UCONN. Chloe is presently a Nursing major with a stellar 3.4

GPA in her first semester in college. "Having GEAR UP from 7th grade through high school graduation was tremendously impactful. I cannot imagine my life without the program. When I graduated I was lucky to find a second college support family in SSS. I look forward to many years of success at UCONN because of GEAR UP and SSS." – Chloe Vanlierop.



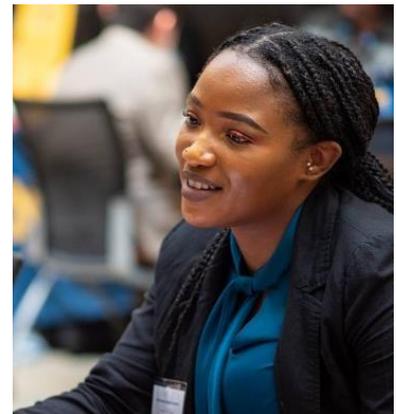
Stamford High School, Upward Bound:

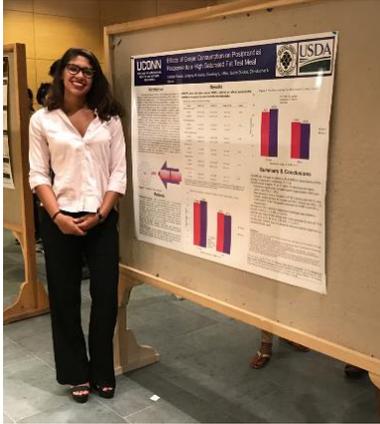
CHRISTINA SAUVEUR born to first generation Haitian parents is a senior in Stamford High School. She has come a long way with a strong determination to face all challenges in reaching her desired goal for higher education. She is very accommodative and a Team Player. Because of her sincere efforts she ranks in the top 10 percent of her class with a 4.57 weighted GPA. She wants to become a nurse and has already received acceptances to 8 of the 11 nursing schools she has applied to including Boston College, Fairfield University, Northeastern University, Southern Connecticut State University and University of Connecticut. Christina is President of the Stamford High Book Club, Executive Committee Member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, and Member of the National Honor Society. She is also a Stamford Public Education Foundation fifth grade mentor and holds a part-time job.

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University of Connecticut, Student Support Services:

LEANN MCLAREN began her college career as a participant in UConn's SSS pre-collegiate summer program in 2015. From the start, the political science major took advantage of opportunities that SSS sent her way. When her SSS counselor sent her information on the Prelaw Undergraduate Scholars Program at University Maine School of Law during freshman year, Leann applied to the program and was accepted for summer 2016. In 2017, she studied abroad in South Africa with the SSS Summer in Cape Town program, gaining global awareness of politics through a service learning experience. Leann spent spring 2018 interning for Connecticut Congressman John Larson in his Washington, DC office as part of the UConn Honors Congressional Internship Program. Also in spring 2018, she was awarded an IDEA (Imagine, Develop, Engage, Apply) grant through the University's Office of Undergraduate Research to study the ways in which Jamaican immigrants contributed to and influenced the Hartford, CT area during the 1980s. In addition, Leann spent summer 2018 at Duke University as a participant in the American Political Science Association Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, where she took graduate level courses, conducted research, and presented her research at the American Political Science Associations annual conference in Boston, MA. These are just some of the accomplishments Leann has achieved over the course of her undergraduate career. Throughout it all, Leann has remained strongly connected to the SSS program, serving as student speaker at the 2018 SSS Academic Achiever's Award Ceremony and continually expressing gratitude to SSS staff for their ongoing support. Currently a senior, Leann plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science after graduation. To that end, she has applied to several doctoral programs. So far, she has been accepted to Duke University, Cornell University, Purdue University, and University of California-San Diego; she is waiting to hear back from several other Ivy League institutions.





University of Connecticut, McNair Scholar:

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.

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Wesleyan University, McNair Program: CHRISTIAN HOYOS

interest in psychological science first began at Wesleyan University. As a McNair Scholar, he was able to focus exclusively on research in the Cognitive Development Lab due to the McNair stipend. The McNair program made it possible for him to spend a summer at Wesleyan to gain further research experience in the lab, which culminated in the completion of his senior thesis project. The McNair program provided funding for him to attend his first professional research conference where he presented his research

to the child development community as an undergraduate. In 2011, he graduated from Wesleyan University with honors in Psychology and enrolled in the Ph.D. Cognitive Psychology Program at Northwestern University. In 2012, he was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to support his graduate research. Christian has presented his research on the processes that underlie children's learning at various professional conferences across the United States and Europe. In 2017, earned a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Northwestern University. He is currently a Human Factors Scientist at Exponent, an engineering and scientific consulting firm. His research background is in the cognitive underpinnings of learning and reasoning, and he regularly works with clients on issues related to cognition, perception, and attention. He believes that the experiences and opportunities he had as a McNair Scholar have had a lasting effect on his professional and educational development.



Wesleyan University, Upward Bound Math Science: HELLENA

RODRIGUEZ is an UBMS class of 2012 alumna and graduate of Mercy College with a Master's in Secondary Education. "My time as a UBMS student was extremely helpful and rewarding. The people I met through UBMS helped me get to college in the first place, and for that I will always be grateful. I reflect back on the opportunities UBMS gave me, and I realize their role in my growth as a student and person. It very much helped me get into the college mindset." she says of the program. This mindset pushed her to thrive at Mercy and take advantage of all opportunities afforded to her. She was able to study abroad,

served as Residential Assistant, and was recognized for Outstanding Leadership by Mercy College faculty. Hellena now inspires students from similar disadvantageous backgrounds as an English teacher at St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven, CT. She teaches many of the skills she learned in UBMS to her students to prepare them not just for academic success, but personal success as well.

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Western Connecticut State University, Upward Bound:

ASHLEY GIL is the student support liaison for Western Connecticut State University's PASS program (Promoting Academically Successful Students) in which she is working with first generation college students manage the many obstacles they are faced with during their first year in college. Ashley is a Danbury, CT resident and first generation college student of Hispanic parents. Ashley is in her final year in the Pace University Mental Health Counseling master's program and obtained a B.A. in Psychology and minor in Human Rights from the University of Connecticut. During her time at the University of Connecticut she spent a semester abroad where she developed a passion for counseling and mentoring. While participating in this Human Rights based program she interned at an NGO called Olive Leaf Foundation where she assisted with a program that trained high school students to be Peer Leaders and spread the effects of HIV/AIDS throughout their school. Ashley also served as a Student Support Services counselor during her time at the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation Ashley lived a year in South Africa and thereafter worked as a Bilingual Domestic Violence Counselor and Legal Court advocate in the White Plains City court. As an alumnus of both the Upward Bound and Student Support Services program Ashley's desire and passion to give back to underserved populations continues to grow as she continues to work with first year students in becoming successful individuals both academically and socially while pursuing their undergraduate degrees.

