

# 2020 Colorado Fact Book



**TRIO**  
**WORKS!**

**COE**  
COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION



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# **Summary: State of Colorado**

TRIO PROJECTS BY DISTRICT - FY2018-retrieved from [http://www.coenet.org/files/bulletin\\_board-TRIO\\_Projects\\_by\\_District\\_FY\\_2019\\_032919.pdf](http://www.coenet.org/files/bulletin_board-TRIO_Projects_by_District_FY_2019_032919.pdf)

**(50 projects, 15,475 Students, \$17,170,124.00 Funding)**

## **Congressional District 1**

Summary: (7 projects) (5,109 Students) (\$2,721,143.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 2**

Summary: (8 projects) (3,376 Students) (\$3,481,429.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 3**

Summary: (19 projects) (4,537 Students) (\$6,319,203.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 4**

Summary: (8 projects) (1,649 Students) (\$2,473,386.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 5**

Summary: (3 projects) (264 Students) (\$840,876.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 6**

Summary: (2 projects) (200 Students) (\$540,567.00 Funding)

## **Congressional District 7**

Summary: (3 projects) (340 Students) (\$793,520.00 Funding)

## What is TRIO?

TRIO includes seven programs targeted to serve disadvantaged Americans: 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.

TRIO is a commitment that has its foundation in the Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty with its inception in 1965. The TRIO programs were the first national college access and success programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers that low-income communities face.

**Each year, 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 be from low-income backgrounds where neither parent completed a Baccalaureate degree.

The Higher Education Act of 2008 and 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 importantly, it prohibited enforcing "absolute priority" or "control groups" for evaluation of the TRIO Programs.

**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**—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 Veteran)

**Student Support Services** (Undergraduate Students)

**Ronald E. McNair** (Graduate School Preparation for Undergraduates)

**[Here is the link for the podcast episode for TRIO Day in Denver 2020:](https://juanrivas.podbean.com/e/trio-day-in-denver-2020-pre-recorded-live-broadcast-from-the-wells-fargo-center/)**

<https://juanrivas.podbean.com/e/trio-day-in-denver-2020-pre-recorded-live-broadcast-from-the-wells-fargo-center/>

## **Educational Talent Search (ETS)**

**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**

ETS programs, hosted by the following Institutions and agencies:

- Colorado State University
- Denver Scholarship foundation
- Fort Lewis College
- The Greeley Dream Team, Inc.
- Colorado State University-Pueblo

**Total federal funding for the five programs: \$1,836,355**

## **Upward Bound (UB)**

**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**

UB programs, hosted by the following institutions and agency:

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

**Total federal funding for the 14 programs: \$5,179,208**

## **Upward Bound Math/Science (UBMS)**

**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 does 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**

UBMS programs, hosted by the following institutions and agency:

- Trinidad State Junior college
- Adams State University
- Pueblo Community College
- LULAC National Education Center, Inc.

**Total federal funding for the four programs: \$1,097,811**

## **Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)**

**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 post-secondary 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**

VUB program, hosted by the following institution:

- Colorado State University-Pueblo

**Total federal funding for the one program: \$287,537**

## **Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)**

**Goal:** The goal of the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary educational institutions. This program is designed to provide counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. Staff work closely with participants to help them navigate the college application process, provide guidance for filling out the necessary forms for financial assistance, and mentor them through the college admissions process.

### **Services**

- Financial and economic literacy
- Assistance in filling out the FAFSA form
- Financial planning skills
- College admissions application assistance
- Career counseling
- Academic counseling
- Mentoring

### **EOC in Colorado**

EOC programs in Colorado, hosted by the following institutions:

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

**Total funding for the three programs: \$1,914,113**

## **Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program**

**Goal:** The goal of the McNair program is to increase the attainment of the PhD 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
- financial aid for enrollment in graduate program

### **McNair in Colorado**

McNair programs, hosted by the following institution:

- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Northern Colorado

**Total federal funding for the three programs: \$796,874**

## **Student Support Services (SSS)**

**Goal:** The goal of Student Support Services (SSS) is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of first-generation, low-income, and students with disabilities. 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 programs
- Information about career options
- Mentoring

### **SSS programs, hosted by the following institutions:**

Adams State University  
Aims Community College  
Colorado Mountain College (3)  
Colorado State University  
Colorado State University-Pueblo  
Community College Of Aurora  
Community College of Denver  
Fort Lewis College  
Front Range Community College  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Northeastern Junior College  
Pikes Peak Community College  
Pueblo Community College  
Red Rocks Community College  
Trinidad State Junior College  
University of Colorado at Denver  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Northern Colorado

The total federal funding for  
the 20 programs equals  
\$6,058,226



# Colorado District 1

**Summary: (7 projects) (5,109 Students) (\$2,721,143.00 Funding)**

*Community College of Denver, Denver Scholarship Foundation, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver*

