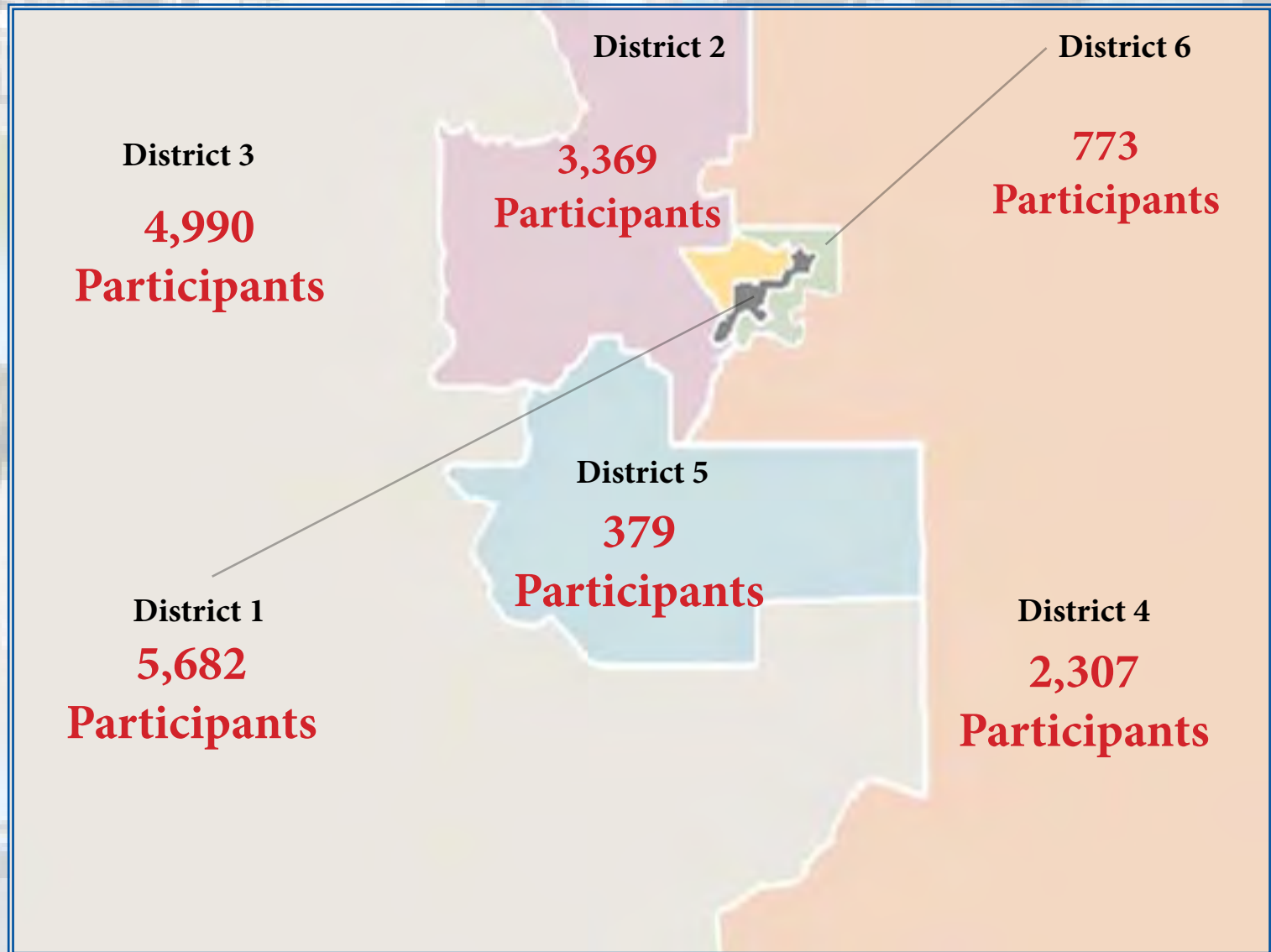


# TRiO WORKS

## 2013 Fact Book COLORADO



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Regional ASPIRE: <http://aspireonline.org/>

Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE: <https://sites.google.com/site/aspirecolorado/>

## What is TRiO?

TRiO includes seven programs targeted to serve disadvantaged Americans. These populations include low-income individuals, first-generation college students, disabled persons and disconnected individuals as they progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

The TRiO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers. TRiO began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty in 1965.

Nearly one million Americans are served nationwide by 2,800 TRiO programs.

## History of TRiO Programs

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, through the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress established the TRiO programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. Congress mandated that two-thirds of the participants served must be from low-income backgrounds where neither parent graduated from college.

The Higher Education Act of 2008 with the reauthorization in 2010 further broadened the definition of eligibility for TRiO services to include: homeless and foster care youth, disabled people, those with limited English proficiency and other disconnected individuals. The reauthorization of 2010 also provided further clarification to the terms, veteran's eligibility, eligible participants; and more important, it prohibited enforcing "absolute priority" or "control groups" for evaluation of the TRiO Programs.

The logo for TRiO, with the letters 'TRiO' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is red and has a red dot above it. The letters 'T', 'R', and 'O' are black. A thin red horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

The current administration has committed to having the highest proportion of students graduating from college in the world by 2020.

TRiO programs are mandated to provide the mentoring/advising support needed to help students overcome academic, class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. TRiO services ensure that educational opportunity remains available to all students in an increasingly competitive global economy and world.

## TRiO Programs

TRiO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary to promote college access, retention, and graduation.

**Educational Talent Search**  
Grades 6-12

**Upward Bound**  
Grades 9-12

**Upward Bound Math/Science**  
Grades 9-12

**Veterans Upward Bound**  
Military Veterans

**Student Support Services**  
Undergraduate Students

**Ronald E. McNair**  
Provides Graduate School Preparation for Undergraduates

**Educational Opportunity Centers**  
Adults

## Educational Talent Search

### Goal

The goal of Educational Talent Search (ETS) is to increase the number of youth, 6th-12th grade, from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school and enroll in a postsecondary institution.

### Services

- Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling and mentoring
- Career exploration
- Tutorial services
- Information on postsecondary education
- Exposure to college campuses
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Workshops for the families of participants

### ETS in Colorado

There are 5 ETS programs, hosted by the following institutions or agency:

- Arapahoe Community College
- Colorado State University
- Denver Scholarship Foundation
- Fort Lewis College
- The Greeley Dream Team, Inc.

The total federal funding for the 5 programs equals \$1,429,934

<b>3,264:</b> Number of Participants Served
<b>74%:</b> Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants
<b>99%:</b> Persistence in Secondary School
<b>96%:</b> High School Graduation Rate
<b>87%:</b> Percentage of Students Applying for College Admissions
<b>87%:</b> Percentage of Students Applying for Financial Aid
<b>77%:</b> Post Secondary Enrollment Rate

## Upward Bound

### Goal

The goal of Upward Bound (UB) is to increase academic skills, motivation, and the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Upward Bound programs also provide a six-week summer experience on a college campus.

### Services

- Academic, financial, career and personal counseling services
- Exposure to academic programs, cultural events and college campuses
- Tutorial services including instruction in core subjects
- Assistance in completing college and financial aid applications
- Work study positions to expose participants to careers requiring postsecondary degrees

### UB in Colorado

There are 12 UB programs, hosted by the following institutions:

- Adams State University
- Colorado Mountain College (2)
- Colorado State University-Fort Collins
- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Fort Lewis College
- LULAC National Education Center, Inc.
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Pueblo Community College
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Northern Colorado

The total federal funding for the 12 programs equals \$4,028,043

<b>901:</b> Number of Participants Served
<b>80%:</b> Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants
<b>84%:</b> High School Graduation Rate
<b>70%:</b> Post-Secondary Enrollment Rate
<b>87%:</b> Postsecondary Persistence

## Upward Bound Math/Science

### Goal

Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) is a specialized UB program, with the collaboration of math and science centers. The goal of UBMS is to help students recognize and develop their potential in math and science and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary education in these fields.

### Services

- Year-round counseling and advisement
- Exposure to university faculty who do research in math or science
- Summer programs with intensive math and science focus
- Tutoring
- Participant-conducted scientific research under the guidance of a faculty member or graduate student serving as the participant's mentor

### UBMS in Colorado

There are 2 UBMS program, hosted by the following institution and agency:

- Trinidad State Junior College
- LULAC National Education Center, Inc.

