



For more information on TRiO:

Montana Aspire - www.aspireonline.org/montana

Regional Aspire - www.aspireonline.org

Council for Opportunity in Education - www.coenet.us

U.S. Department of Education TRiO Home page -

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/trio/index.html

For more information on TRiO in Montana, contact:

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This booklet was designed by Barb Waters, Academic Coordinator for the Student Support Services program at MSU Billings.

Montana TRiO Fact Book 2014

Federal TRiO Programs
U.S. Department of Education

Overview

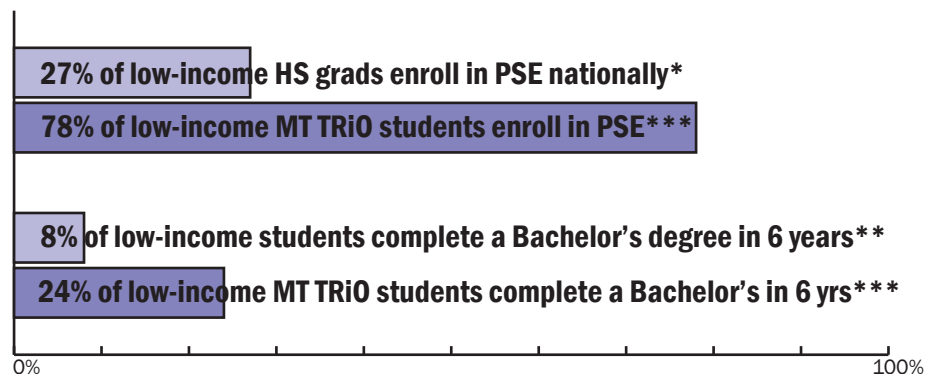
What is TRiO?

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to provide educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and Americans with disabilities. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRiO programs. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

TRiO in Montana is working

In fact, when we compare Montana TRiO students to cohort groups of students from the same demographic (low-income, first-generation, and/or disabled), the students receiving TRiO services are more likely to enroll and graduate from a postsecondary education (PSE) program.

The Current Numbers....



Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$36,000

*Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, October 2010, Number 220

**Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, November 2010, Number 221

***9-year average of Montana Upward Bound APR data

The Federal TRiO Programs

Upward Bound—Services include instruction in math, science, language arts, foreign language and other skills necessary for success in college; academic, financial, and personal counseling; assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications; and career exploration.

Educational Talent Search—Services include academic, financial, career, or personal counseling; tutorial services; exposure to college campuses; assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications; special activities for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; and workshops for the families of participants.

Educational Opportunity Centers—Services include academic advising, personal counseling, and career advising; help in completing applications for college admissions, testing, and financial aid; and financial and economic literacy activities.

Upward Bound Math & Science—Services include summer programs consisting of intensive math and science training; year-round counseling and advising; exposure to university faculty who do research in math and science; computer training; and scientific research conducted under the guidance of a faculty or graduate student mentor.

Veterans' Upward Bound—Services include intensive basic skills development for GED completion; refresher classes for subjects required in college; academic, financial, and personal counseling; tutorial services; assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications; and assistance in securing veterans' services.

Student Support Services—Services include academic tutoring; assistance in college course selection; assistance in completing financial aid and scholarship applications; financial and economic literacy education; assistance in applying to graduate and professional programs; assistance in transferring from two-year to four-year programs; individualized personal, career, and academic counseling; and mentoring.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement—Services include academic counseling; research opportunities and mentoring from faculty; summer internships; tutoring; assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate programs; and seminars and other scholarly activities designed to prepare students for doctoral studies.

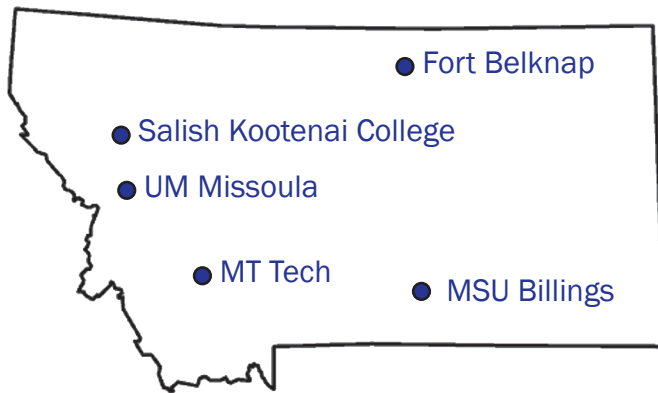
Upward Bound

TRIO

Purpose

Upward Bound (UB) works to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from PSE. Classic UB serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