**Jennifer Enriquez** is an alumna of the **Denver Scholarship Foundation's TRIO Educational Talent Search** in the Montbello Community. Jennifer graduated from the Denver Center for International Studies at Montbello high school in 2016 and will be graduating in June 2020 from the University of Denver with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and minors in Leadership and Business Analytics. As a first-generation and low-income student, Jennifer appreciates the support she received from Denver Scholarship Foundation's Talent Search program to navigate the college process by keeping her on her toes, informing her about deadlines, editing her personal statements for college applications, guiding and coaching her on selecting a college to attend, and helping her to get and understand her financial aid. Without the help she received from the program, Jennifer expressed that she would have been lost in the college and financial aid process and would miss important deadlines and opportunities since she is first-generation. Currently as a student at the University of Denver, Jennifer is an active member of the Pi Lambda Chi Sorority and the Colorado Women's College Leadership Program. Jennifer has also had the opportunity to serve as an academic tutor at South High School in Denver, Colorado, a legal intern for Molson Coors, and a student accountant for the Innovation Labs program at the University of Denver. Jennifer also recently studied abroad in South Korea and hopes to become fluent in Korean. Her long-term plans include going to law school and working in the business law field.

**Joretta Hyatt** is an alumna of **Metropolitan State University of Denver and their TRIO Student Support Services** program. Joretta majored in Psychology and graduated in fall 2019. Joretta stated that she can truly say that college has been an amazing experience for me overall and allowed her to meet some amazing people. Joretta wrote the following: "I was admitted into TRIO after my first year on campus. We were told during our orientation that our college experience would be more rewarding if we participated with the many groups and organizations on campus. I was told about TRIO by a classmate and she shared the many benefits of the program. I decided to apply and was interviewed by Ms. Faith and I can say that once I was accepted, I've never looked back. This program has been such an encouragement to me, and the staff and participants are all so positive. You're greeted with a big smile and a kind word from the front desk to the rear of the facility. I'm glad that the program has the requirements so that we are held accountable and has introduced me to so many wonderful speakers in the Turnhalle, financial literacy courses, peer mentors and advisors, and finally the fun gatherings with the food (potlucks). After graduation, I'd love to pursue working with young people who can benefit from urban gardening in a structured environment. I'd love to take them on field trips and encourage them to respect Mother Nature. "



**Sitina Sado** is an alumna of **Metropolitan State University of Denver and their TRIO Student Support Services** program. Sitina majored in Political Science and Africana Studies in fall 2019. Sitina plans to continue her education by attending graduate school in the near future. Sitina enjoys soccer and music, injera and rice and TRIO Student Support Services.



## Colorado District 2

**Summary: (8 projects) (3,376 Students) (\$3,481,429.00 Funding)**

*Colorado State University and University of Colorado Boulder*

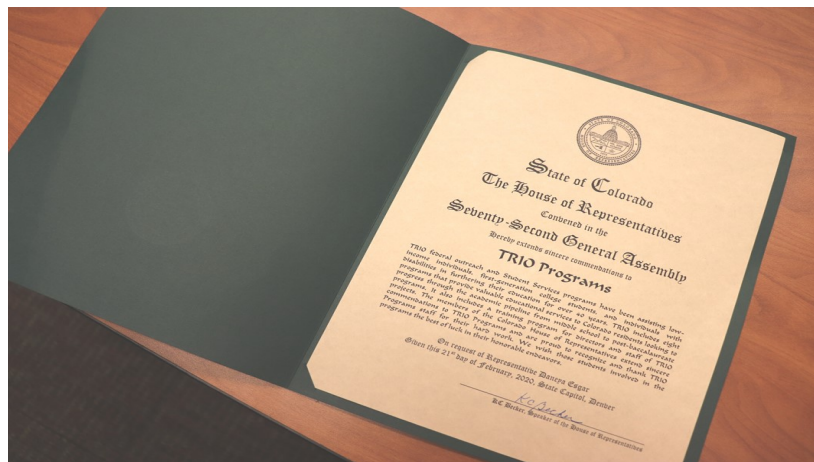


One of my first memories of **Jesse Herrera** was in the Upward Bound summer program back in 2008, when he showed up to afternoon activities with a blow-up horse and cowboy costume on, ready to go! I have known Jesse since then first as his supervisor in the UB Summer Program, and now as a friend and mentor in higher education. Jesse Herrera is a reflection of his values as a kind, resilient, empathetic, first generation Latino man of integrity. As an alumnus of the **Colorado State Upward Bound** program, graduating in 2000 from Roosevelt High School in Johnstown, Colorado, Jesse has readily shared with me the impact that Upward Bound has on his life. He finished high school, and with the support of Upward Bound, was able to

find an undergraduate home at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO. Following his undergraduate experience, Jesse came back to Fort Collins to work for the Upward Bound Summer Program as both a teacher and a residence hall counselor. For those of us that run summer programs, we can have admiration for someone that would take both roles on at the same time. He then decided to take some time experiencing the world through the lens of the Peace Corps and worked to improve the educational system in a local province in South Africa for two years. Following his Peace Corps service, he came back to Upward Bound and worked once again as a Summer Program Counselor. He has since earned his Master's degree in Student Affairs Administration while influencing equity and inclusion initiatives at South Dakota State University and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Once again, he came back to Upward Bound two years ago, asking if he and I could connect in a mentorship around leadership, higher education, and equity. Currently, Jesse serves as the Director of the Center for Inclusion at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where he works to make the university a more welcoming and affirming place for all students, staff, faculty, and community members. Throughout his story, it is hard to miss the fact that Jesse keeps coming back to Upward Bound in different ways. He is not hesitant to name how important Upward Bound has been throughout his life as a student and a professional. Jesse and I continue to strengthen our friendship and use each other for support all the time in our respective roles. Without Upward Bound, that connection would never have been created.

