



Colorado TRIO Programs

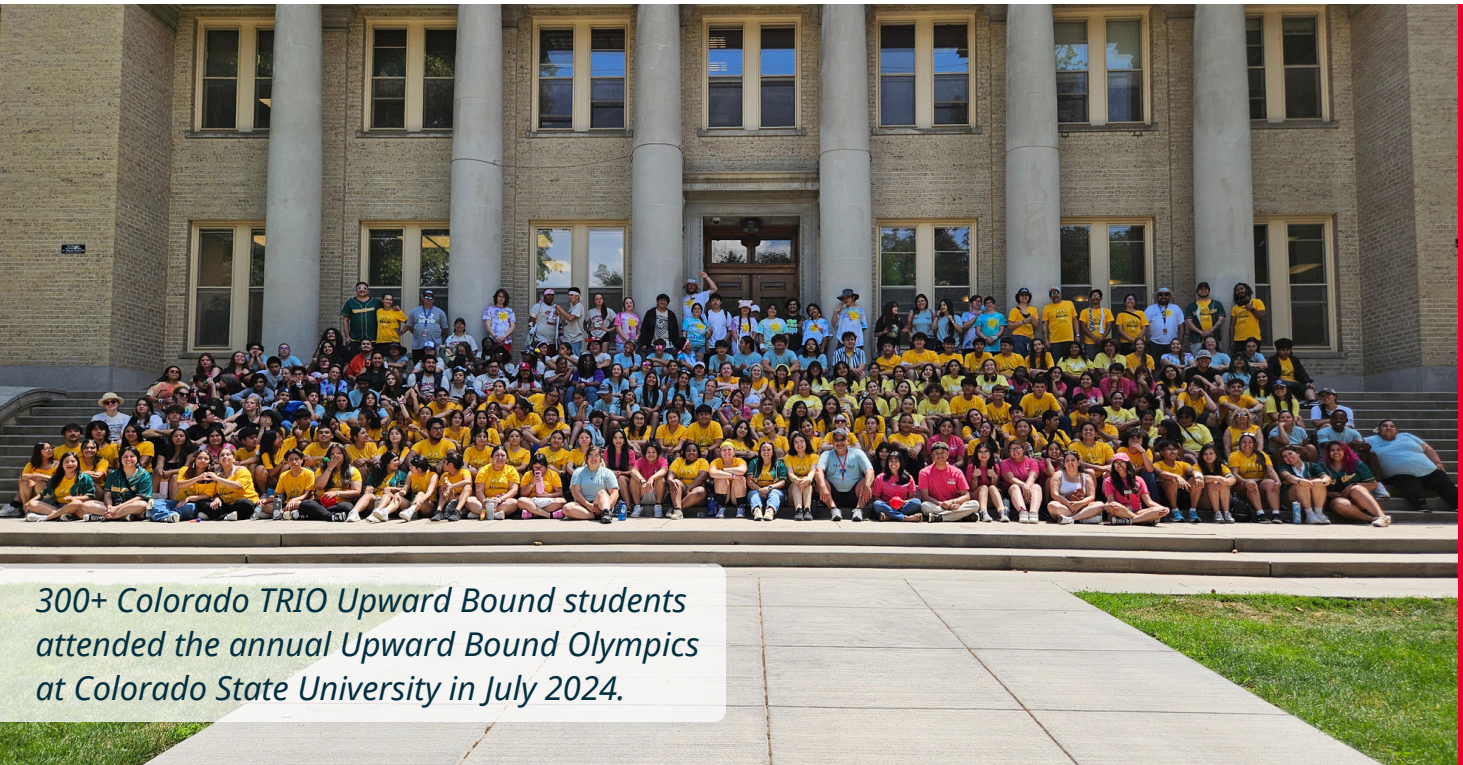
2025 Factbook

Prepared for
Senators Hickenlooper & Bennet



COLORADO TRIO PROGRAMS

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL REPORT



300+ Colorado TRIO Upward Bound students attended the annual Upward Bound Olympics at Colorado State University in July 2024.