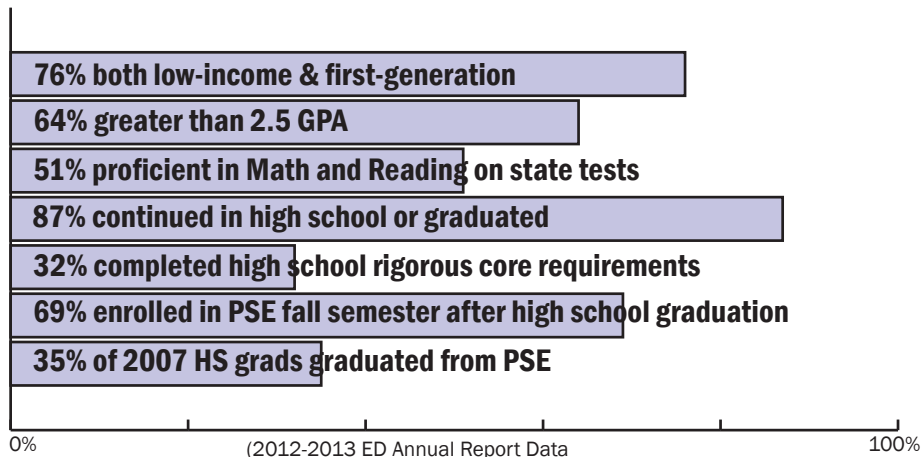
Locations



5 programs

**388
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Annjeanette Belcourt

Dr. Annjeanette Belcourt was a participant in the UB program at Browning HS and went on to participate in the SSS program while completing her undergraduate degree at UM. *"Trio and Upward Bound helped me feel confident in making the transition from my home on the Blackfeet Reservation to the University of Montana. The programs helped provide me with good study habits and with*

relationships with friends that have continued throughout the years. I was grateful for the opportunities provided." Dr. Belcourt (Otter Woman) is an Assistant Professor in the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences at UM's Pharmacy School. She is an enrolled tribal member of the Three Affiliated Tribes: Blackfeet, Chippewa, Mandan & Hidatsa. Dr. Belcourt holds a doctorate in clinical psychology. Her priorities include mental health disparities, trauma, posttraumatic stress reactions, risk, resiliency, and psychiatric disorder within the cultural context of American Indian communities. She completed training with the Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center, working with veterans and addressing post-trauma reactions. She has also worked within community health centers, public schools, and campus counseling centers. Dr. Belcourt has conducted multiple, grant-funded research projects with American Indian communities. These experiences have provided advanced knowledge aimed at the investigation of mental health among American Indians.

"Trio helped me feel confident in making the transition from my home on the Blackfeet Reservation to the University of Montana."

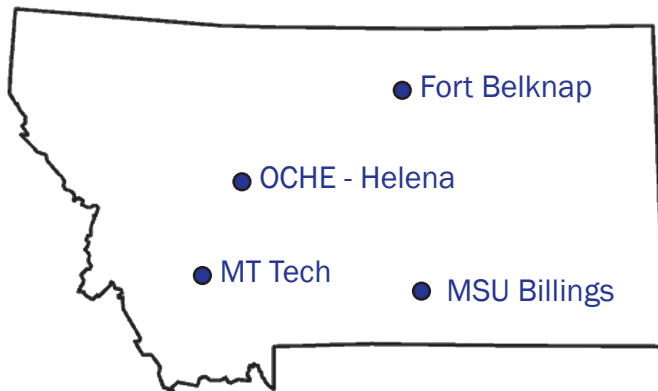
Educational Talent Search

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Educational Talent Search (ETS) is to increase the number of youth, 6th-12th grade, from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in the PSE institution of their choice. Educational Talent Search also serves high school dropouts, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