The total federal funding for the 2 programs equals \$608,904

<b>125:</b> Number of Participants Served
<b>78%:</b> Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants
<b>97%:</b> High School Graduation Rate
<b>81%:</b> Post-Secondary Enrollment Rate
<b>90%:</b> Postsecondary Persistence

## Veterans Upward Bound

### Goal

The goal of Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education.

VUB serves low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education.

### Services

- Intensive basic skills development in academic subjects
- Short-term remedial refresher classes for veterans who are high school graduates but have delayed postsecondary education
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Tutorial services
- Assistance in completing college and financial aid applications
- Assistance in securing veterans services from other locally available resources

### VUB in Colorado

There are 2 VUB programs, hosted by the following institutions:

- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Metropolitan State University of Denver

The total federal funding for the 2 programs equals \$530,943

<b>241:</b> Number of Participants Served
<b>75%:</b> Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants
<b>25%:</b> Post-Secondary Placement Rate within 1st year

## Student Support Services

### Goal

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS) is to increase the college retention and baccalaureate graduation rates of first-generation, low-income, and disabled students. SSS helps 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.

### Services

- Instruction in reading, writing, math, and/or study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate and professional programs
- Information about career options
- Mentoring

### SSS in Colorado

There are 24 SSS programs, hosted by the following institutions:

- Adams State University
- Aims Community College
- Aims Community College STEM3
- Colorado Mesa University
- Colorado Mountain College (2 programs)
- Colorado State University-Fort Collins
- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Community College of Aurora
- Community College of Denver
- Fort Lewis College
- Fort Lewis STEM3
- Lamar Community College
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Northeastern Junior College
- Otero Junior College
- Pikes Peak Community College
- Pikes Peak Community College Disabled Student Services
- Pueblo Community College
- Trinidad State Junior College
- Trinidad State Junior College —Valley Campus
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Northern Colorado

The total federal funding for the 24 programs equals \$6,253,808

**4,335:** Number of Participants Served

**71%:** Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants

**73%:** Persistence to Graduation

**89%:** Good Academic Standing

## Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program

### Goal

The goal of McNair is to increase the attainment of the Ph.D by students from underrepresented segments of society.

This program is designed to prepare participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

Institutions work closely with participants through their undergraduate requirements, encourage their entrance into graduate programs, and track their progress to successful completion of advanced degrees.

### Services

- Research opportunities
- Mentoring
- Summer internships
- Seminars
- Tutoring
- Academic counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate programs

### McNair in Colorado

There is 1 McNair program, hosted by the following institution:

- University of Northern Colorado

The total federal funding for the program equals \$252,846

There are **33 participants** benefitting from the McNair program in Colorado.

## Educational Opportunity Centers

### Goal

The goal of Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is to increase the number of first-generation and limited-income adult participants who enroll in programs of postsecondary education. An important objective of EOC is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application.

### Services

- Academic advising
- Disseminating information on post-secondary educational opportunities
- Information on students financial assistance
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Career workshops
- Assistance in completing applications for college admissions, testing and financial aid
- Media activities designed to educate the community on higher education

### EOC in Colorado

There are 3 EOC programs, hosted by the following institutions:

- Colorado State University-Fort Collins
- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Community College of Denver

The total federal funding for the 3 programs equals \$1,664,236

<b>8,601:</b> Number of Participants Served
<b>79%:</b> Percent of Low Income and First Generation Participants
<b>52%:</b> Post-Secondary Enrollment Rate
<b>310:</b> Participants Enrolling in 4-year Institutions
<b>3,217:</b> Participants Enrolling in 2-year Institutions

## TRiO Photos



**TRiO**  
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# District 1

**5,682 Participants**  
8 programs:

**Community College of Denver**  
www.ccd.edu  
Educational Opportunity Center  
Student Support Services

**Denver Scholarship Foundation**  
www.denverscholarship.org  
Educational Talent Search

**Metropolitan State University of Denver**  
www.msudenver.edu  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound  
Veterans Upward Bound

**University of Colorado Denver**  
www.ucdenver.edu  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound

**Total Federal Funding for District 1: \$2,658,130**



COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE OF  
DENVER



Denver  
Scholarship  
FOUNDATION  
A 501(c)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY



METROPOLITAN  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF DENVER



University  
of Colorado  
Denver

*“TRiO works because of the caring staff  
and student mentors working together  
with students to assist the learning and  
growth of future leaders of America.”*

*~Fu Wang,*

*University of Colorado Denver, Student Support Services*

*“TRiO works because it has provided  
me the tools to reach my dreams.”*

*~Mayra Guzman Mendoza,*

*Community College of Denver, Educational Opportunity Center*

*“I would not be where I am today, as a May 2013  
graduate from MSU Denver, without the constant  
support that I still receive from Upward Bound.”*

*~Kiara Roberts,*

*Metropolitan State University of Denver, Upward Bound*



## Mayra Guzman Mendoza

**Institution:** Community College of Denver

**Program:** *Educational Opportunity Center*



**Mayra Guzman Mendoza** immigrated to the United State of America at the age of 13. She went on to attend Alameda High School in Lakewood, Colorado. Coming to the U.S. presented many struggles for Mayra—culturally and academically. Her classmates would tease her for the way she dressed and spoke. This in addition to her shyness kept her from becoming involved in high school activities, and she always had an excuse not to attend any social activities. She had a few close friends, but she would mostly attend classes and go to work when school ended.

During high school, Mayra never considered college as an option for her. Mayra’s teachers and counselors never spoke to her about college or encouraged her to apply. “At graduation, I remember when our names were called...some of my other classmates were congratulated for being accepted into different colleges and that made me feel sad because no one ever gave me the opportunity to discuss college options,” Mayra said.

Despite the lack of support, Mayra enrolled at the Community College of Denver. She quickly learned about TRiO when a classmate told her about the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). “[EOC] opened so many doors for me. They were the first ones to talk to me about financial aid,” she said. “That was huge for me because I was wondering how I was going to afford college.” Mayra paid for her first semester out on her own pocket. With EOC’s help, she was able to find scholarships and choose a career path.

Mayra later transferred to Metropolitan State University of Denver where she earned a Bachelor of Science/Human Services Professions Degree with a concentration in mental health in 2012. Mayra said that without TRiO she would have never achieved her biggest accomplishment—graduating from college.

She appreciates the program so much that she decided to work for the organization that helped her. She is currently an advisor for TRiO EOC at the Community of Denver as well as a sponsor for Alianza, a Hispanic Student organization.

For Mayra, her seven years of affiliation with TRiO have been wonderful and she loves being able to “assist other students that need help and direct them to different services.”

**TRiO**  
WORKS

## A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

### Alisha Eversole

**TRiO**  
WORKS

**Institution:** Community College of Denver

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



For my entire life, I’ve felt a real respect for people who have earned a college degree. It was something that I romanticized during high school because it always equated to freedom.

I thought my economic background wouldn’t allow for such things, but luckily I was too hungry for knowledge to allow these doubts to incapacitate me.

I enrolled at the Community College of Denver. My shyness kept me from connecting to other students, and my fear of failure kept me from connecting with my instructors. I was also disheartened that I wasn’t easily grasping all of the material in my

***“There is no reason that everyone can’t go to college, and I feel that more than ever, it is our responsibility to do so.”***

classes, which convinced me that I wasn’t cut out for college. It was around then that I discovered the TRiO program on campus, which offered free math tutoring to first generation college students; it would change my life forever. TRiO led me to an entirely new understanding of what college could mean for me. Through my participation in TRiO, my college experience has been more ideal than anything I could have seen on television.

I strongly feel that my purpose in life is to share with everyone what I’ve learned from my CCD TRiO experience. There is no reason that everyone can’t go to college, and I feel that more than ever, it is our responsibility to do so. The younger generations must act on our modern day advantages, where women and minorities have more support than ever.

My goal is to teach social studies at the middle school level in low-income schools. I want to stress the importance of education as a way out of following in the footsteps of those who believed the same limiting nonsense that I once believed. Ultimately, I aim to show students that class background doesn’t factor into success. The possibilities for success are endless and I hope to be involved in supporting the next wave of renaissance men and women.

## Kiara Roberts

**Institution:** Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Program:** *Upward Bound*



**Kiara Roberts** is a proud graduate of Metropolitan State University of Denver and is also a proud alumnus of the TRiO Upward Bound Program hosted by MSU Denver. She graduated May 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in English.