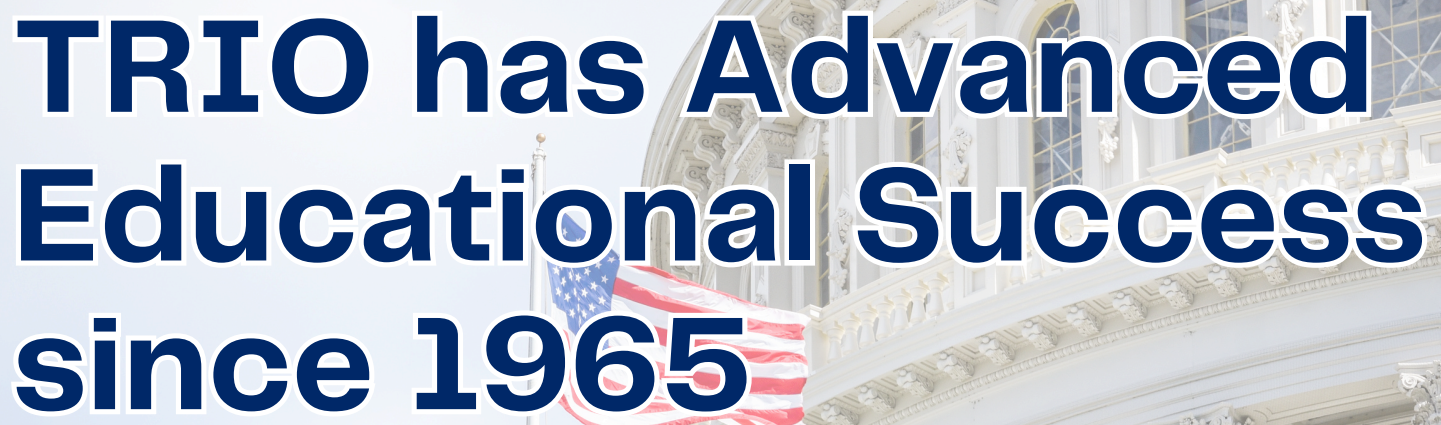
Colorado TRIO: A Legacy of Success



**Adrienne
Shabandarian**

CO ASPIRE
President

As the president of Colorado ASPIRE and an alumnus of a TRIO program, I am proud to share the profound impact these programs have on students across our state. TRIO programs are a lifeline, offering access, support, and opportunities to students from backgrounds where higher education may seem out of reach. Personally, without the mentorship, resources, and community TRIO provided me, I would not be where I am today, serving as a director of a TRIO program. I am living proof that TRIO works. These programs empower students to overcome barriers, gain confidence, and achieve academic success. The legacy of TRIO is evident in the countless graduates who now go on to make meaningful contributions to our society. As we continue to advocate for these essential programs, we stand united in the belief that every student, no matter their background, deserves the opportunity to achieve their dreams. TRIO transforms lives, and I am proud to be a part of that ongoing legacy.



TRIO has Advanced Educational Success since 1965

→ A 60 Year Legacy

TRIO programs were founded through the **1965 Higher Education Act**, rooted in the **Civil Rights Movement** and the **War on Poverty**. TRIO were the first national college access and success programs to address the serious barriers that low-income students and families face.

→ Serving Students

TRIO includes programs targeted to serve **low-income** individuals, **first-generation** students, **disabled** persons, and **disconnected** individuals as they progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

→ Delivering Results

TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentorship, financial guidance, and other supports necessary to promote **successful college entrance, retention, and graduation**.



TRIO Programs

TRIO programs serve students from as young as middle school through adulthood with one mission: **empower individuals through academic support, mentoring, and financial aid assistance.**

1964

Upward Bound

- Serves students **grades 9-12**
- Six-week intensive summer experience
- Financial aid support, tutoring, and instruction in core subjects

1972

Educational Opportunity Centers

- **Adult participants**
- Financial and economic literacy
- College admissions and FAFSA application assistance

1965

Talent Search

- Serves students **grades 6-12**
- Academic, financial, career, and personal counseling
- College and career exploration

1986

Ronald E. McNair Program

- Graduate school preparation for **undergraduate students**
- Research and internship opportunities
- Graduate school and financial aid application assistance

1968

Student Support Services

- Serves **Undergraduate Students**
- Tutoring services
- Financial, career, and personal counseling

1990

Upward Bound Math & Science

- Serving students **grades 9-12**
- Focus students with interest in Math and Science
- Exposure to university STEM faculty
- Research in math or science