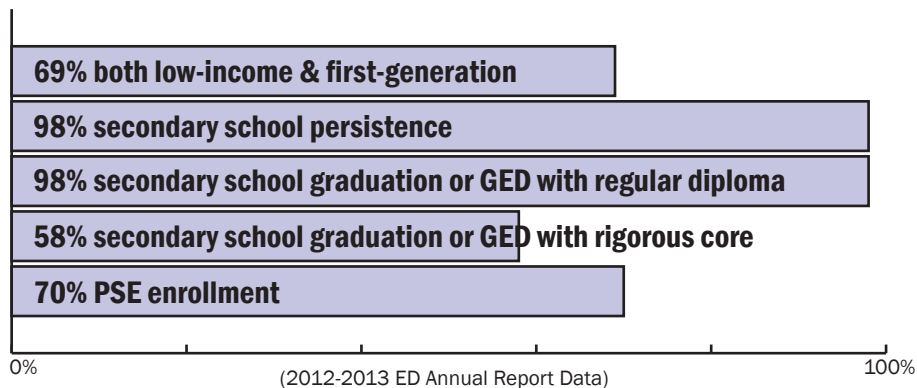
Locations



4 programs

**3,084
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Erik Montague

Erik Montague has dealt with more than his fair share of adversity. Both his parents suffered from mental illness. His father was diagnosed with schizophrenia and his mother with manic depressive disorder. During his schizophrenic lapses, Erik's father would abuse his mom, and once attempted to kidnap Erik. Erik was 13 when his father died. Erik's mother visited the local hospital for treatment

five times a year, and attempted to commit suicide when Erik was 14, 16, and 18 years old. When Erik was 16, his mother went to Montana State Hospital, leaving him to live on his own for a year. Erik worked a part-time job, attended school, and dealt with the responsibilities of living alone. Despite this adversity, Erik excelled in school. He received a 3.78 GPA in high school, was involved in many clubs and organizations, and volunteered over 200 hours during his high school career. Thanks to help from his ETS advisor, Erik received one of 104 Horatio Alger National \$20,000 scholarships to help with his undergraduate expenses. Erik will soon graduate with degrees in English and Theater, and has completely paid his way through college with scholarships and grants. He plans to volunteer in the Peace Corps, and eventually wants to become a family lawyer. *"Though I've dealt with a lot, I can't help but be appreciative of all the help that I've received along the way. I never would've been able to get this far without others' kindness, and for that, I'm eternally grateful."*

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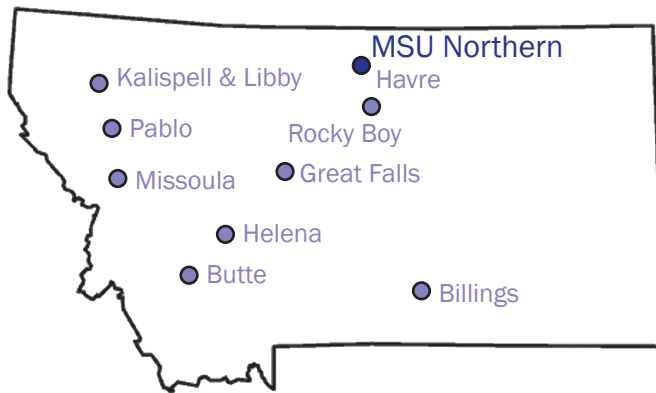
Educational Opportunity Centers

TRiO

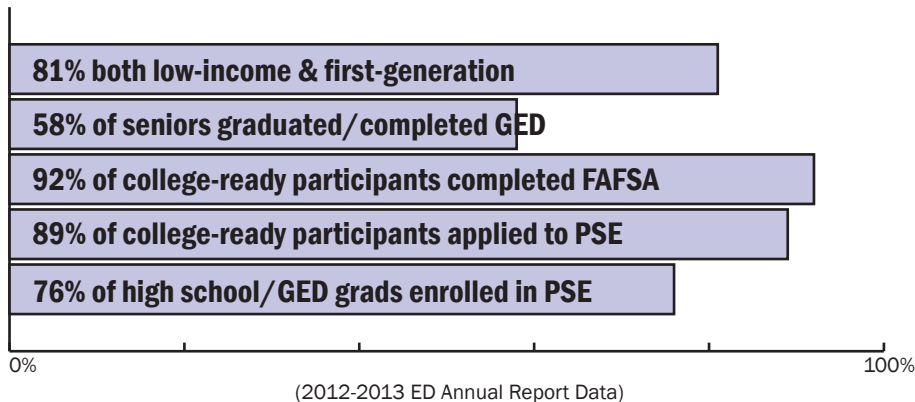
Purpose

The goal of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in PSE. 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.

