

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/ope/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 2015

Federal TRiO Programs
U.S. Department of Education

Overview

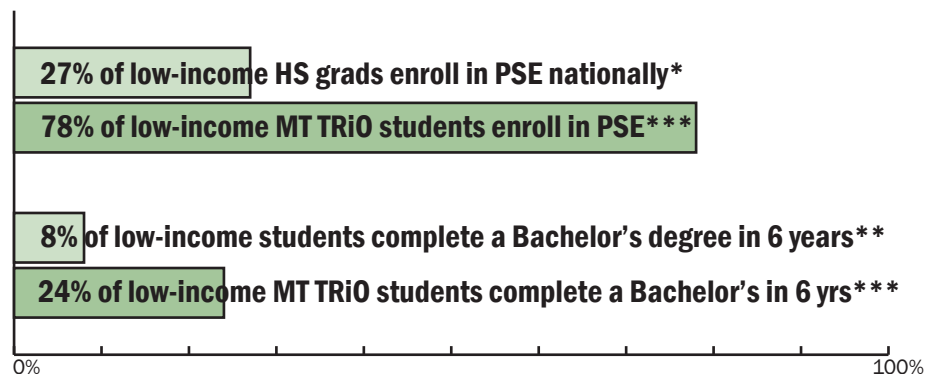
What is TRiO?

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.

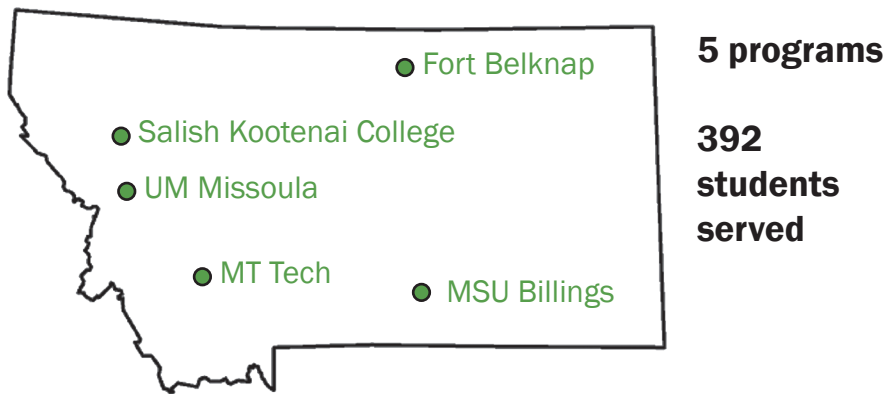
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement—Services include academic counseling; research opportunities and mentoring from faculty; summer internships; tutoring; assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate programs; and seminars and other scholarly activities designed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

Upward Bound

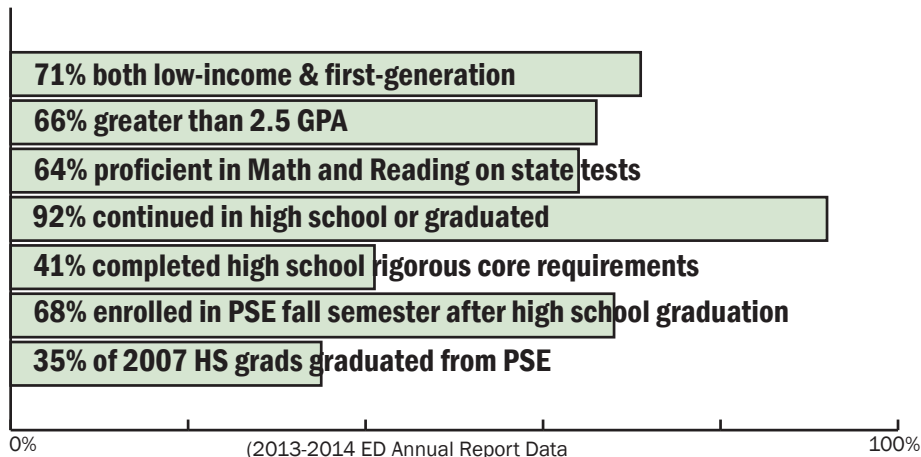
Purpose

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



Montana Outcomes



Marie Burke

As a child, Marie Burke's parents struggled with mental illness and Marie was placed into the foster care system until she was adopted at age 16. While Marie got good grades in school, she had little direction in her life. This changed when she was accepted to the Upward Bound program at MSU Billings. *"I don't know what really made me excel in school, but I was always a really good student. I didn't have the*