1972

Veterans Upward Bound

- **Military Veterans**
- Assistance securing Veteran's services from locally available resources
- Short-term remedial refresher classes



Providing Educational Opportunity in **all** **8 Colorado Districts**

District One

\$3,426,015
9 Programs
5,151 Participants

District Five

\$905,119
3 Programs
264 Participants

District Two

\$5,290,728
14 Programs
3,879 Participants

District Six

\$1,126,591
4 Programs
500 Participants

District Three

\$9,370,273
27 Programs
5,613 Participants

District Seven

\$571,402
2 Programs
200 Participants

District Four

\$297,338
1 Program
180 Participants

District Eight

\$1,902,014
6 Programs
1690 Participants

TRIO HOST INSTITUTIONS

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

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

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Adams State University
Aims Community College
Arapahoe Community College
University of Northern Colorado
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado State University - Fort Collins
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
Otero College
Pikes Peak Community College
Pueblo Community College
Red Rocks Community College
Trinidad State Junior College
University of Colorado - Boulder
University of Colorado - Denver

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Colorado State University - Pueblo

TALENT SEARCH

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

UPWARD BOUND/ UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE

Adams State University
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University - Fort Collins
Colorado State University - Pueblo
Community College of Aurora
Fort Lewis College
Front Range Community College
LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc.
Pueblo Community College

MCNAIR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Colorado State University - Fort Collins
Colorado State University - Pueblo
University of Colorado - Boulder
University of Colorado - Denver
University of Northern Colorado

TRIO TRAINING

Colorado State University - Fort Collins

TRIO PROGRAMS, # SERVED, AND FUNDING IN COLORADO

TRIO PROGRAM	# OF PROGRAMS	# OF PARTICIPANTS	2023-24 FUNDING
ALL TRIO PROGRAMS	66	17,477	\$22,889,480.00
EOC PROGRAMS	3	6,216	\$2,014,201.00
MCNAIR PROGRAMS	5	130	\$1,402,484.00
SSS PROGRAMS	29	4,957	\$9,098,930.00
TS PROGRAMS	8	4,644	\$2,679,312.00
UB PROGRAMS	15	1,105	\$5,858,457.00
UBMS PROGRAMS	4	240	\$1,217,086.00
VUB PROGRAMS	1	185	\$619,010.00
TRIO TRAINING	1	231	\$309,505.00

TRIO PROGRAMS, # SERVED, AND FUNDING BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT	# OF PROGRAMS	# OF PARTICIPANTS	2023-24 FUNDING
CO 1: DEGETTE	9	5,151	\$3,426,015.00
CO 2: NEGUSE	15	4,110	\$5,600,233.00
CO 3: HURD	28	5,638	\$9,642,637.00
CO 4: BOEBERT	1	180	\$297,338.00
CO 5: CRANK	3	264	\$905,119.00
CO 6: CROW	4	500	\$1,126,591.00
CO 7: PETTERSEN	2	200	\$571,402.00
CO 8: EVANS	6	1690	\$1,902,014.00

TRIO STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

A long-time goal became reality for me when, at age 40, I entered law school at University of Denver in fall 2024. I could not have reached this point without TRIO! At Pikes Peak State College, I took a full load of classes while working 2 jobs, serving in student government leadership, and being a wife and mother. TRIO helped me to schedule classes, plan for graduation and transfer to UCCS, and waived application fees. TRIO connected me to financial aid at UCCS by calling beforehand so the staff there already had my name, and issues could be easily sorted out. TRIO paved the way for a smooth transfer to a 4-year university where one of my scholarships provided opportunities to regularly meet with a mentor, a local judge. With an associate's degree from PPSC and a bachelor's degree in political science (minors in Spanish, economics, pre-law) from UCCS, I worked for the past 4 years with non-profits and government agencies on child welfare cases. Currently, I work for DHS, including significant time in court, advocating for children as young as newborns. I have come a long way from the 19-year-old single mom fleeing an unsafe situation with few resources. Today, I am a graduate of Leadership Pikes Peak Region and was awarded the 2019 Honored TRIO Alumna Award from PPSC. TRIO still checks in with me and offers support on my journey. TRIO has changed my life.