**Alee Landeros** is a non-traditional student at **Colorado State University** who will be graduating with her degree in Social Work this fall 2019 with over a 3.3 GPA. She has been connected with TRIO since she was 12 years old and considers TRIO not only her home but her life. It has been a long challenge for Alee throughout her time here as she battled academic and personal adversities. However, due to her strong character and positive attitude she has always found a way to stay resilient. In addition, the continuous support of TRIO has strengthened her sense of belonging, network, and confidence. Today she remains dedicated to her internship while continuing to work at the front desk of our office before graduating in a few weeks. After graduation Alee will dedicate her skills and time to the social work field as a probation officer.

**Legacie Stewart** is part of the TRIO Upward Bound grant at **Colorado State University (CSU)** in Fort Collins, CO. She attended John F. Kennedy High School in Denver, Colorado and joined TRIO Upward Bound during her junior year. In May of 2020, Legacie will be part of the second graduating senior class of the program. She has taken advantage of multiple opportunities and has challenged herself with honors, AP, Business Leadership, Economics, and Marketing college courses. Legacie will soon be a first-generation college student, with aspirations to enter the Law and Criminology field. Five months after joining the program, Legacie's mom passed away unexpectedly. Legacie became an orphan at the age of 17, her dad passed away when she was 7. After this tragedy, and with the help of Upward Bound, Legacie was able to find the strength and resiliency to keep moving forward in her educational journey. Not only did she want to make herself proud, but she wanted her parents and family to be proud as well. With family support and Legacie's hard work, she is continuing to become a strong, independent and educated young woman. Legacie has nurtured her social and professional skills by partaking in our junior study tour in southern Colorado, a senior college visit trip to Seattle, committing to academic advising during the school year and by recently applying and getting selected to attend a STEM Trip with our program to Orlando, Florida. Legacie's academic dedication and passion has surpassed our expectations. She is selfless, driven and is confident she will be successful. When asked what her favorite part of TRIO Upward Legacie said, "Upward Bound has been an amazing gateway for me to explore many opportunities. My favorite part has been the trips, especially out of state. I've always wanted to travel more and I've been able to do that with this program. We get to do educational activities along with fun ones that help us build new bonds". Legacie applied to five institutions in and out of state, got accepted into all of them, and has recently committed to be a Husker at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.



**Danelle** grew up from very humble beginnings yet is very appreciative of the opportunities that are before her. Upon entering sixth grade she began participating in the **Colorado State University Educational Talent Search Program**. The community she grew up in faces a number of challenges such as drugs, alcohol, gangs and teen pregnancies. Thankfully, she managed to avoid many of those adversities. The challenges she encounters have only made her stronger and more focused on her education. She graduated from Adams City High School in 2014 and is continuing her education at Colorado State University. At Colorado State University she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering, in which she is doing extremely well. During her undergraduate degree, she has been very active serving as a positive mentor to many younger students. She successfully completed two mechanical engineering internships at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. She credits most of her success to TRIO. She is very appreciative for the numerous educational opportunities that helped propel her into a competitive school and to take charge of her success. She will be graduating from Colorado State University in the spring 2020. Her goal is to become a mechanical engineer at NASA and someday work on the international space station. With all her experiences, accomplishments, and success she is well on her way.



## Colorado District 3

**Summary: (19 projects) (4,537 Students) (\$6,319,203.00 Funding)**

*Colorado State University Pueblo, Adams State University, Colorado Mountain College, Fort Lewis College, and Pueblo Community College*

**Eleysa Schofield** was tentative about attending college due to a variety of personal and financial obstacles. Classified as a homeless youth early in high school, she has been fully self-supporting for as long as she can remember. Despite her fears, she decided to try her luck attending **Colorado Mountain College** in Steamboat Springs. Eleysa heard about the TRIO SSS program when she attended her student orientation event. "It felt like I was getting a massive head start on helpful resources by having the opportunity to apply for TRIO before I had even fully registered for classes!" Eleysa knew that the program would provide her with the support she would need during her academic and personal success. Eleysa's background as a first generation and low-income student has served as motivation for her to excel socially, emotionally, and academically. She is an exceptional student and currently carries a 3.9 GPA. Eleysa is a leader within the campus community and serves as the Student Government Association's Student Body President. She speaks at new student orientations each semester and has shared that her goals are to make sure that other students know that they can feel a sense of belonging at CMC, and also that they will have the opportunity to thrive personally and academically while they attend. Eleysa is grateful to be a part of CMC's TRIO program. "I take advantage of the many resources TRIO has to offer including counseling with my Coordinator, someone who knows my personal situation and who I trust. I get help exploring financial aid as well as scholarship and transfer options and attend numerous Success Seminars. I also received the TRIO SSS Supplemental Grant. TRIO gives me unparalleled support with my academics that I wouldn't have otherwise gotten from family, friends or anywhere else. TRIO also leads me to resources and opportunities that may not be directly offered through TRIO." One of Eleysa's biggest obstacles has been deciding on what her college transfer options are and having the confidence to take the leap to attend a four-year institution, despite her financial restraints. "I've overcome this thanks to TRIO. Having the support to make decisions that are right for me and understanding how to be confident with my financial options has made all the difference." Eleysa will be graduating with honors spring 2020 and plans to transfer to a four-year institution within the state.