common sense to know what to do with it." Her participation in Upward Bound and the college experience that it provided instilled in her the belief that she could go to college and earn a degree. *"A lot of people have on their minds, 'college, college, college,' and there's so many steps involved and we take for granted how much of that is guided by the parents. I don't remember ever having the idea like, I want to go to college, but I do remember that it became an obvious thing because of my teachers and Upward Bound."* Marie discovered acting while she was in high school and decided to attend USC where she double majored in theater and communications. Since earning her Bachelor's degree, Marie has become a successful actor, having been in several national commercials, three television shows and two films. Marie credits her success to persistence, hard work and her time in Upward Bound. *"There are few things in my life that really stand out as having impacted me every day of my life. Upward Bound is one of those things."*

"I'm very indebted to the program. There are so many people's lives it has helped."

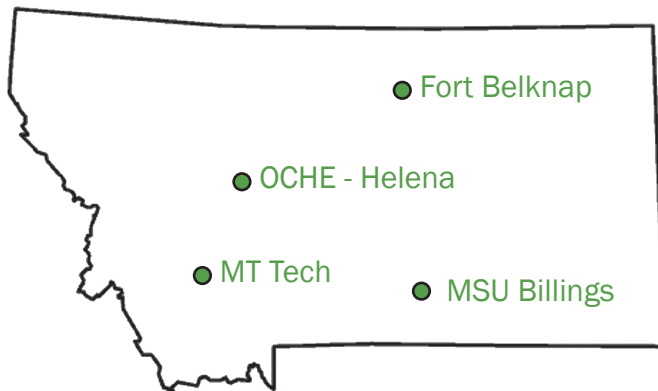
Educational Talent Search

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.

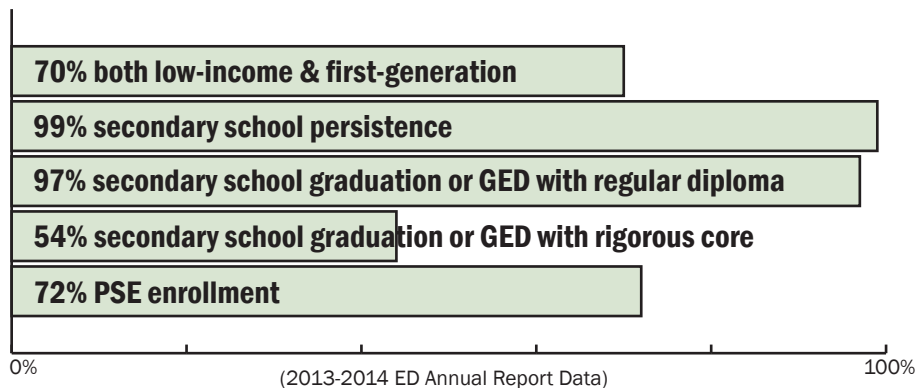
Locations



4 programs

**2,591
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."*

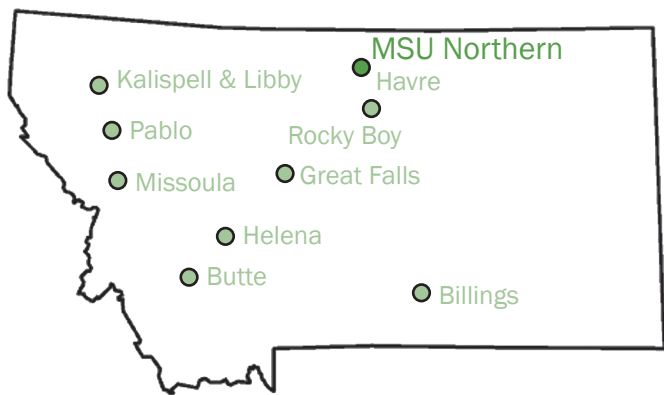
"I never would've been able to get this far without others' kindness, and for that, I'm eternally grateful."