Kiara was raised in Smyrna, Georgia, returning to Colorado for high school. After attending two different high schools in her neighborhood, she realized that in order to graduate from high school, she needed to transfer out of her inner-city district, where she could leave peer pressure behind. The administrators of the

TRiO Upward Bound Program assisted her in accomplishing this goal by helping her to research which school would provide the best educational opportunity to graduate high school. When Englewood High School was chosen for this, they personally took her to the school and talked with the Dean, as well as wrote a recommendation. The Dean of the school admitted Kiara provisionally with an academic contract as her past grades were not good. This school afforded her the academic challenge she sought; however, the majority of the students were white middle-class students which created challenges for Kiara .

Even though she was in the school she wanted, her home life was still dysfunctional as her mother's behavior resulted in the heat and electricity being turned off, as well as food not being available in the house. Kiara took on the added responsibility of raising her younger sister while attending high school and Upward Bound. Even though she faced these challenges, her grade point average increased and she enrolled in difficult coursework. Kiara also became involved in the extra-curricular activities , becoming a varsity cheerleader, but she saw a need to help other minority students who attended Englewood and created a Dance Team and a diversity program for them, called "True Colors" to address the cultural and economic differences that these students faced.

After high school graduation, her focus remained steadfast on earning a college degree that would enable her to help others so she enrolled at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Kiara volunteers as a mentor with both Save Our Youth and Whiz Kids currently, as well as works as a Domestic Violence Legal advocate. " I would not be where I am today, as a May 2013 graduate from MSU Denver, without the constant support that I still receive from Upward Bound".

## Fu Wang

**Institution:** University of Colorado Denver

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



**Fu Wang** was born in GuanXi, China in a small town. He immigrated to the U.S. in August 1998. Like other immigrant families, he faced challenges dealing with education. Fu said he wasn't the best high school student at Eaglecrest in Centennial, Colorado. He often ditched school in favor of sleeping in and had many attendance issues. The summer before he started high school, Fu had moved to a new neighborhood, which made it difficult for him to adjust from moving from an urban district to the suburbs. He found it difficult to

fit in with the other students.

By the end of his senior year and after many trips to the counseling office, Fu was frustrated and decided to change. He attended the University of Colorado Denver to focus on his studies. His new mindset allowed him to thrive. However, in August 2008, his father was injured while fixing a window at his home, which prevented him from working. His lack of medical coverage left the family with \$55,000 worth of medical expenses. Since he was the only one who spoke adequate English, Fu found himself in the role of managing the household. He would call the hospital and take care of any billing concerns. During this time of extreme debt, Fu's grades dropped. "It was stressful beyond my imagination," Fu said. Yet, he learned the importance of family and having a strong support system.

During this time, Fu joined the TRiO SSS program. It helped him with scholarship applications, personal support, financial aid assistance and language support. TRiO helped him manage his stress and allowed him to effectively navigate the college process. Fu eventually became a peer mentor, which he feels is the core of the program.

With his diligence, perseverance and the support of TRiO, Fu Wang is currently a full-time medical student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Although his studies keep him busy, Fu still finds time to volunteer as a mentor for pre-medical students on the Anschutz campus.

"TRiO provided the stepping stones for me to become the first college graduate in my family and encourages me to continue to pursue my dreams of helping others in need," Fu said. "I feel privileged to be a member of the TRiO family and I hope to see it continue to provide the services to other students."

## District 2

**3,369 Participants**  
6 programs:

Colorado State University  
[www.colostate.edu](http://www.colostate.edu)  
Educational Opportunity Center  
Educational Talent Search  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound

University of Colorado Boulder  
[www.colorado.edu](http://www.colorado.edu)  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound

Total Federal Funding for District 2: \$2,521,561



**TRiO**  
WORKS

*“I encourage all prospective students to participate [in TRiO]. I very much thank the TRiO program and I can tell you that the changes it makes in the lives of others are not only significant, but greatly appreciated and never forgotten.”*

*~Derek Kingrey*

*Colorado State University, Educational Talent Search*

*“TRiO works because it gives students a fighting chance at achieving their dreams, and everyone deserves to fight on a level playing field.”*

*~Jim Do*

*University of Colorado Boulder, Student Support Services*

*“I was a non-traditional student when I attended CSU. I was a wife, mother and breast cancer survivor. I know that I would have never been able to attend college...without EOC.”*

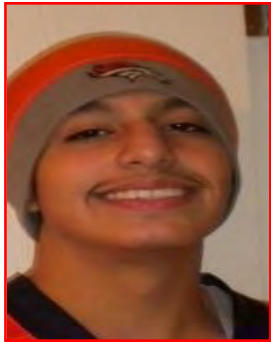
*~Elana Serrano*

*Colorado State University,  
Educational Opportunity Center*

## Raymundo Rios Jr.

**Institution:** Colorado State University

**Program:** *Upward Bound*



**Raymundo Rios Jr.**, or Ray as his friends call him, found it difficult to adjust to school at such a young age after his parents divorced. The constant arguing and financial struggles distracted him from his studies and caused some of his grades to suffer.

Ray's mentor worked for the Educational Opportunity Center in Greeley and knew how beneficial TRiO could be for Ray. He recommended him for Colorado State University's Upward Bound Program. Ray loved the idea of having an academic support system.

Ray's TRiO advisors helped him develop effective note and test taking strategies. Ray's advisors also helped him complete his class work, and write and edit college essays. "The awesome part is [that] because of the time they put in to help revise all of my scholarship essays, I was able to receive 95 percent of the scholarships I applied for," Ray said. This helped him pay entirely for his first year of college.

The assistance of TRiO helped Ray turn his academic career around. He became a very hard working student and managed to earn B's in most of his classes. Ray attributes a large part of his success and the fact that he graduated from high school to TRiO.

"My favorite part about TRiO is that they genuinely care about the future and education of first-generation and low-income students," Ray said. "I love how they help make a difference in these students lives by helping them become college bound."

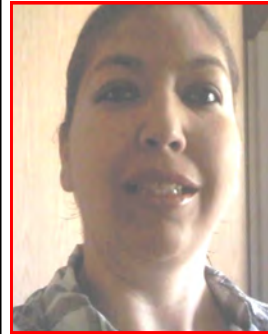
Ray currently attends Colorado State University and has yet to declare his major. He gives back to the TRiO community by tutoring high school students. He also provides advice and is a role model for students who come from similar backgrounds.

"I hope to help students and have an impact on their lives such as Upward Bound has done for me," Ray said.

## Elana Serrano

**Institution:** Colorado State University

**Program:** *Educational Opportunity Center*



**Elana Serrano** knows the meaning of perseverance. She was a non-traditional student who attended Colorado State University. Not only did she have to deal with the usual challenges that college students face, but Elana was also a full-time wife and mother. The largest challenge she faced while in college, however, was having to manage everything while also battling breast cancer.

"I had to take my homework with me to the Oncology Infusion Center at Poudre Valley Hospital," Elana said. Dealing with breast cancer while also being a full-time student, wife and mom was difficult to say the least. However, the Educational Opportunity Center at Colorado State University helped make her journey a little easier.

Elana met Jan Barela-Smith who works for EOC when she was taking G.E.D. courses. She toured the EOC office with one of her classes. Coming from a single-parent family with a mother who only had a 7th grade education, Elana never thought she could go back to school and succeed. EOC changed her mind. "I know that I would have never been able to attend college had I not went on that field trip," Elana said.

Elana said she owes her greatest accomplishment of graduating with a bachelor's degree in sociology to EOC for the staff members' encouragement and resources.

"TRiO works because as a non-traditional student I was given the encouragement to attend college," Elana said. "Without this program I would not have been as successful."

EOC continues to assist Elana with her applications as she prepares to enter graduate school to earn her master's degree in sociology. While in undergraduate school, Elana interned at Larimer County Community Corrections and received a full-time position shortly afterward.

Elana is now breast cancer free, and she knows that she can accomplish anything.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

### Derek Kingrey

**Institution:** Colorado State University

**Program:** *Educational Talent Search*



**Derek Kingrey** graduated from Adams City High School in 1999. He began participating in Educational Talent Search at Colorado State University when his middle school guidance counselor recommended it after noticing how bored and unmotivated he was in school.