Locations



Montana Outcomes



Forrest Winkler

Forrest Winkler had a troubled youth and was incarcerated for 40 years, 34 of them in the Montana Prison System, for bank robbery. While in prison, Forrest spent 11 years educating himself on computer programming. After his release, Forrest wanted to find gainful employment and be a contributing and productive member of society. He first entertained the idea of college when he was 68 years of age

and became an EOC program participant in Missoula. EOC showed Forrest that a college education was possible and helped him believe that he could pursue his dreams. In addition, EOC helped him complete his application for admission, fulfill the requirements of the safety and security committee, fill out the FAFSA and apply for a tuition waiver to pay for his education. Although the transition to college was rough the first semester, EOC helped Forrest learn who to go to for help, and he persevered. He earned a 3.7 GPA and made the Dean's list. Forrest will graduate in May, 2014 with an Associate's Degree in Information Technology with an option in Information System Management. He already has a lead on a position working with Healthcare Informatics with a clinic in Missoula. He is fulfilling his goal to be a contributing and productive member of society. "EOC was very proactive in getting me into school; even when I gave up on myself they did not. Education has given me choices and opportunities in the workforce."

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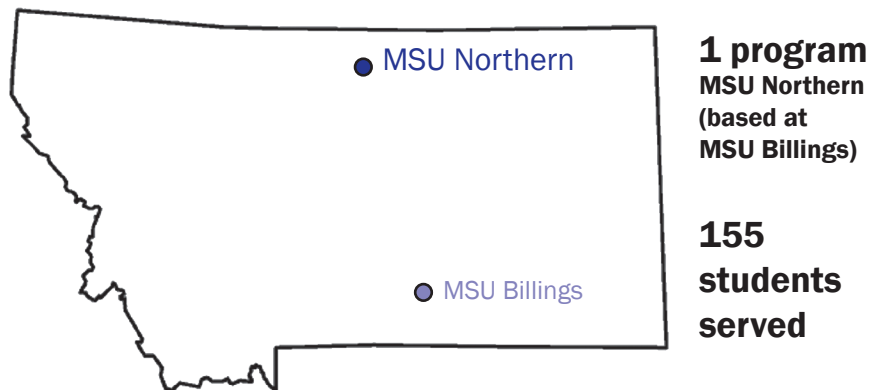
Veterans' Upward Bound

TRIO

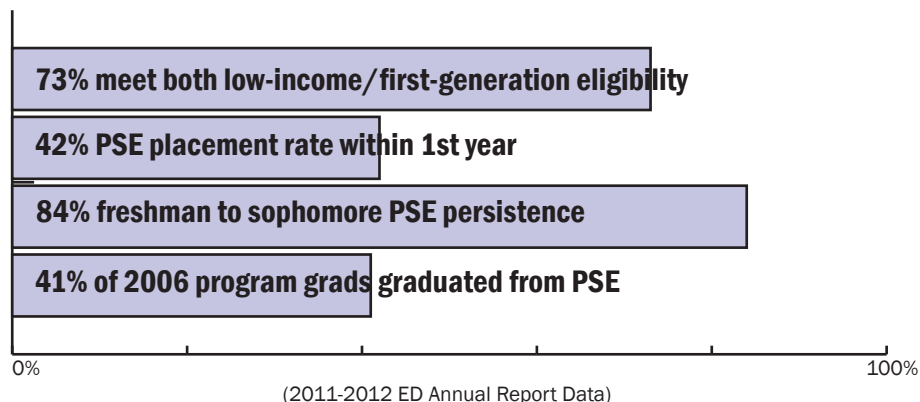
Purpose

The goal of Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB) is to increase the rates at which participating veterans enroll in and graduate from PSE. Veterans' UB serves low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter PSE.

Locations



Montana Outcomes



Larry Whittaker

After a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy that culminated with his final tour in England, Larry Whittaker began plans to realize his life-long goal of earning a college degree. His research brought him to Montana and to the Veterans' Upward Bound Program in Billings. From his initial inquiry into the program through his graduation at program's end, he displayed focus, determination, and a sincere love

of learning. Unanimously selected by the VUB faculty as the Outstanding Student for the Spring 2014 cohort, he was described as a resourceful and curious learner who was unwilling to rest on what he already knew to get by in life. Larry always looked for any occasion to learn something new and to share those discoveries with his instructors and classmates. His hard work made him a very solid applicant for college, and he was accepted into Rocky Mountain College in Billings in the fall of 2013. Larry is majoring in Business and earned a 4.0 GPA his first semester in school. He continues to exemplify qualities that are so essential to college success: strong academic ability, leadership, discipline, and personal integrity.