Educational Opportunity Centers TRiO

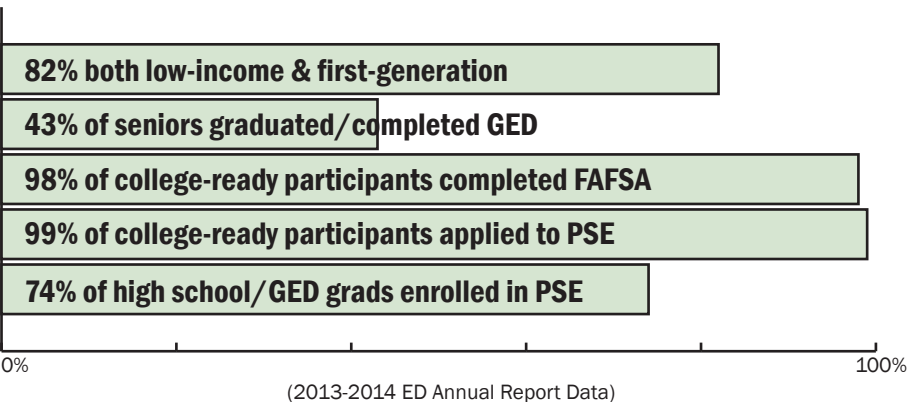
Purpose

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



Genie Hutchinson

Genie is an exceptional woman who personifies the expression “anything is possible,” which is clearly evidenced by her fierce spirit of determination. In 2006, Genie made the life changing decision to break free of her addiction to drugs and make a better life for herself and her children. Genie always dreamed of going to college, but fear of failure paralyzed her from moving forward until she began to connect with

people who believed in her and fortified her to take the leap. TRiO Educational Opportunity provided Genie with the framework and support to make her college dreams a reality. She started working towards her AA degree at The Missoula College UM in the fall semester of 2013, moving into the accounting program and now aspires to continue on with school and become a CPA. She continues to be a role model to other students and an inspiration to others for pursuing higher education. Genie has been on the Dean’s list for excellent grades since her first semester in college and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Genie continues to motivate and boost others to pursue their own educational goals and has created a legacy of learning in her family. Her daughter and her boyfriend are currently enrolled as students at the Missoula College UM, pursuing their own educational dreams. “People look to me for inspiration and strength and it is an amazing feeling have my hard work acknowledged and maybe even admired and EOC helped me get here.”

“I am so glad to say that I am now a positive influence on the people in my life.”