The TRiO counselor convinced Derek that the program would help him realize his goals in order to positively shape his future. Derek was intrigued by this idea since no one in his community ever spoke of such things. He joined the program in the sixth

grade and remained until he graduated six years later.

“I grew up from very humble beginnings and was raised by an incredible single mother who never gave up on me,” Derek said. Derek’s community was riddled with drugs and gangs. An adult at his middle school even told him that due to his race and background, he would not go far academically and should lower his standards. In high school, an adult told him that he would never attend an Ivy league school. “My overall environment was wrought with negative influences, peer pressure, doubt, apathy, ignorance and many other negatives,” Derek said.

Derek excelled in academics and sports, but he struggled socially. He didn’t feel as if he belonged to his school or community. TRiO meetings helped him open up and find his personality, which later helped him in college. Derek’s TRiO advisor encouraged him to socialize more with his peers and to form supportive connections. “Before TRiO I was reserved and felt that my challenges were unique,” Derek said. “In TRiO, I learned that my peers had similar challenges and that we could support each other. By the end of high school I had several new friends at various schools.”

Having a supportive mother and TRiO advisor helped Derek overcome all of his obstacles. “To succeed in such a [negative and discouraging] environment requires that negativity be overshadowed by positivity, support, and motivational influences. TRiO not only overshadowed the negativity, but gave me the courage to expect more from myself and encouraged me to become a better person overall,” Derek said.



As his confidence grew, Derek decided to ignore his doubters and applied to the highest-ranked physics programs in the U.S., and he was accepted into all of them, including Princeton, Harvard, Yale and MIT.

“Attending an Ivy League University ranked highly in my area of study was my most significant accomplishment,” Derek said. “TRiO certainly helped me obtain that accomplishment by encouraging me since sixth grade to set goals, to raise my standards/expectations, to remain focused on my future by avoiding negative influences, and by consistently supporting me through all of these things.

Derek attended Cornell University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Physics while competing in football and track and field. He attended graduate school at the University of California at Irvine and earned a master’s degree in Condensed Matter Physics. He also completed Ph.D. coursework, all while competing in track and field.

Derek became an Engineer at DRS Technologies, developing sensors and targeting systems for the Department of Defense. Within three years, he advanced to become a chief engineer who was responsible for leading teams of engineers to develop products worth tens of millions of dollars. While accomplishing all of this, Derek somehow found time to meet his wife and settle down.

*“ TRiO works because it provides motivational influences, positive reinforcement, and a support system that teaches students how to realize their academic potential while navigating the challenges of life. It fosters personal and professional growth.”*

“I really can’t emphasize enough how much the TRiO program has meant to my personal and professional development,” Derek said. “I encourage all prospective students to participate. I very much thank the TRiO program and I can tell you that the changes it makes in the lives of others are not only significant but, greatly appreciated and never forgotten.”

## Jim Do

**Institution:** University of Colorado Boulder

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



**Jim Do** first heard about TRiO when he was recruited to join the Academic Excellence Program at CU Boulder as a college freshman. The program, which is considered a Student Support Services Program, required Jim to participate in their week-long *Summer Ready* Program. Jim learned about and explored the campus prior to the arrival of the rest of the freshmen class.

As a first generation and low-income student, the transition from high school to college was difficult. “My parents had no idea what the process was like and couldn’t help in the application process,” Jim said. “To add to the difficulty, classes were difficult to navigate initially since I wasn’t aware of resources and wasn’t used to professor office hours.”

Jim said he couldn’t grasp the concept of professors being there to help him with school work outside of class time. However, the retention specialists from TRiO helped him maintain his “sanity and composure” throughout the transition process. As an undergraduate, Jim visited his advisor’s office on a daily basis. For the classes that Jim struggled with, he was provided free tutoring. TRiO answered all of his questions about changing majors and how to create the best resume possible.

The TRiO team became Jim’s second family. The large Boulder campus could have been daunting, but TRiO “created a smaller family of people who really cared about each other and the success of their students.” Jim enjoyed stopping by the TRiO office to hang out due to the “inclusive” and non-judgmental environment.

TRiO also assisted him in completing medical school applications. “Without [TRiO’s] help, I honestly don’t believe I would have accomplished so much,” Jim said.

Jim is currently in medical school at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus. He continues to mentor students from CU Boulder’s campus who are interested in medical school. In addition, he speaks at many pre-health group meetings for the SSS program. For Jim, TRiO works because “it gives students a fighting chance at achieving their dreams, and everyone deserves to fight on a level playing field.”

## Jesus Ochoa Mendoza

**Institution:** Colorado State University

**Program:** *Upward Bound*



**Jesus Ochoa Mendoza** was a member of Colorado State University’s Upward Bound program. He was in it for two years in high school and then participated in the *Bridge* Program, which allowed him to take college courses during the summer before his freshman year of college.

In high school, Jesus considered himself an average student until his sophomore year. He was also dealing with a mother who was a paranoid schizophrenic, and a sister who was later diagnosed with depression. Despite the stressful and emotional challenges, Jesus was very interested when his best friend told him about a program called Upward Bound. Jesus decided to speak with an advisor from UB and joined soon afterward.

Most students have a six-month probation period for the CSU UB program before being allowed to attend the summer programs. Jesus, however, was able to attend the summer program immediately and it was his first exposure to UB programming.

Jesus said that through the program he gained the courage to take risks, join various councils and seek leadership positions. Most importantly, the program gave him the confidence to share his story about his mother and sister. Due to it, he created *Listen Up*, a community program that gives students an outlet to talk and be heard without judgment.

In the past, Jesus would become angry with his circumstances. One day after he had an outburst, his TRiO advisor said to him, “Jesus...think how small your problems are [compared] to the entire universe.” These simple words inspired Jesus. “Instead of being mad about something, I think critically and weigh my options when something does not go my way,” Jesus said. “I carry myself with a smile everywhere I go now.”

Jesus’s new skills allowed him to win the Paul B. Thayer Outstanding Student of the Year award and received the Daniels Fund Scholarship, which fully pays his tuition for all four years of college. Jesus said he doesn’t have to worry about anything thanks to the remarkable UB team.

Jesus said he wants to leave a legacy by creating a non-profit organization to assist people in need. He said the program positively changes lives and he wants to do the same.

## District 3

**4,990 Participants**

**17 Programs:**



**Adams State University**

www.adams.edu

Student Support Services

Upward Bound

**Colorado Mesa University**

www.coloradomesa.edu

Student Support Services



**Colorado Mountain College**

www.coloradomtn.edu

**Steamboat Campus**

Student Support Services

**Edwards Campus**

Upward Bound

Student Support Services

**Glenwood Campus**

Student Support Services

**West Garfield Campus**

Upward Bound

Student Support Services



**Colorado State University-Pueblo**

www.colostate-pueblo.edu

Educational Opportunity Center

Student Support Services

Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound



**Fort Lewis College**

www.fortlewis.edu

Educational Talent Search

Student Support Services

STEM3 Student Support Services

Upward Bound

**Pueblo Community College**

www.pueblocc.edu

Student Support Services

Upward Bound



**TRiO**  
**WORKS**

*“TRiO works because it has such a strong meaningful support system and provides opportunities and resources that help [people] achieve academic success.”*

*~Ericka Joanna Zavala*

*Colorado Mesa University, Student Support Services*

*“Without the support of TRiO I don’t believe I would have obtained the goals I had set for myself...Please do not cut funds to TRiO and continue to allow students such as myself to succeed.”*

*~John Wooten*

*Pueblo Community College/Colorado State University-Pueblo,  
Student Support Services*

*“For ourselves, our children and our children’s children, the TRiO programs are the best hope for many people to achieve what they may not otherwise accomplish.”*

*~Cheryl Strouse*

*Colorado Mountain College, Student Support Services*

**Total Federal Funding for District 3: \$4,989,575**

## Ericka Zavala

**Institution:** Colorado Mesa University

**Program:** Student Support Services



In high school, **Ericka Zavala** experienced the entire spectrum of the typical high school student's attitude toward school and life. In early high school, she was rebellious and encompassed the "I-don't-care" attitude. Between her sophomore and junior year, she became more quiet and reserved. She decided that she wanted to do something with her life, but she just didn't know what that was yet. Finally, during her senior year, she made it to the opposite end of the spectrum.