My name is **Chelsie McElhinney**. I am a senior psychology major at **Colorado Mesa University** in Grand Junction, Colorado. As a first-generation student, college life started off stressful and lonely. However, when I learned about TRIO and became a participant, the idea of finishing college seemed possible. I have stayed active in TRIO by attending workshops that are offered as well as becoming part of the office staff. The workshops that are provided are educational and have enhanced my social circle as they provide a



way I can meet other participants and staff members. The variety of choices that are offered have helped me overcome my anxiety, assisted me with how to better communicate with professors and peers, and allowed me to meet some amazing new people. One of my favorite services TRIO provides is the one-on-one tutoring/coaching. Unlike many other tutors, the coaches at TRIO care about all aspects of their mentees; they are easier to talk to, provide help with courses, and tips or strategies on how to be more successful while in college. TRIO has helped me academically by allowing me to build my confidence during many challenging semesters, I had a place to go and kind people to support me. On

the first day of classes, I was positive that I would not be able to continue with college, as it was incredibly stressful, and I had no clue what I was doing. From the office staff, to the tutors and with the supportive programs offered by TRIO, college life became less threatening, and more exciting, opening the world of possibilities to me. Soon I will graduate, something I could not have imagined four years ago.



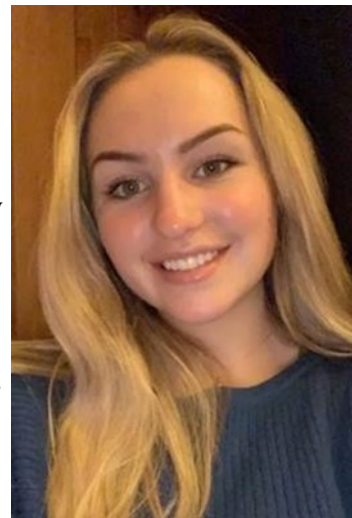
My name is **Michael Matney**, I graduated from **Colorado Mesa University** in Grand Junction, December, 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people at TRIO. Without the TRIO program I would not be where I am today. When I first started at Colorado Mesa University, I was 38 years old and could barely navigate a basic computer system, let alone the CMU websites. Struggling through High School with learning disabilities, and being bullied, I dropped out and got involved with drugs and alcohol. I became a burden to society, I was in and out of the justice system, believing I would never amount to anything. After getting my GED, I realized education was the key to breaking the cycle of addiction and mental abuse which was causing my self-destructive behavior. CMU gave me a chance to

prove I was serious about my education.

I was a first-generation student so I qualified for the TRIO program. Everyone made sure I felt welcomed and supported, if I had any questions, I did not feel like I was being talked down to or bothering anyone. They provided a mentor who volunteered to work with me and who went beyond the call of duty. They helped me proof-read my papers and made sure I understood the errors. The staff members would sometimes stay late to make sure that I could use the computer and not miss deadlines. TRIO offers many programs and workshops that continue to help me in my daily walk. One of the most helpful workshops I attended was the “How to Apply for Scholarships”. This aided me in becoming a recipient of The Daniels Fund, and Saccomanno scholarships, which helped immensely. Another extremely helpful workshop was “Navigating the FASFA Website”, after this workshop I never felt intimidated again while filling out the FAFSA. After graduation it was so easy to update my resume, because I had already created my resume, sophomore year, in a TRIO workshop. TRIO made college so much easier for me to understand and helped me achieve my goals. If someone is willing to put forth the effort and utilize the tools TRIO provides, they too can achieve their goals. Because I asked for help, used the programs in place, and opened myself to the opportunities available, I was able to achieve my degree.

**David Avila:** It is with much excitement that I announce that David will be graduating this May 2020 with his Associates of Applied Science – Bookkeeping/Accounting Degree. After graduation, he will be completing his Associates of Arts in Business and then working towards his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration followed by taking the CPA exam. David is a first generation student who first attended **Colorado Mountain College** in Fall 2016. He immediately recognized the many benefits of participating in the Student Support Services (SSS) program; in fact, it is because of David that both his younger brother and mother are also SSS participants. David has utilized SSS’s tutoring services, assistance with financial aid and scholarships, assistance with degree selection, and more. Since beginning at Colorado Mountain College (CMC) then he has made steady progress, while commuting 1 hour both to and from campus and working 30 hours a week. All the while, David has been on either the Dean’s List or President’s List every semester with a cumulative gpa of 3.74. You may be thinking that David’s success is similar to many other students. While there is truth to that, what makes David exceptional, is his success in spite of language disability. The time, patience and perseverance David puts towards his studies, with the exception of anything involving numbers, is longer than your average student. If it would normally take a student 3 drafts to finish a paper, it may take David 5. His brain is wired so that his thoughts, which are clear often come out jumbled, so it’s a challenge to rework any written work to express his knowledge. Many students would not strive for perfection or have given up. It was David’s choice to partner with SSS that provided the supports so he could show his true skills.