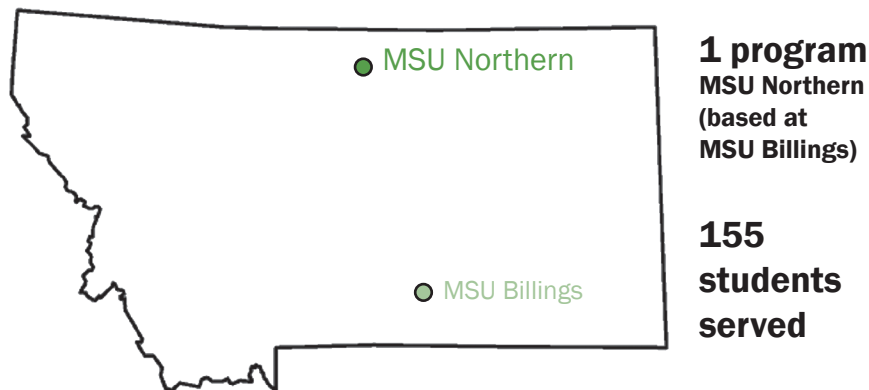
Veterans' Upward Bound

TRIO

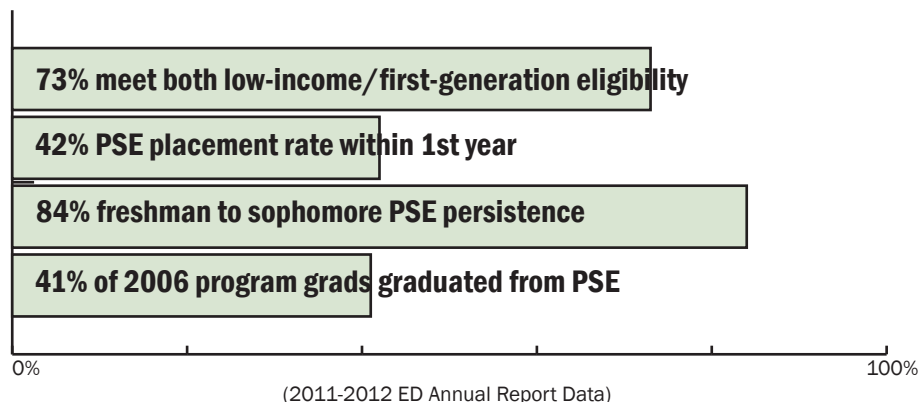
Purpose

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 2015 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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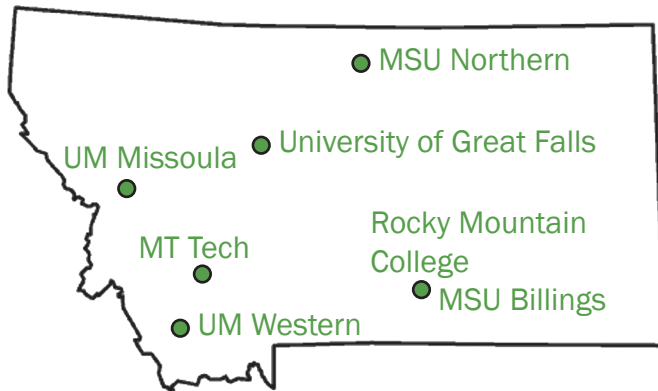
Student Support Services - 4 year

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.

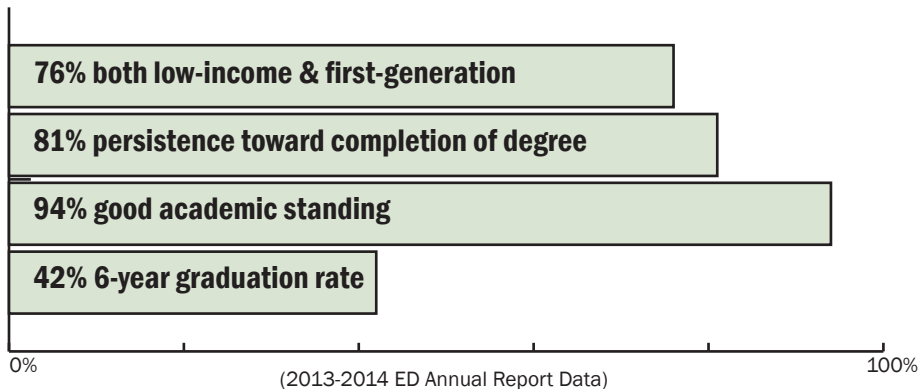
Locations



7 programs

**1,765
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Trudy Carey

After a 20-year career as a full-time mom, Trudy Carey was ready to enter the workforce but realized that her prospects will be limited. After being told that she was only qualified to hand out supermarket samples, Trudy decided that she was going to attend college. She enrolled at MSU Billings and consoled herself with the thought that she could always change her mind if she found out that college wasn't for

her. As she nervously approached the beginning of school, she saw an advertisement for the Return to Learn workshop sponsored by Student Support Services. She left the workshop with an enthusiastic "I can do it" attitude and started school. With the help of SSS, Trudy overcame every obstacle and thrived. Trudy admits that she was surprised when her SSS mentor informed Trudy that she needed to prepare a resume two years prior to graduation. "Her foresight in helping me prepare a resume was perfectly timed." When a part-time job in Financial Aid became available, Trudy was ready to apply. "That job gave me a background in student affairs that launched a career." Trudy graduated with her Bachelor's degree then her Master's degree a few years later. That Master's degree helped her get the job as Director of Disability Support Services at MSU Billings. "I still work with SSS regularly. I have the opportunity to walk students to the SSS office and hand them over to people who will nurture their success like they nurtured mine."

"My fears disappeared while I listened to people who convinced me that I could go to college."