Ericka became motivated and determined to set and accomplish her goals. Due to her hard work she became a finalist for several scholarships and her turnaround was noted not only by her peers but by various teachers and staff members as well. At the end of her senior year, Ericka was awarded the "Rebel to Warrior" award at Central High School.

In college, Ericka found that she had more freedom, yet that entailed more responsibility. Classes were more difficult and presented a new challenge for her. Despite trying her best, Ericka still struggled. In addition to that, Ericka didn't have any family support. "Support...is one key element in life that helps you become successful," Ericka said. "I truly believe that support can make or break a person."

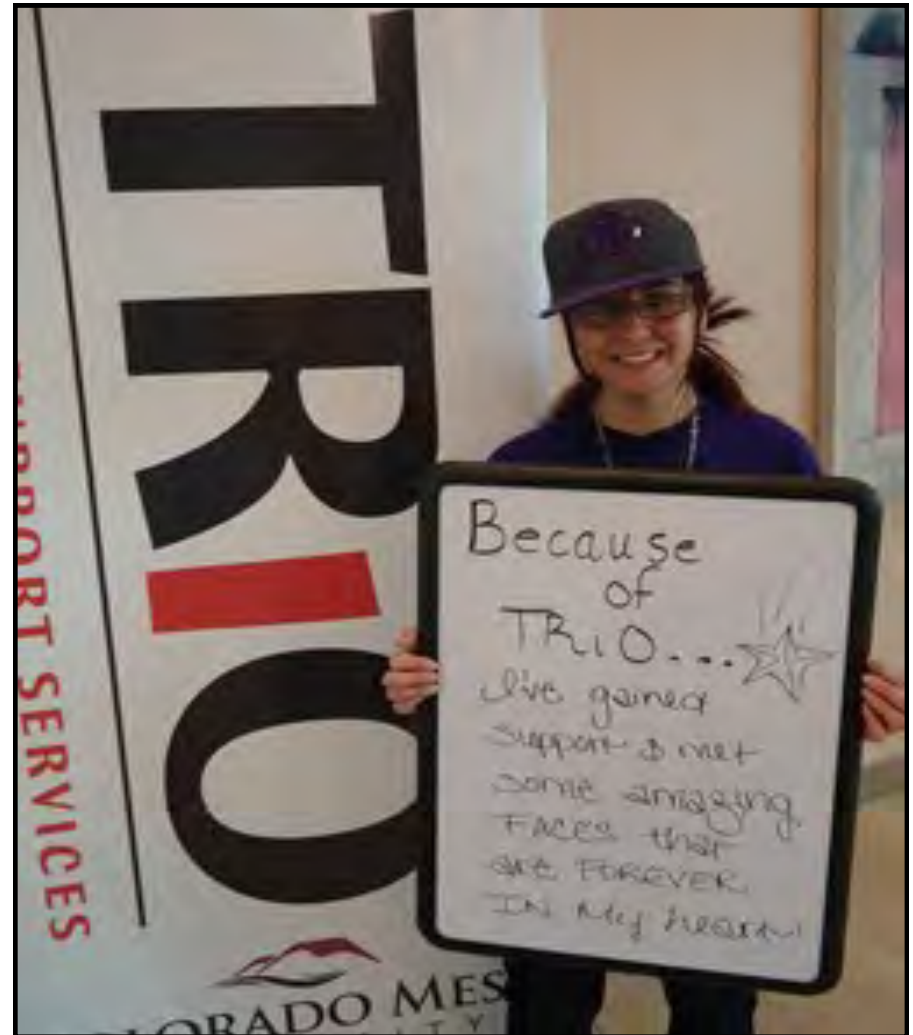
One of Ericka's mentors suggested that she join the TRiO Student Support Services Program. Ericka's mentor wanted to help her grow, but she didn't have the knowledge to help her with college and prevent Ericka from possibly dropping out. With her mentor's encouragement, TRiO became Ericka's support system and her "shoulder to lean on" when life became extremely difficult.

Not only did Ericka's TRiO advisors help her academically, but they helped her personally and emotionally as well by finding ways for her to effectively manage her stress. More importantly, they were there to help her move out of her mother's home, which she said is one of the hardest and most "emotionally wrecking" thing she has ever done. Ericka said she really wants to thank TRiO because she doesn't know where she would be without them.

Ericka recognizes that her family may never support her or her decision to go to college and make something of herself. However, she appreciates that her advisors have never given up on her even when she wanted to give up on herself.

Ericka tutors other TRiO participants and listens to their problems. By telling them about her struggles, she encourages them to never give up.

For Ericka, the academic success that TRiO helps students achieve is important. Yet, she says TRiO truly works because "it has such a strong, meaningful support system."



Because of TRiO...  
I've gained support & met some  
amazing faces that are forever  
in my heart!



## John Anthony Wooten

**Institution:** Pueblo Community College

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



**John Wooten** said he was the “type of student who participated in sports and did mediocre work to just get by” in high school. He didn’t really think about his future or have an educational plan. It wasn’t until some time after high school that he realized the importance of a higher education.

In 2007, John became homeless. As he searched for a job to help alleviate his situation, he realized he couldn’t secure a stable job due to his lack of a higher education.

John eventually made it to Pueblo Community College. Unlike high school, John was dedicated to his studies and eager to achieve his educational goals. During a student fair, he learned about TRiO Student Support Services. He made sure to join the program at Pueblo Community College as well

*“Without the support of TRiO, I don’t believe I would have obtained the goals I had set for myself, especially since I’m a non-traditional student.”*

as Colorado State University-Pueblo when he transferred. The SSS program provided him with a peer mentor to help keep him focused and on track with his studies. TRiO helped monitor John’s progress toward gaining two Associate’s degree and his bachelor’s degree.

In May 2013, John finally accomplished his goals. He graduated From CSU-Pueblo with a Bachelor of Science of Business Administration Degree with an emphasis in Finance and Accounting. Since graduating, John continues to give back by mentoring students who still attend CSU-Pueblo.

According to John, “TRiO works because it provides the structure and support to achieve a student’s goals. Without the support of TRiO, I believe I would not have obtained the goals I had set for myself, especially since I’m a non-traditional student.”

John has one message for the federal legislatures: “Please do not cut funds to TRiO and continue to allow students such as myself to succeed.”



## A STORY OF A VETERAN

### Kent Clifton

**Institution:** Colorado State University-Pueblo

**Program:** *Veterans Upward Bound*



**Kent Clifton** “barely made the grades to even finish” high school. He didn’t necessarily take his academics seriously in high school, but he maintained a 2.0 GPA to be eligible to play sports. He was involved in wrestling, track and cross country as he grew up in Wellsburg, West Virginia. Sports helped take his mind off of his family life.

As a toddler, Kent witnessed his father abuse his mother. After his father and mother divorced, his mother remarried. Later, he witnessed his stepfather and uncle sexually abuse another close family member. After that, he had to adapt to being raised by a single mother with three other siblings.

“Life became real tough at that point as we were so poor, I didn’t have any cool clothes to wear...the ridicule I faced would impact my life forever,” Kent said. “I did whatever I could to fit in, and I excelled in sports despite all of my challenges.”

Kent’s desire to wrestle motivated him to walk ten miles round trip every Saturday to make mandatory practices. The escapism that sports provided Kent, still couldn’t distract him from the other constant challenges that faced him at home, especially when his mother turned to alcohol and marijuana to cope with her problems. The people that his mother began to associate with continued to physically abuse Kent and his siblings.

“We would have to stand in a corner for eight hours with our hands in the air, and our only breaks were meals, where we still had to remain standing to eat,” Kent said. Kent recalled one his mother’s friends who got drunk and chased him around the neighborhood.

Kent briefly left to live with grandmother while his mother recovered from alcoholism, but that time in his life, he attributes as being his turning point.

Kent went on to join the military. It was a chance for a new start and to get away from all of the troubles that plagued him. Yet, while the military took him farther away from Wellsburg, it didn’t solve all of his problems.



Kent was deployed to Bosnia. “During my deployment I witnessed and experienced things that would change my mental makeup forever,” he said. “I would come home and have constant nightmares, anxiety attacks, and major depression, which I still battle to this day.”

Kent has never shared his story until now. His belief in TRiO is so great, that he was willing to share his past in order to preserve the future of TRiO. Kent said, “I don’t use my life as a crutch or an excuse. I just continue to pick myself up off the ground and to be the man I am today.”