Elizabeth Tavera

TRIO Student Support Services
Pikes Peak State College



Ronak Gozeh

TRIO Student Support Services
Pikes Peak State College

In 1996, my family and I were forced to leave our homes in Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and escape at night with only our lives. We had been targeted by Saddam's regime because we worked with international organizations on humanitarian projects. We then spent weeks in a refugee camp on the Turkish border, and eventually 3 months in Guam before arriving in Colorado in March 1997 to begin a new life. Married at age 17, I already had one child. In the years since then, I had 3 more children, and I devoted myself to my family and taking care of aged parents. But I always dreamed of attending college. In 2022, I decided it was finally my turn. At age 47, I started at Pikes Peak State College. I was scared and wondered "Can I do this?" TRIO gave me the courage to take the first step and the next. TRIO helped me with FAFSA, Accuplacer, registered me for my first class—ENG 1021—with a teacher who would encourage me, took me to get my student ID, and helped me with my assignments. TRIO helped me to see myself in a different, bigger way and to add "scholar" to my identity as a wife, mom, and caregiver. Now I am a registered phlebotomist and CNA, a member of Phi Theta Kappa (3.9 GPA), and have almost finished my associates degree. Before I start each new semester, I still feel doubt and anxiety, and I make sure I have an appointment with TRIO the first week of classes to go through each syllabus. TRIO is my anchor. I know that TRIO will always be there holding a lantern as I walk along my new and sometimes uncertain path.

TRIO STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



Stephanie Dominguez

TRIO Educational Opportunity
Center - Colorado State
University

When Stephanie began working with the CSU Educational Opportunity Center, it was the beginning of a working relationship that has lasted over 15 years. She had to drop out of high school to help take care of her 5 siblings because her mom was caring for her baby sister that was hospitalized. Her baby sister passed away, but Stephanie knew she had to push through and earn her high school diploma. At the age of 19, we referred her to an alternative high school program called GAP. She earned her diploma and when we began to work with her again, she was a single mother and was planning to enroll into college for the first time. She began to attend school and eventually she earned a two-year degree in a trade that she no longer wanted to pursue. The EOC would remind her every year that she had vowed to continue in college. She had various stopping points but now she has returned to college, and she is finding success in the classroom, with more support from the TRIO SSS program at Aims Community College. Her daughter Sarodj is now 14 years old, and Stephanie wants to be an example for her daughter by showing her that grit and perseverance pay off. One example of this is that she was recently awarded a scholarship from the National EOC organization, the NEOCA. She is about to earn her AA degree from Aims Community College and then transfer to the University of Northern Colorado in the fall of 2025, to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting. She has overcome a lot as a non-traditional student, and she has shown tremendous growth over the years. She is the perfect example of How TRIO Works!

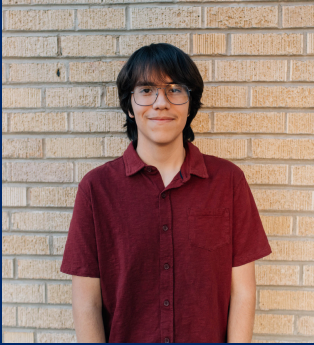
I first joined TRIO Upward Bound at the Metropolitan State University of Denver during high school, and it became one of the most transformative experiences of my life. The program provided me with countless opportunities, from finding the right college to applying for scholarships and securing an internship on a college campus during the summer. I had the chance to work in the admissions building, which gave me invaluable professional experience early on and a deep understanding of the college environment. These experiences helped me build essential skills, develop my confidence, and gain a clear sense of direction as I prepared for my future. Beyond the opportunities, the support I received through TRIO—both professionally and personally—was immeasurable. The mentors and staff were always there when I needed guidance or encouragement, making me feel empowered to pursue my dreams. I continued my journey with TRIO at Colorado State University, where I not only remained a member but also served as a mentor and employee, allowing me to give back to others and continue benefiting from the community that had supported me. Today, I am a lawyer in New York City, and I know that my success is deeply tied to the foundation TRIO helped me build. The program opened doors for me, providing the tools, resources, and support I needed to navigate higher education and my career. I will always be an advocate for TRIO, as it has had an undeniable impact on my life, and I hope that future generations of students have the same life-changing opportunities to grow, learn, and succeed.