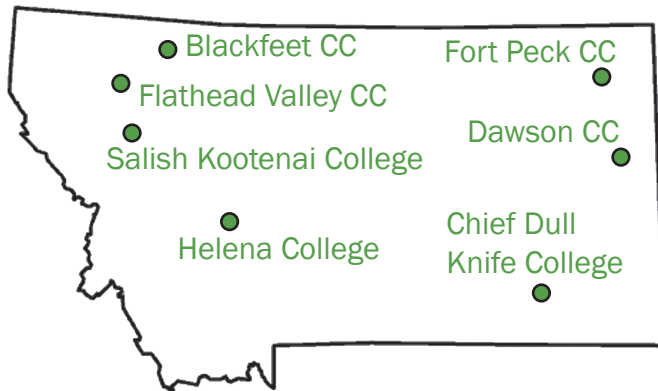
Student Support Services - 2 year

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.

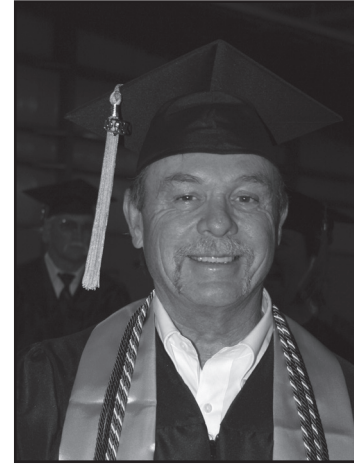
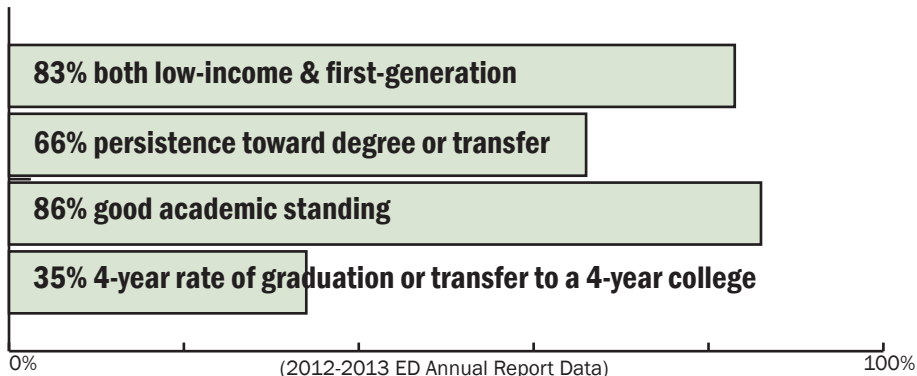
Locations



7 programs

**1,109
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Robert Daniels

Robert Daniels grew up in Great Falls and started his academic career at the Flathead Valley Community College in 2011. Rob graduated with an AA in Substance Abuse Counseling in spring 2014 with a 3.86 gpa and plans to complete a Bachelor of Science in Social Work through UM-Missoula and one day earn his Master's Degree. Rob has been an active member of the FVCC Disability Support Group, the FVCC's

Veterans' Association, the Veterans' Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. His contributions on and off campus include volunteer work with Veterans, children, and students with disabilities. Rob is endlessly encouraging of the people around him and always willing to help when there is a need. Rob aspires to become a counselor for Veteran's who are homeless, struggling with addiction, and PTSD. *"I had a difficult adjustment period coming out of the service, and I didn't think it was even possible for me to go to college. With the help of FVCC instructors and TRIO staff, I was able to ease into classes. I had a lot of encouragement – they were all so patient with me. If I could tell other veterans who are considering college one thing, it would be: 'Why not?' It's one of the best decisions you'll ever make, and it will give you a sense of self-worth and achievement. What I found out in life is that the only way I'll fail is if I don't try. Doors are opening for my future that never would have if I hadn't just taken that leap and had the support of the school which pushed me to keep going."*