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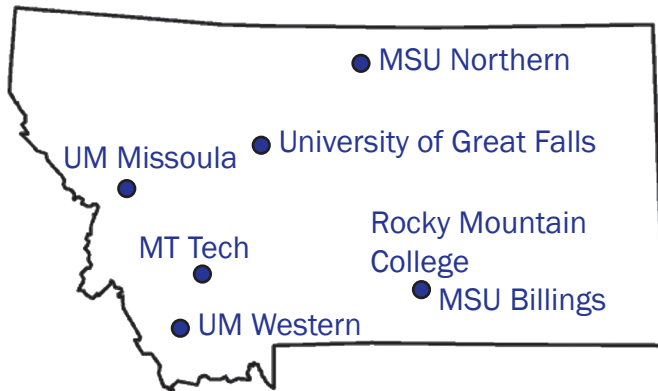
Student Support Services - 4 year

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/4-year projects is to increase college retention and graduation rates of participating students. SSS provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of PSE. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants. 313 Bachelor's degrees were earned by MT SSS participants in 2012-2013.

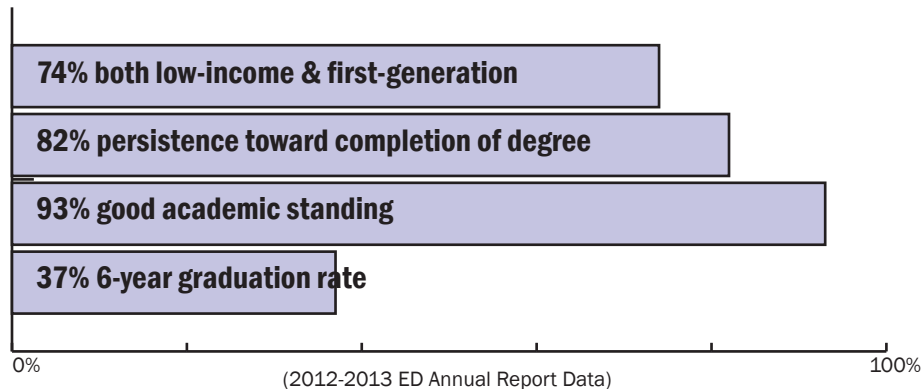
Locations



7 programs

**1,662
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Jason Hamm

Jason Hamm was a young man with a family who had already reached the salary cap as a mechanical designer with an engineering company. Returning to school, working part-time and supporting a family was not an easy road for Jason, but he knew he wanted more for his family. Jason will graduate in May 2014 with a degree in engineering and is currently taking courses to complete

his master's degree in Project Management. Jason's goal is to become a licensed Professional Engineer. Jason's senior design project "Energy Saving Geothermal Heat Pumping in Abandoned Mine Shafts" utilizes warm waters from abandoned mine shafts to help assist in the heating and cooling of buildings, a much needed alternative heat source. Jason's accomplishments didn't come easily, some of his first classes included multivariable calculus, chemistry and physics. It didn't take long before Jason realized he needed a tutor and a quiet place to study. Jason has given back to SSS repeatedly. He has helped tutor, talked to fellow students, and helped the campus understand some obstacles students face, such as the need for a daycare. "SSS provided me with a network of knowledgeable staff and students that made the transition into school much easier for a non-traditional like myself, providing a place to ask questions and get help."

"SSS provided me with a network of knowledgeable staff and students that made the transition into school much easier..."

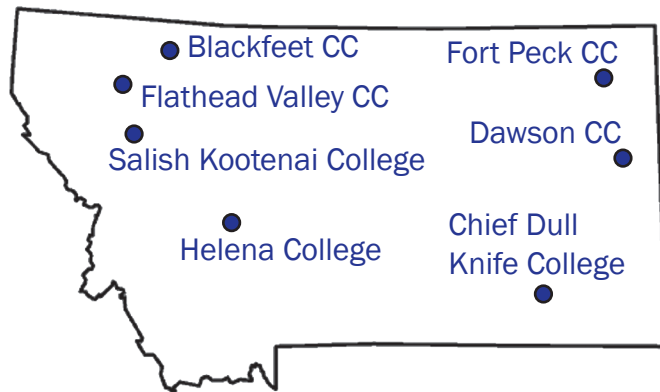
Student Support Services - 2 year

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/2-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next, particularly from 2-year degree programs to 4-year degree programs. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants. 194 degrees or certificates were earned by MT SSS participants in 2012-2013.