**Hannah Hedelius** looked forward to college since she was a little girl. She always knew she wanted to go, even knew what her major would be. But growing up in a small town of 1,200 people in Idaho, she knew she would have to really work for it. So she studied diligently to make good grades, played several school sports, and worked at least one part-time job at any given time to save money and have a well-rounded student application for college. Hannah quickly applied to **CMC**, TRIO Student Support Services, and also a work/study position. With her prior work experience, her grades, and her drive to reach all her dreams, she was quickly accepted by the all three. She has been an Academic Peer Coach for TRIO since fall 2018 and will finish out her Associates of Science with them before graduating May 2020 and heading to Boise State University where she will complete her Bachelors and apply for medical school. Her dream of becoming an anesthesiologist gets a little closer every day. This story may sound like many others, even a little boring. But to be clear, Hannah is so much more. In fact, her move to Colorado was two-fold. Her grandmother had been diagnosed with breast cancer and Hannah's help would be needed through two surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Her Peer Academic Coach position includes administrative tasks, tutoring students, and working directly with TRIO students and staff on planning and marketing upcoming events, transfer visits, and cultural activities. Besides Hannah's position on campus, she has also worked numerous part-time jobs, and volunteers two days a week at the hospital in the Pre-Anesthesia Care Unit. Hannah is also the Co-President of CMC's Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society chapter. As bright a light as Hannah shines, she appreciates all TRIO has done for her too. Hannah has maintained a 4.0 GPA and loves the idea of learning and bettering herself. "I see the years of further education as a chance to become the smartest, strongest student and doctor I can be." Hannah just wants to give back and save the world.



**Cheryl Barker:** During my years in higher education, I have met hundreds of students every year. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get to know them all. Still, some, for a variety of reasons, leave remarkable impressions that fill us with enormous pride in knowing that we have been so fortunate to be part of their academic journey and that they will be making a stronger and significant impact on people's lives. Cheryl Barker is such an individual. Cheryl grew up in a home with seven kids, none of which completed high school, except for her. Poverty had always been a way of life and a harsh reality throughout most of her life, but somehow, she knew that education was a determinant of her future. Thus, her first attempt to attend college was as a single mother of three; unfortunately, she had to drop out in her third semester. Her



dream was to return to college but never realized it would be 30 years before she was able to. During this time, Cheryl struggled with many adverse situations that kept holding her back and had no choice but to postpone her career, but like she says, "I am a survivor, and I have the power to change." Cheryl is now a first-generation graduate with an Associate's of General Studies from **Colorado Mountain College** Rifle and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Sociology at Colorado State University-Global. She accomplished this while working as a work-study at the front desk, working as a Peer Academic Coach for TRIO students, and taking 14 credits, all while also maintaining a 3.9 GPA. The Phi Theta Kappa scholar is now working in a mental health crisis facility and helps those suffering from mental health issues and/or addiction, and is also in the process of earning her certification as an addiction counselor.

She hopes that using her story can inspire others, and this is the advice she gives to them; "Deciding to continue your education is perhaps the best investment you can make for your future. The resources available to help you succeed like TRIO, are invaluable, so take advantage of every opportunity offered. Don't be afraid to ask for help along the way, but most of all, believe in yourself. Don't sit on the sidelines, get up, and dance! Make your dream happen. Dust yourself off and keep moving forward."



## Colorado District 4

**Summary: (8 projects) (1,649 Students) (\$2,473,386.00 Funding)**

*University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, Northeastern Junior College, Trinidad State Junior College, and The Greeley Dream Team, Inc.*

**Adriana Ramírez** is an alumna of the Weld County Site Office of the **Colorado State University Educational Opportunity Center Project** and from the Aims Community College Student Support Services Program. Adriana became an EOC adult participant while she was in jail serving a sentence related to her methamphetamine drug addiction and other convictions in 2005. Adriana had participated in a presentation conducted by our then Weld County EOC site coordinator about the importance of seeking education as a path to a different life. She immediately became excited about the possibility of going to college and with EOC staff assistance, encouragement and guidance, Adriana was accepted to Aims Community College for the following term. Unfortunately, she still had to complete her jail sentence. At her next court hearing, Adriana bravely went before the Judge and informed him of her future educational plans and admission to Aims. Impressed by what he learned of her plans and that she was ready to begin her enrollment the next term, the Judge deferred her jail sentence on the condition that she would enroll full-time at Aims while still completing other requirements related to her other convictions. This decision marked the beginning of her incredible educational and life changing journey. EOC referred her to, and she became an active participant at, the TRIO Student Support Services Program at Aims. Adriana went on to complete her Associates Degree and then transferred to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley where she earned not only her bachelor's but also obtained a master's degree. Today, she is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Addiction Counselor where she also supervises, supports and provides instruction to students who are going through their master's degree program and those students who are looking to be certified as counselors or working towards their degree and licensure. In her own words, "Now, I can be the support, the mentor, and cheerleader to those I work with in the same way that TRIO was for me. I am active and committed to my community. TRIO is now multigenerational in her family. Her daughter and several of her family members have utilized TRIO programs and services, and they, too, have graduated from college. She is no longer the only one in her family to have attended college. Thank you, Adriana for giving back to your community and congratulations on the person you have become.