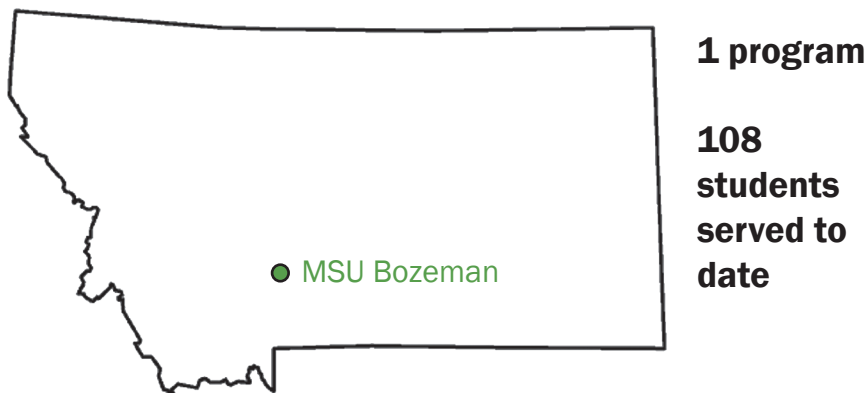
"I'm excited about my future again."

McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

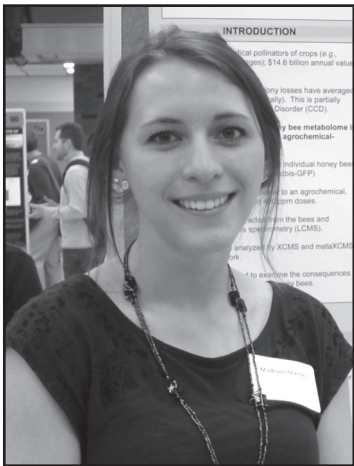
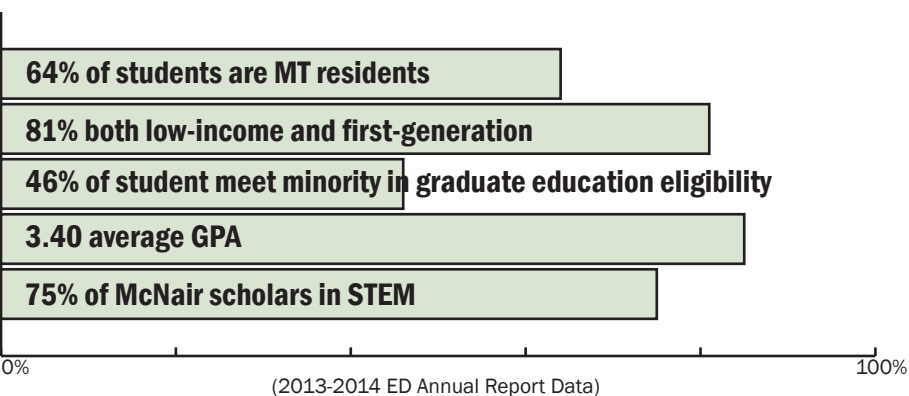
Purpose

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



Montana Outcomes



Madison Martin

Madison Martin graduated from Montana State University in 2014 with a degree in microbiology. Madison is from Laurel and is the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

“A lot of undergraduates do not think it’s a very big deal, but I do. It’s a huge accomplishment, especially in the sciences and in my family.”

Madison dreams of earning a Ph.D. – despite what she calls her “love-hate”

relationship with scientific research. *“It’s often frustrating when you have to wait for results or do not get the results you want. Still, it’s so very rewarding in the end and makes me want to come back to the lab every day.”* As a McNair Scholar, Madison conducted research on honey bees, although she did not know much about bees when she first walked into her research mentor, Dr. Michelle Flenniken’s laboratory. *“I stuck around and I learned how important honey bees are for our lives and how crucial the research is.”* As a McNair Scholar, she has had the opportunity to travel and present on the role pathogens and pesticides play in bee metabolism at national conferences in California and Colorado, all of which helped her to be a very competitive candidate for various graduate school programs that she applied to. She plans to continue to conduct research in the area of microbiology and immunology while on her quest to attain her doctorate.

“The McNair Scholars Program gave me the confidence that I could go on to graduate school and provided me with essential financial support to complete my degree.”

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	272,014
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	1,988,907
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	3,786,378
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	\$7,946,262

(FY 2014 US Department of Education Data from Federal TRIO Website)