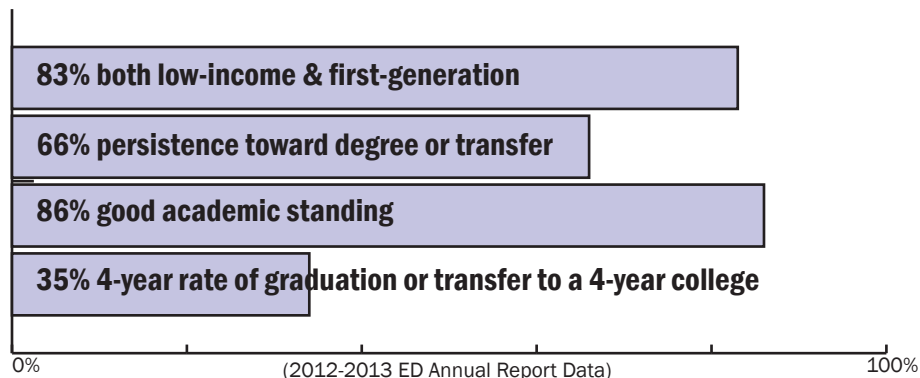
Locations



7 programs

**1,109
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Johanna Whiteplume

Johanna Whiteplume is a graduate of Shoshone-Bannock Indian High School and a member of the Northern Arapaho tribe. Johanna enrolled at Salish Kootenai College in 2009 as a new student and a single parent. Johanna knew that she wanted to improve her chances of succeeding in the classroom and ultimately graduating with a degree. Johanna signed up with SSS and began developing her academic

skills with the help of tutors and by attending various workshops. *"The SSS staff gave me a lot of help as a student. Not only did they motivate me to succeed academically but also provided the inspiration to be a role model as a student and community minded individual."* Part of Johanna's success can be attributed to her strong work ethic, which she demonstrated in her work study position at SSS. *"Not only did I receive the help I needed from TRiO, but I also was able to give back and see other students grow and succeed by providing them with the assistance and support to meet their academic goals."* Johanna received certificates in Office Professions as well as Medical Office Clerk last year. Johanna plans to complete her Associate's degree in Business Technology this year and wants to transfer into the Business Administration Bachelor's degree program next fall. After Johanna completes her degree, she hopes to one day work in a setting like SSS to help other tribal college students. *"If you ever needed someone to talk to, or someone to just listen, SSS was there to not only give support but to provide much needed guidance as well."*

"SSS was there to not only give support but to provide much needed guidance as well."

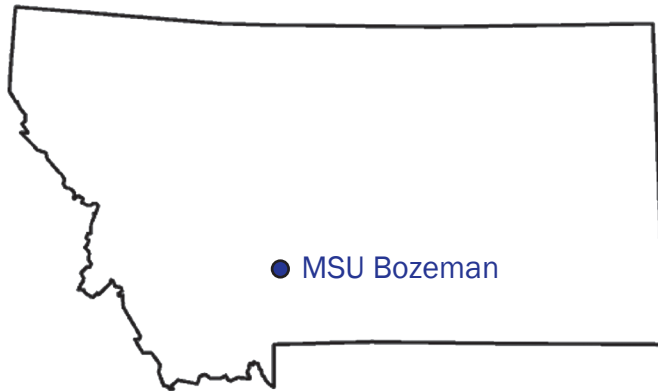
McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of The McNair Scholars Program is to promote equity in graduate school enrollment by encouraging the completion of doctoral degrees by low-income, first generation or underrepresented minority students. The program facilitates each student's successful application to graduate school and better equips them with confidence, knowledge and skills for meaningful and relevant contributions to their professional career endeavors.