In fact, Kent decided to go to college and give it his all. He attended Pueblo Community College where he was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and graduated with a 3.64 GPA and Latin honors *cum laude*. Later, he transferred to Colorado State University-Pueblo where he joined Veterans Upward Bound.

During the times when he wanted to give up, Kent’s TRiO advisor encouraged him and provided him with resources to make it through difficult times. TRiO’s provision of math tutoring allowed him to finally enter into college algebra. The TRiO office gave him a quiet place to study and his advisors were always there to listen when times “got tough and there was no one else to turn to.”

Kent said TRiO helped him manage all of his challenges, including adapting to an educational and a non-military environment as well as with his mental and emotional struggles.

From the kid who was voted most likely to get beat up on the first day of sixth grade to the man he is today, Kent prides himself on his accomplishments, on overcoming every obstacle thrown his way and about his impending bachelor’s degree in 2013. He is President of the Veterans’ Club at CSU-Pueblo and volunteers at events to promote TRiO. He also serves as a peer mentor in TRiO.

“TRiO works because every person that is involved contributes to society,” Kent said. “[TRiO employees] volunteer their time and energy to worthy causes and help participants overcome many difficult challenges that might not be possible without TRiO.”

Kent said he has been afforded many opportunities and he hopes other TRiO participants continue to have the same chance.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

### Cheryl Strouse

**Institution:** Colorado Mountain College West Garfield/Edwards

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



With her father in the Air Force, Cheryl Strouse was no stranger to constantly moving around the country. She was born in Missouri on Whiteman Air Force Base. By the time she entered high school, Cheryl had lived in Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota and Louisiana before her father retired and settled down in McLouth, Kansas during the middle of Cheryl's freshman year of high school.

The constant moving from one Air Force base to another made it difficult for Cheryl to connect socially with her classmates. In high school, Cheryl described herself as an "average" student who made B's and C's. She studied hard, but due to some comprehension issues, her grades didn't necessarily reflect her efforts. "Learning was difficult due to the changes in education and [different] teaching styles in [various] states and schools," Cheryl said.

In 2008, while she attended Colorado Mountain College, Cheryl was professionally diagnosed with a learning disorder—Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. In 1981, Cheryl was also in a major car accident, which included head trauma and extensive bodily injury.

Cheryl's head trauma and undiagnosed learning disorder made it difficult for her to grasp and apply mathematical skills. While in a math course at Colorado Mountain College, Cheryl was exposed to TRiO. The TRiO program coordinator at CMC presented the program and distributed brochures that outlined the benefits of the program. The thought of getting help in math convinced Cheryl to join.

Cheryl's math tutors were one of the most beneficial aspects of TRiO for her. "My advisor assisted my development and achievement of scholastic goals," Cheryl said. "My advisor offered direction...[and] encouraged me to push past the illusion of limited abilities and allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone to achieve [success]."

Cheryl's TRiO advisor also connected her to a therapist who diagnosed her with ADHD. This allowed her to understand why she found it difficult to understand certain concepts. With TRiO's help, Cheryl was able to master and pass all of her courses, especially those of the mathematical nature. The one-on-one assistance and financial support, helped Cheryl to burrow through to achieve one of her first goals. In 2011, she graduated from Colorado Mountain College with her Associate's degree in Accounting.

While Cheryl is grateful to obtain her degree, she's most proud of graduating with a 4.0 GPA after struggling and being an "average" student in high school. "I contribute a large percentage of [my GPA] to the TRiO program," she said. Cheryl said that without TRiO's assistance she probably would have never passed her remedial math courses or her college algebra class.

TRiO also helped Cheryl boost her confidence. In fact she needed her newly found confidence to push past her insecurities when she became the first graduation guest speaker at the West Garfield campus at Colorado Mountain College.

Since graduating with her associate's degree, Cheryl has remained busy. She's working on her Bachelor of Science/Arts Degree of Business, which she's scheduled to complete in May 2014. She balances classes with her full-time job at the Garfield County Housing Authority in which she daily utilizes her accounting degree. She helps administrates the HUD Section 8 program for five counties on the Western Slope of Colorado. Cheryl also manages and administers the Rural Development Housing Program for Senior Housing in Parachute, Colorado.

Somehow, she manages to find time to also volunteer and donate her time to various altruistic endeavors. She is involved with a 12-step support and recovery group in the "Roaring Fork Valley"(Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Rifle, Silt and New Castle) in Colorado. She also assists part-time at the *Lift Up Extended Table* food kitchen.

Despite her various pursuits, Cheryl makes sure she always gives back to TRiO. She currently tutors for Student Support Services, Disabilities Services and the Open Math tutoring program at CMC in the areas of math, accounting, micro-economics, macro-economics and leadership.

Cheryl wants everyone to remember one important lesson. "One of the greatest gifts that anyone can give to themselves or another is the gift of education. Without education no one would become doctors, lawyers, politicians, accountants, factory workers, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, or any host of other professions," she said. "The TRiO program is instrumental in making this precious gift available to those seeking an education...with a variety of support for the less fortunate [and] those with disabilities."

"TRiO and programs are important to not only those in need, but to our communities as a whole, and our future as a nation. Continued financial support to these programs is essential," Cheryl said. "For ourselves, for our children and our children's children, the TRiO program and programs like it are the best hope for many people to achieve what they may not otherwise accomplish."

## District 4

**2,307 Participants**

**12 programs:**

**Aims Community College**

www.aims.edu

STEM Student Support Services  
Student Support Services



**Greeley Dream Team**

www.thegreeleydreamteam.org

Educational Talent Search

**Lamar Community College**

www.lamarcc.edu

Student Support Services



**Northeastern Junior College**

www.njc.edu

Student Support Services

**Otero Junior College**

www.ojc.edu

Student Support Services



**Trinidad State Junior College**

www.trinidadstate.edu

Student Support Services  
Upward Bound Math/Science

**Valley Campus**

Student Support Services

**University of Northern Colorado**

www.unco.edu

McNair Program  
Student Support Services  
Upward Bound



**Total Federal Funding for District 4: \$3,212,060**

**TRiO**  
**WORKS**

*“TRiO works because when you have a great support team...you can meet any goals you set to get a higher education.”*

*~Tanya Martinez*

*Trinidad State Junior College, Student Support Services*

*“Before partaking in TRiO, Stefani said that she didn’t realize it was possible for minorities like her to attend college. TRiO’s impact allowed her hope for a post-secondary education to be relatively stress free while she dealt with [neurofibromatosis].”*

*~Stefani Ronquillo*

*The Greeley Dream Team, Educational Talent Search*

*“Upward Bound started a journey of great opportunity for me that will take a lifetime to payback.”*

*~Crystal Moran*

*Trinidad State Junior College, Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math/Science*

## Stefani Ronquillo

**Agency:** The Greeley Dream Team

**Program:** *Educational Talent Search*



**Stefani Ronquillo** was born in Torrington, Wyoming. She and her family later moved to Colorado where she was raised in Greeley by her mother. While in middle school, Stefani heard about TRiO Educational Talent Search through her aunt who had participated in the program.

“I was really interested in learning more about college,” Stefani said. She joined ETS in the sixth grade and went on to attend Greeley Central High School.

“I was very studious in high school and strived to be involved,” Stefani said. Throughout high school, Stefani also had to cope with neurofibromatosis, a disorder where the nerve tissue grows tumors that can be benign but can cause serious damage by compressing tissues and nerves. During her senior year, Stefani had to leave high school early to have surgery due to the disorder.

Although Stefani had to miss out on a few months of her senior year to have surgery and recover, TRiO made sure she didn’t miss any opportunities to earn money for college. Previously, Stefani didn’t realize that there were various types of financial aid available to help her pay for school.

She was informed of many scholarships via her TRiO advisor, including the highly competitive Gates Millennium Scholarship, which pays the majority amount of tuition throughout college while also providing personal and professional development opportunities. Stefani was one of only one-thousand recipients of this prestigious scholarship.

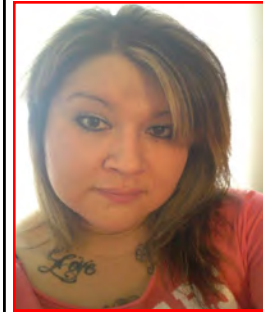
Before partaking in TRiO, Stefani said that she didn’t realize it was possible for minorities like her to attend college. TRiO’s impact allowed her hope for a post-secondary education to be relatively stress free while she dealt with her deteriorating physical health.