My name is **Daniel Ruiz** and I have been served in Colorado House Districts 50 (Greeley) and 52 (FC) as well as Senate Districts 13 (Greeley) and 15 (FC). I am first generation Latino and my parents worked long hours as migrant workers when I was growing up. I am the first member in the program to obtain my Masters in Social Work and I am currently in the process of pursuing my PhD. I have always believed in the power of education, and I was unsure whether or not I would be able to pursue the aforementioned to the same extent that I am now. When I initially started my higher educational endeavors, I was considered a non-traditional student. I had a late start in the world of academia when I first enrolled in intermediate courses at **Aims Community College**. There were a lot of uncertainties given that I was not entirely acclimated to the environment. This, in conjunction with my late start, tended to fill me with doubt. I was unsure if I would be able to undertake the work assigned to me and I feared that I would fail my courses. However, the TRIO Program came to my aid and encouraged me to succeed. The Educational Opportunity Center provided me with counseling and information on the college admissions process. This seemed like the most daunting task to me at the time because of my inexperience with the system itself. TRIO also afforded me further support through another facet of the program called Student Support Services. Through this part of the program, I was continuously aided by staff in regards to the basic college requirements. Being able to have this type of support, even when I did not believe in myself and started to struggle, helped me to get to where I am today. I was determined to achieve a degree where I could help people in some way. The understanding the importance of higher education made me the person that I am now. I finally realized that I wanted to teach academia and do research. My desire to advance in my field, and the requirement of devotion of considerable time in teaching, research, and publications.



My name is Tanya Channel and I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). I am also, a proud alumna of TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) at **Aims Community College** in Greeley, Colorado. In 2014, I enrolled as a full-time student at Aims. I was unaware of the many barriers in higher education as a first generation, non-traditional, Latin-X, single mom of three wonderful boys. I chose to get an education for my children. I wanted my children and me to have a better quality of life and more opportunities. I had to believe that the voice inside me telling me education would change my life - and it has.

My experience as a first generation student meant that I was walking into classrooms and didn't understand or know how to navigate the college system. Basically, I didn't know how to access any of the support resources in higher education and I didn't have the money to continue my education. But, I had determination and a specific goal. My goal was to provide a better life for myself and my kids. I'm thankful that I was introduced to TRIO SSS at Aims.

The TRIO program introduced me to a variety of diverse activities and support --I received academic tutoring and received intensive academic advising to help me navigate the higher education system. My TRIO SSS family tutored me through my statistics course, helped me find scholarships, assisted with creating lab reports and APA style papers. The staff provided small snacks while I worked on my homework and the brain power (snacks) were really appreciated when money was tight. In addition, the TRIO program offered me many other opportunities. I went on university campus tours, joined clubs, attended financial literacy classes, and worked on campus. I built my leadership skills by becoming club President of League of United Latin American Citizens. In 2015, I was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success which is for students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. I served on the board as Membership Chair for two years. My TRIO advisor encouraged me to get a job on campus and I landed a work study job in The Financial Aid Office until I graduated with my Associate's degree in spring 2016.

My experience with TRIO was so amazing! I remained in contact with my TRIO advisor even after I transferred to UNC to pursue my bachelor's (and now master's) degrees. I managed to balance my school, home and work life as I worked UNC as a Financial Aid Counselor for three years while also taking classes. To this day, my former TRIO advisor continues to provide support to me while I attend graduate school. I'm so happy that I was able to accomplish my goals and provide a better quality of life for myself and my kids. I appreciate all the opportunities that TRIO gave me.



## Colorado District 5

**Summary: (3 projects) (264 Students) (\$840,876.00 Funding)**

*Pikes Peak Community College and LULAC National Education Services*

**Elzbieta (Elizabeth) Zalewski** is on her way to fulfilling her childhood dream of obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree and becoming a registered nurse. While working multiple jobs and mothering three children as a single parent, she persisted through four years at **Pikes Peak Community College** to graduate and began the nursing program at **CSU Pueblo** in January 2018. Her dedication and hard work have paid off in the form of scholarships to help her move ahead on the next step of her journey.

To get to this point, Elizabeth has meant and overcome significant challenges. Learning academic content in a second language has required her to plan much more time to do assignments that could otherwise be completed in half of the time in her native language. She dealt with the fear in math by first listening to a friend who encouraged her by saying, “don’t let this stop you.” She then purchased *Math for Dummies* and studied for six months before taking the placement test. Despite a serious car accident with injuries the day before her scheduled test, she knew she had to forge ahead. The result? No developmental classes required. As a first-generation college student, she took advantage of TRIO student support services PPCC and is transferring to TRIO SSS at CSU Pueblo.