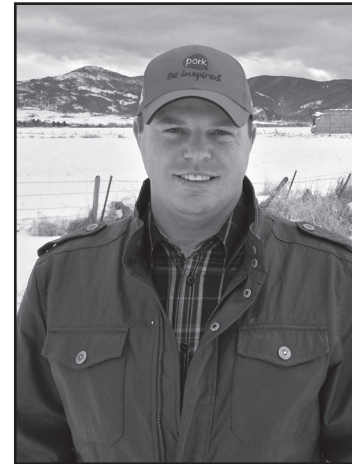
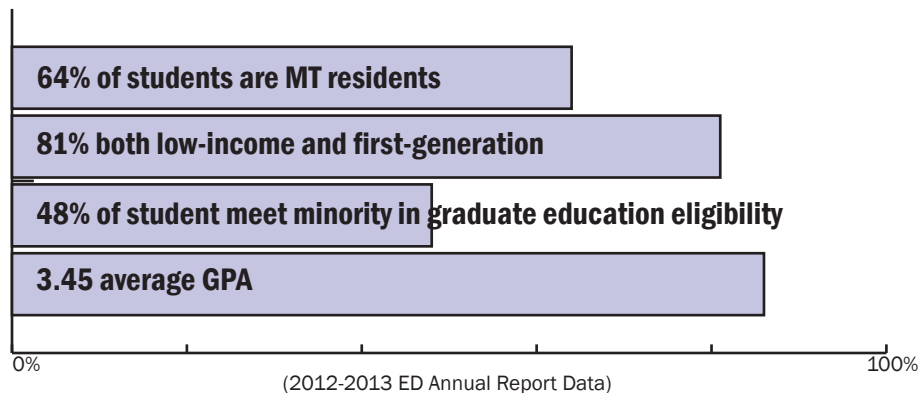
Locations



1 program

86 students served to date

Montana Outcomes



Thomas Wurtz

Thomas was raised in an insular religious group called Hutterites, who reside in congregations whose livelihood depends on farming and ranching. After graduating from the eighth grade, Thomas began the Hutterite legacy of being an apprentice to his father, the manager of the colony's swine unit. Approximately ten years later, Thomas left the Hutterite culture and started college. He is

currently majoring in Biotechnology: Animal Systems Option and is on track to graduate in the Spring of 2014. The McNair Scholars program has provided Thomas with guidance to pursue his dream of obtaining a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition. Recently Thomas has been admitted into several colleges of veterinary medicine. He matriculates into the veterinary program in the Fall of 2014. The McNair Program helped Thomas overcome challenges and provided him with opportunities. *"The GRE workshops were the most helpful in making me a better candidate because my formal education was rudimentary,"* says Thomas. He adds, *"having the opportunity to conduct research on the metabolic rates of cattle in undergrad allowed me to demonstrate my interest in science rather than just expressing it on paper."* Additionally, the biweekly seminars directed Thomas to write a compelling personal statement for graduate school applications. The McNair Program at MSU has opened the doors to many opportunities.

"The GRE workshops were the most helpful in making me a better candidate..."

TRiO in Montana

TRiO

Program Location	Students	Funding
Student Support Services - 4 year		
Montana State University Billings	250	\$304,719
Montana State University Northern	240	255,079
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	120	213,180
Rocky Mountain College	250	290,966
University of Great Falls	230	288,623
University of Montana Missoula	375	407,708
University of Montana Western	160	247,584
Program Total	1,625	2,007,859
Student Support Services - 2 year		
Blackfeet Community College	170	294,826
Chief Dull Knife College	90	130,815
Dawson Community College	140	272,939
Flathead Valley Community College	350	323,238
Fort Peck Community College	175	270,551
Salish Kootenai College	230	291,922
Helena College, University of Montana	140	213,180
Program Total	1,295	1,797,471
Student Support Services Combined Total	2,920	3,805,330
Educational Opportunity Centers		
Billings – Lincoln Center		
Butte – Highlands College of Montana Tech		
Great Falls – Great Falls College, MSU		
Havre - Montana State University Northern		
Helena – Helena Job Service Workforce Center		
Kalispell & Libby – Flathead Valley CC		
Missoula – Missoula College, UM		
Pablo – Salish Kootenai College		
Rocky Boy Reservation – Stone Child College		
Program Total	2,500	597,371

Program Location	Students	Funding
Educational Talent Search		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	694	317,274
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,287	584,694
Montana State University Billings	592	230,000
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	503	230,000
Program Total	3,076	1,361,968
McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement		
Montana State University Bozeman	25	220,000
Classic Upward Bound		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	75	323,805
Montana State University Billings	75	328,398
Salish Kootenai College	84	361,961
University of Montana Missoula	75	337,500
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	64	287,881
Program Total	373	1,639,545
Veteran's Upward Bound		
Montana State University Northern	155	341,000
Upward Bound Combined Total	528	1,980,545
Grand Total for 26 programs	9,049	\$7,965,214