Stefani’s surgery and recovery took months, which caused her to start college later than most of her peers. Currently, Stefani is doing well although she continues to undergo physical therapy. She attends the University of Northern Colorado as a pre-medical student.

## Tanya Martinez

**Institution:** Trinidad State Junior College

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



**Tanya Martinez** had to juggle work, family and her pursuit of a higher education. While attending Pueblo Community College and later Trinidad State Junior College, Tanya worked two jobs while raising two children as a single parent.

Although balancing everything proved to be challenging at times, Tanya never gave up because of her children and her unwavering belief of the importance of higher education.

“I wanted my children to see and understand that higher education is very important,” Tanya said. “I wanted to set an example that you can reach your goals no matter what life hands you.”

Tanya’s perseverance led her to be the first person to graduate from college in her family. Tanya, however, attributes part of her success to her TRiO advisors. “Lori [her TRiO advisor] was there to point me in the right direction when I had financial aid questions. She was a very positive person and was always encouraging me to continue to strive to meet my goals,” Tanya said.

Tanya’s dedication along with TRiO’s support led her to complete numerous degrees and certification programs. Tanya completed programs and obtained her Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Business Administration, AAS Office Technologies, AAS General Studies, a certificate in Business Finance and Communications, a certificate in Accounting as well as in Office Technologies and Business Management.

With all of Tanya’s qualifications, she could have worked anywhere, but she decided to stay at Trinidad State Junior College. She works as a teacher’s assistant, giving back to the college that helped her so much. She also tutors through her former SSS program.

For Tanya, “TRiO works because when you have a great support team...you can meet any goals you set to get a higher education.”

## ***A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT***

### **Crystal Moran**

**Institution:** Trinidad State Junior College

**Program:** *Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math/Science*



Being from a first-generation and low-income family, I had the life changing opportunity to participate in two Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) Programs and an Upward Bound (UB) Program. In 1998, I attended my first summer at the UBMS program at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. The next two consecutive summers, I attended the UBMS program at Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC) in Trinidad, Colorado.

After high school, I completed the summer Bridge program with the UB Program at New Mexico State University (NMSU), the program in which I participated during my high school academic years. I am a 2001 graduate of Santa Teresa High School (Anthony, NM); a 2006 graduate of NMSU; and in 2010 I earned my master's degree in Public Health from NMSU (Las Cruces, NM).

Currently, I am a science teacher in El Paso, Texas; and I continue to do research with a former professor from NMSU. My current research is how to most effec-

***“Upward Bound started a journey of great opportunity for me that will take a lifetime to pay back.”***

tively set health policy in a border area such as the U.S./Mexico Border area or more specifically the Paso Del Norte Region. In December 2012, I was published for the first time in the *California Journal of Health Promotion* on this subject matter and have been fortunate to present our findings at public health conferences over the course of the year.

Upward Bound started a journey of great opportunity for me that will take a lifetime to payback. The education that TSJC UBMS provided me, along with the educational trips and college tours, allowed me to see what the world had to offer. It gave me motivation and opportunity to see what an education could provide if I really wanted it, an amazing life with a great career.

Because of the impact that Upward Bound had on my life, I returned to the TSJC UBMS program as an instructor/resident advisor (8 years and going) and mentor in order to help influence change in the lives of disadvantaged youth who come from backgrounds similar to mine.

I truly believe I would not be at this point if it were not for TRiO, and in particular the Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science Programs.”



## *District 5*

**379 Participants**

**4 programs:**

**Pikes Peak Community College**

[www.pccc.edu](http://www.pccc.edu)

Disabled Student Support Services

Student Support Services

**LULAC National Education Center, Inc.**

[www.lnesc.org](http://www.lnesc.org)

Upward Bound

Upward Bound Math & Science

**Total Federal Funding for District 5: \$944,239**



*“The younger generation needs something like [TRiO]...because it shapes who students will become in the future and helps turn them around.”*

*~Jimmy Joseph “JJ” Porcadilla*

*LULAC National Education Center, Inc., Upward Bound*

*“TRiO works because if it wasn’t for TRiO, I wouldn’t have passed pre-calculus and graduated. It gets students involved and is extremely helpful. I signed my brother, who is in ninth grade and my sister, who is a senior, up for the program. That’s how much I believe in it.”*

*~Frankie Jaramillo*

*LULAC National Education Center, Inc.,*

*Upward Bound Math Science*

## Jimmy Joseph “JJ” Porcadilla

**Agency:** LULAC National Education Center, Inc.

**Program:** *Upward Bound*

**TRiO**  
WORKS



**Jimmy Joseph “JJ” Porcadilla** moved to Colorado from North Carolina. His mom was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which made the transition to Colorado as well as his transition from elementary to middle school difficult.

“My mom was the rock and foundation of our family,” JJ said. This made it difficult for him to see her sleeping so much and passed out on the couch when he came home from school. Even now JJ said, “It breaks my heart every day.”

With all of the changes taking place in his family, JJ began to lose focus from his studies. “I came to high school as kind of a slacker,” he said. “I barely passed most of my classes, and that made me question myself—who I was.” During tenth grade, he turned around and strived for academic success. He joined the *Twenty-First Century* Program, which included rigorous courses and students who held themselves to high academic standards. If JJ failed any of his courses, he would automatically be kicked out. This motivated him to work hard in school, compete with his peers and to seek out various opportunities.

One such opportunity was LULAC’s Upward Bound Program. As with most UB students, JJ was interested in the tutoring component, especially in additional help with Chinese. Although he appreciates the tutoring, he also loves stopping in to say “hi” and simply speaking with his advisors. He appreciates the environment that TRiO creates and how his UB office promotes diversity.

JJ said that joining UB was one of the moments that defined his turnaround. He now considers himself one of the top students at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs, and stays highly involved in various activities. He’s a leader in Link Crew (a leadership program that helps freshmen transition to high school), secretary for the drama club, co-captain of color guard, the public relations person for the marching band and he was once the high school mascot.

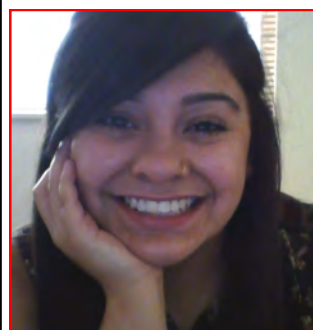
JJ also considers himself a leader in the TRiO program. He makes posters to spread the word about UB, he informally mentors his peers, and he tries to make sure everyone is involved and interacts during UB meetings. Although he is currently still in high school, JJ wants to major in behavioral psychology with a minor in musical theater. JJ said he hopes TRiO programs stick around because “the younger generation needs something like them...because [TRiO] shapes who students will become in the future and helps turn them around.”

## Frankie Jaramillo

**Agency:** LULAC National Education Center, Inc.

**Program:** *Upward Bound Math/Science*

**TRiO**  
WORKS



While running a table at an open house event for her high school, **Frankie Jaramillo** happened to be seated next to a table for LULAC Upward Bound Math/Science. As the night went on, Frankie overheard a lot of information about the program and decided to ask more questions about it. Liking what she heard, Frankie joined the UB Math/Science program.

Through the program, Frankie learned better time management skills and was able to get after-school tutoring for her pre-calculus class. “I loved that I was going to have help on my homework instead of struggling,” she said.

One of the events that Frankie enjoyed the most was when she went to Pikes Peak Community College for the TRiO summer program. She gained invaluable skills and knowledge, but she also appreciated the professors who taught the courses. She said the instructors offered to read and edit academic papers even after the program was over.

To celebrate the end of the program, Frankie’s TRiO program took those who had successfully completed the courses on a trip to Disney World. In addition to the fun trip, Frankie said she loved all of the field trips offered through the program. “I liked how the field trips were fun yet tied into some type of educational component,” she said. She remembers going to see a science show at a museum where they saw a “fire and ice” show. Another time, she was taken to see a cave and learned about cave formations.

These trips helped fuel her interest for chemistry and the sciences. In fact, she wants to major in chemistry and education, and eventually become a chemistry teacher.

When Frankie was 12 years old, her mother passed away. She and her siblings had to go live with her grandma. School was a struggle and challenge for her, but she prides herself on overcoming it. She’s grateful to TRiO for the role it played in her life, and she even took the initiative and signed up her brother and sister for Upward Bound Math Science.