Overcoming challenges is nothing new to Elizabeth. Growing up in Poland in an abusive home, she was discouraged from pursuing her dream and instead attended a technical high school and college. After working in a school office for several years, she moved to the US in where she became a certified pilot instructor. In addition to assisting others to reach their fitness goals, she established her own business caring for mentally and physically-challenged children along with pet-sitting residential cleaning. In the meantime, she married and had three children. The pattern of alcoholism and abuse she experienced as a child repeated itself in her marriage. Grappling with the legal system to ensure housing and protection for herself and her children has proved to be an ongoing challenge that continues today.

Despite these current circumstances, she is determined to continue with school and achieve her dreams. She was motivated to begin at PPCC in 2013 by her desire to create a better life for herself and her children. Providing a good example to her children is essential: “We all sit around the table doing our homework together. My children see how important school is to me and the sacrifices I make to get good grades and keep going. We encourage each other,” she said. Today, her two oldest children are students and USSC and her youngest is in high school.

Elizabeth has learned some solid lesson from overcoming challenges on her road to achieving her dream. In her own words, her advice to her fellow students include:

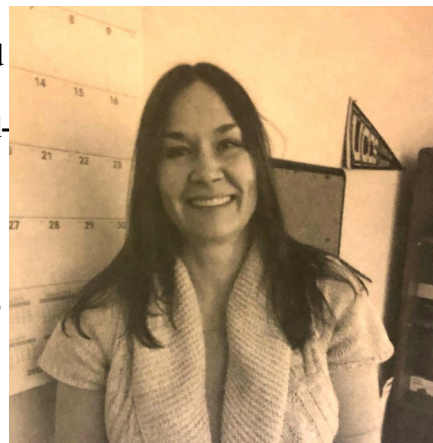
**Don’t let fear stop you!** Success begins with the first step. When I first came to campus to sign up for college, it was so overwhelming that I just walked back out. But the next day a friend came up with me and helped me apply for admission and financial aid and register for classes. Just start and ask for help.

**Don’t let life circumstances stop you!** Your car may break down mine did. You may not have a stable place to live. I don’t. You may have children to care for. I do. You may not have a sportive spouse. I don’t. You may not have money. I don’t. But you can persevere. I DO.

**Overcome low self-esteem!** Build yourself up. I tell myself: Keep going. You can do this.

**Look on the bright side!** I try not to focus on the negative. I try to be optimistic and put a positive spin on whatever I’m dealing with.

**Lastly, ask for help!** TRIO SSS has helped me in so many ways. My advisor, Mike Couillard, encourages me when I am frustrated and says: “Come and vent on me!” He helps me navigate the college system, apply for scholarships, and is now connecting me with CSU-Pueblo TRIO services and financial aid.



## Colorado District 6

**Summary: (2 projects) (200 Students) (\$540,567.00 Funding)**  
*Community College of Aurora*



**Hoang (Truc)** has been an active member of TRIO and has maintained a 4.0 GPA her whole time at **Community College of Aurora (CCA)**. In fall 2019, Truc was accepted into, and began her coursework in the highly competitive Integrated Nursing Pathway Program that is run in partnership with the University of Colorado Denver. While Truc is an exceptional student, TRIO helped her get accepted into this program as she worked directly with her Academic Coach during the application process. They reviewed the application, edited her resume, and practiced interview questions. Truc is a relentlessly positive student who has continued through her education, even while taking two biology courses at once. Truc is goal oriented and lets nothing stop her from succeeding.

**Crystal (Kiki) Gonzalez** is not only an active member of the TRIO program at **Community College of Aurora (CCA)**, but is active across campus while being an exceptional student. She has been President of the LatinX Student Alliance, State Student Advisory Council representative for CCA, a member of the Werewolves Robotics team, and a participant in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) - just to list a few of her extracurricular activities. She maintains an impressive GPA while participating in all of this and taking courses that most would consider difficult. Her participation in TRIO has helped her in this by opening doors to many of these extracurricular experiences. Her Academic Coach has worked regularly to make sure that she is on track academically, even as transfer schools change requirements and CCA changes its course catalog. TRIO's more extensive tutoring has also been integral to Crystal's success in some of her toughest classes.

**Saraiah** is an exceptional student with a near perfect GPA. They excel in school, but have felt lost outside the classroom. Moving from Chicago to Aurora during high school, Saraiah struggled with the transition socially. Attending a private, Christian high school pushed Saraiah away from religion and their religious mother. Joining TRIO at **Community College of Aurora** gave Saraiah a place to belong. They have worked on opening up and expressing themselves genuinely. TRIO gave Saraiah the opportunity to be recognized for their academic excellence as well as a community to spend time with and the opportunity to join Sonder: Student Employees Pursuing Inclusive Excellence. Saraiah also participated in the school's play, "Living Echoes", in spring 2019 and is now applying for graduation and getting ready to transfer and continue their educational journey.