Ainissa Proctor

Upward Bound - Metropolitan
State University of Denver,
Student Support Services -
Colorado State University

CURRENT TRIO STUDENTS



TRIO Upward Bound -
Community College of
Aurora

Edgar Moreno Camacho

Aurora West College Preparatory
Academy - Class of 2025

Upward Bound TRIO to me is about opportunity and equity. I started my educational journey without any inspiration to pursue higher education, this was until I joined UB TRIO summer of 8th grade. It was through TRIO that I felt myself first presented in a college setting. Throughout 4 years and 4 summer programs that TRIO has inspired me feel excited to pursue college. However, as a low income student and first generation, I had no guidance on what to expect from college. TRIO has not only leveled the playing field through workshops, college application support, scholarships, but made me feel seen and treated as equal in education. Not only has TRIO supported me, but my family. Through their constant support of providing community opportunities and even helping my families small business. After countless trips, workshops, and memories that I carry throughout my life, Upward Bound TRIO at Community College of Aurora is not just a program, but a family which I am very fortunate to have.



Leila Musiwa

Northeast Early College - Class of 2025

For me, being a part of the TRIO program has connected me with so many wonderful people and opportunities. I have had the chance to go on many amazing college trips and explore the institutions where I see myself attending in the future. I have been a part of the TRIO program since ninth grade, and the amazing staff at the Future Center have provided me with countless opportunities over the last four years, making the college application process a breeze. As a first-generation student, my background is celebrated in the TRIO program. It has helped me make many friends and provided me with various resources to help pay for college. TRIO has also felt like a support system to me. When I first applied for colleges, I felt overwhelmed and doubted myself. However, the staff continued to believe in me and encouraged me to keep applying. Because of their support, I have found a college that I will be attending in the fall. I am also incredibly excited because the TRIO program is on campus, which means I will continue to have my support system even outside of Colorado. And I am confident that the foundation that TRIO has given me will continue to support me along my journey.

TRIO Talent Search -
Denver Scholarship
Foundation

CURRENT TRIO STUDENTS



Former TRIO Upward Bound Participant,
Current Student Support
Services Participant

Kelly Velazquez

Colorado State University

TRIO has played a pivotal role in helping me grow and achieve my goals. My journey with TRIO began when I was introduced to the Upward Bound '77 my freshman year of High School. Through Upward Bound, I was able to graduate high school, travel, and most importantly, build meaningful connections. This program also introduced me to the idea of college, providing crucial support throughout my college application process, which allowed me to reach another significant goal. Through TRIO, I was then introduced to the Bridge Scholars Program at CSU, where I had the invaluable experience of living on campus during the summer. This early exposure gave me a taste of what college life would be like, helping me prepare for my first semester. Additionally, TRIO connected me with the Academic Advancement Center at CSU, where I received personalized support from my advisors as a First-Generation Latina student at a predominantly white institution. This support helped me navigate challenges and find a sense of community on campus. Thanks to my involvement in several TRIO programs, I have been able to find my place and achieve so many of my goals. I am incredibly grateful to TRIO for the opportunities and resources that have shaped my academic and personal journey.

Aryam Lema

Colorado State University



Former TRIO Upward Bound Participant,
Current Student Support
Services Participant

As a first-generation immigrant, education holds great value for both me and my family. My parents left their homeland to provide me with opportunities they never had, and I have always carried that responsibility with deep gratitude. When Upward Bound TRIO first visited my high school and introduced their program in my geography class, I knew I wanted to go to college—but I had no idea how to start. With no family members to guide me through the process, I became the first student to apply to Upward Bound TRIO. I knew I needed information and support, but I never expected to build lifelong connections and friendships through the program. Thanks to Trio, I was able to explore different colleges through field trips and information sessions, which helped me determine the right fit for me. The program also provided crucial assistance with filling out my FAFSA form, something neither I nor my parents knew how to navigate. Without TRIO, I wouldn't have known how to apply for colleges, scholarships, or financial aid. More importantly, I wouldn't have had the confidence I carried with me when I stepped onto my college campus. Because of the foundation, TRIO helped me build, I had an incredible four years in college and felt prepared for success from the moment I arrived. The impact of this program was so significant that I felt compelled to return as a mentor, ensuring that other students receive the same support and guidance I did. Every student deserves the chance to pursue higher education with confidence, and I am proud to be part of an organization that makes that possible.