Frankie is currently a first-year student at Colorado State University-Pueblo, and is interested in returning to volunteer with LULAC UB.



## District 6

**773 Participants**

**2 programs:**

**Arapahoe Community College**

[www.arapahoe.edu](http://www.arapahoe.edu)

Educational Talent Search

**Community College of Aurora**

[www.ccaurora.edu](http://www.ccaurora.edu)

Student Support Services

**Total Federal Funding for District 6: \$443,149**



*“When she joined TRiO, Robin found the extra support she was looking for to help her reach her goal of completing her associate’s degree and transferring to a four-year college so that she could earn a bachelor’s degree and apply to law school.”*

*~Robin Burns*

*Community College of Aurora, Student Support Services*

**TRiO**  
**WORKS**

*“Ezana came to the U.S. as a refugee from Ethiopia...TRiO assisted Ezana with the post-secondary process and helped make some of his decisions easier.”*

*~Ezana Alem*

*Arapahoe Community College, Educational Talent Search*

## Ezana Alem

**Institution:** Arapahoe Community College

**Program:** *Educational Talent Search*



**Ezana Alem** graduated from South High School in Denver, Colorado in June 2013. He participated in Arapahoe Community College's Educational Talent Search program from 2010 until the time he graduated.

Ezana's TRiO advisors consider him to be "an inspiring young man and a leader amongst his peers." His desire to make an impact in the world motivated him to become very involved in high school.

Ezana organized a dance at South High School to help raise money for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organization. He was disturbed by how many African countries had such low educational opportunities for their youth and wanted to help build more schools.

*"Ezana came to the U.S. as a refugee from Ethiopia...TRiO assisted Ezana with the post-secondary process and helped make some of his decisions easier."*

Ezana was also involved in the Denver Student Jail to School Track Campaign for Denver Public Schools. He spoke to many of the DPS Principals and Administrators to inform them of the injustices of students who are getting arrested for small offenses within the school grounds and how keeping them in school would benefit them more in the future and help decrease the dropout rate.

Ezana came to the U.S. as a refugee from Ethiopia and lived with his aunt in the states while his parents remained in Ethiopia. TRiO assisted Ezana with the post-secondary process and helped make some of his decisions easier. Ezana was even recognized as a TRiO Achiever during the Metro Denver National TRiO Day 2013 celebration.

In August 2013, Ezana attended the University of Oregon and majored in Global Studies. He is always grateful for the services he received and for the guidance that his TRiO advisors have provided for him to continue his education.

## Robin Burns

**Institution:** Community College of Aurora

**Program:** *Student Support Services*



**Robin Burns** participated in the Student Support Services program at Community College of Aurora.

After leaving her job as a hair stylist and watching all four of her children enroll in college, Robin Burns, who had given up her own dreams of attending college to raise her children, felt lost and without a destination. She asked herself, "What do I want to do now that I am grown up?"

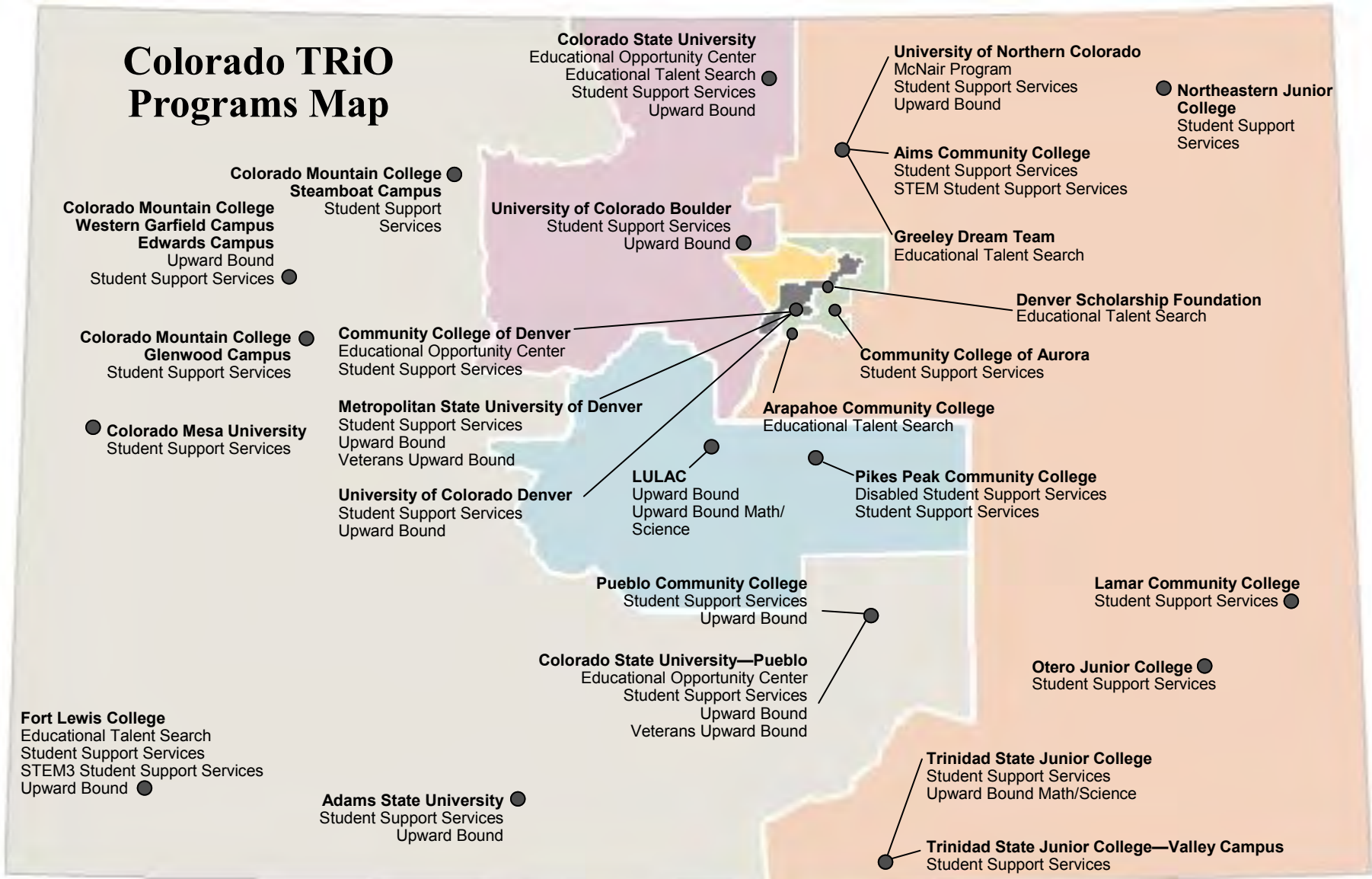
Robin's husband has his own business and through his consulting she has witnessed those who are less fortunate fail in court situations because they cannot afford legal representation and they are uninformed. Robin decided to pursue a degree in law and in the fall of 2010, thirty years after she graduated from high school, she started taking classes at the Community College of Aurora (CCA).

Not only did Robin find the direction she was seeking, but she found much more. When she joined TRiO, Robin found the extra support she was looking for to help her reach her goal of completing her associate's degree and transferring to a four-year college so that she could earn a bachelor's degree and apply to law school.

Through TRiO, Robin has attended workshops where she has learned how to apply for scholarships and she has connected with other TRiO students in her classes. "TRiO has provided me with a great mentor/advisor. The entire TRiO staff is like none other on the campus. They are personable, supportive and extremely patient."

Robin has achieved a great deal during her time with the TRiO program – she excelled in honor's classes and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society – but she said her proudest moment at CCA was when she crossed the stage to receive her associate of arts degree. The TRiO staff was proud of her, too.

# Colorado TRiO Programs Map



**District 1:**  
8 programs; \$2,658,130;  
5,682 participants served

**District 3:**  
17 programs; \$4,989,575;  
4,990 participants served

**District 5:**  
4 programs; \$944,239;  
379 participants served

**District 7:** NO TRiO programs  
housed in district

**District 2:**  
6 programs; \$2,521,561;  
3369 participants served

**District 4:**  
12 programs; \$3,212,060;  
2,307 participants served

**District 6:**  
2 programs; \$443,149;  
773 participants served

**Total Funding in CO: \$14,768,714**  
**Participants served in CO: 17,500**  
**Number of programs in CO: 49**