## Colorado District 7

**Summary: (3 projects) (340 Students) (\$793,520.00 Funding)**  
*Front Range Community College and Red Rocks Community College*

**Angelica Valdez:** I understand the challenges first generation Latinas from low income backgrounds face when we attempt to transition into college. TRIO Upward Bound has helped me develop the skills, confidence, and tools needed for me to be successful. When I joined Upward Bound, I had no idea what I wanted to do after high school. In fact, I was unsure of many things in my life. I knew I was doing great by exploring different opportunities in my school, but I felt like I was not doing enough. I spent six weeks at Upward Bound Summer Academy at **Front Range Community College** where I learned more about myself and gained a better understanding of how I want to live my life. The experience offered me a new perspective and I entered Junior year with goals, visions, and inspiration to be successful. The community we built during the summer academy supported me emotionally and mentally to be the best version of myself. I look forward to integrating what I have learned from these experiences into my college journey. I will use my work ethic, creative solutions, and strategic tips to be successful.

**Metzy Morales:** TRIO has been a true lifesaver and truly a blessing. I am involved in other college programs and the support TRIO has lent me is truly a blessing. Before TRIO I always knew that I wanted to go to college but I wasn't really sure how I was going to get there. The other college programs taught me something about how to get to college but I knew that I was missing something. Joining TRIO helped fill in that "something" that I thought I was missing. All of the resources that TRIO has provided me have helped me feel more confident in my ability to get to college. Ever since I joined TRIO, I felt that I have learned more skills to be successful and new skills that I know I will carry into my future. From a young age I always knew that I wanted to go to college. I am a first-generation student who comes from a low-income family and paying for college and even thinking about going to college was a challenge because I had no guidance about how to get there. It's hard to have a goal and not know the steps you must take in order to achieve it. TRIO Upward Bound has helped me determine the necessary steps to get to college. By joining TRIO Upward Bound I knew that I wasn't only going to achieve my college goals, but also the dreams of parents to get a better future. My goal is to graduate valedictorian of my class and with TRIO's support I know that I am getting closer to accomplishing my goal. TRIO Upward Bound has helped me gain confidence in my capabilities of going to college, and succeeding as inspiring Latina in my community. With TRIO's support and guidance I have gained a better understanding of what I want in my future and of the things that I know I am capable of accomplishing. The other college preparation programs that I am involved in have helped me as well, but nothing can compare to the support I have received through TRIO Upward Bound. I am a very hardworking person, and with TRIO's unconditional support and confidence in my leadership abilities I have pushed myself to keep on going. Words can't explain how grateful I am to have joined TRIO Upward Bound. As a first generation student, I need all the help I can get in order to get to college, and TRIO Upward Bound has truly given me all the help that I needed. It is never too late or too early to start thinking about what we are planning to do with our future and TRIO has helped me build a plan that I know will get me to my dream career, which is neuro psychology. To wrap things up, I am incredibly grateful to have joined such an extraordinary program like TRIO Upward Bound. I was given the opportunity to build a solid plan for my future and I know that with all their support I will be able to get to the places I want to go.

**Zaira Villalobos:** As a first generation student I have always strived to take advantage of all the support I can get so I can succeed in life. When I was younger I dreamed about going to college and pursuing the career of my dream but I never knew how I would get there. Then I got the opportunity to be in an extremely supportive program which has helped me become the successful scholar I am today! Since the day I entered TRIO Upward Bound I have been able to understand the steps I need to take to achieve my goal of pursuing a career in psychiatry. From college readiness, to personal finances, and workshops TRIO has allowed me to explore different areas of the education world. I am very pleased to be in this program because I have made a lot of great friends that have allowed me to feel comfortable with who I am. Apart from the great connections I have made, I have also managed to receive one on one coaching to achieve my future goals. TRIO has also helped me reach mental stability. This has been a great advantage for me because I have always struggled with my mental state and I never had support until I entered TRIO Upward Bound. With this said, TRIO has impacted my life in various ways and I am very grateful for everything the TRIO community has helped me with. In all honesty I would recommend this program to all people who strive to become a better person and reach their goals. The TRIO community can be of great benefit because you can become a stronger individual with all the support that the program offers. It is truly an honor to be part of such an inclusive community.

**Brian Miranda:** Before being offered this great opportunity, I was really struggling with my academics. I wasn't really focused in class and I had a hard time performing well in school. I knew what I wanted to do as a profession but, didn't really know how to explore that career or just achieved that goal. During the course of time, I was really confused and I wasn't sure what to do. I was then introduced to TRIO which I benefited from a lot. The TRIO staff were all really helpful. They would always push me to do things I thought I never would do. They always made sure that I was doing well in all my classes and if I didn't, tutors would assist me. I appreciated all the support TRIO provided for me that it just made me perform better in school. TRIO helped me emotionally as well. I felt better about myself and boosted my self-esteem. I made lots of friends and created new friendships which created a social network for me. It is a very diverse program and everyone comes from different roots and everyone has their own story which personally, I think makes up the TRIO family.

