



For more information on TRiO:

Montana Aspire - [www.mtaspire.org](http://www.mtaspire.org)

Regional Aspire - [www.aspireonline.org](http://www.aspireonline.org)

Council for Opportunity in Education - [www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us)

U.S. Department of Education TRiO Homepage -

[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/trio/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/trio/index.html)

For more information on TRiO in Montana, contact:

Zach Hawkins, President of the MT Chapter of ASPIRE

Montana Tech of the University of Montana

1300 West Park Street Butte, MT 59701

(406) 439-2395 [zhawkins@mtech.edu](mailto:zhawkins@mtech.edu)

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

# Montana TRiO Fact Book 2011

**Federal TRiO Programs**  
**U.S. Department of Education**

# Overview

## What is TRiO?

TRiO equals educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and Americans with disabilities.

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America’s economic and social life. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRiO programs. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

## The Federal TRiO Programs

- Upward Bound
- Educational Talent Search
- Educational Opportunity Centers
- Upward Bound Math & Science
- Veterans’ Upward Bound
- Student Support Services
- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

Although the name “TRiO” initially came into use after the first three programs were authorized under the Higher Education Act, there are currently eight distinct programs that comprise the federal TRiO programs, seven of which provide services to students and an eighth that provides training to the TRiO program staff who serve the students. Each plays a unique role in providing educational opportunity for eligible students.

## Why TRiO?

TRiO programs help low-income, first-generation, and students with disabilities realize their educational potential.

## TRiO in Montana is working

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

The Current Numbers....		
	National Average	MT TRiO Students
% of low-income High School graduates enrolling in postsecondary education	26.9%*	81%***
% of low-income students completing Bachelor’s degree within 6 years	8.3%**	27%***
Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$36,000 *Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, October 2010, Number 220 **Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, November 2010, Number 221 ***8-year average of Montana Upward Bound APR data		

# Upward Bound

Emergued out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in response to the administration's "War on Poverty."

## Goal

The goal of Upward Bound (UB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Classic UB serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

## Services

- Instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature, and foreign language
- Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond high school
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Mentoring programs
- Information on postsecondary education opportunities
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Work study positions to expose participants to careers requiring a postsecondary degree

## Montana Information

- 9 Programs
  - Flathead Valley Community College
  - University of Montana Missoula
  - Montana Tech of the University of Montana (3 programs)
  - Fort Belknap Indian Community
  - MSU Billings
  - Salish Kootenai College
  - Chief Dull Knife College
- Funded to serve 605 students

## A Success Story - Kevin Majewski



As a low-income student raised by a single mother, Kevin struggled in high school. He had the academic ability and desire to attend college; however, because of a number of circumstances this goal was almost lost. With Kevin on the verge of losing his high school credits, the UB staff worked closely with his high school and arranged for Kevin to begin his college career early. At age sixteen Kevin enrolled in classes, lived in the residence halls, and was given the chance to focus on his

academics. Kevin took an active interest in serving his school and community, participating in the SSS program at MSU Billings (MSUB) and serving as student body president during his senior year. Kevin graduated from MSUB in 2007 with a BS in Psychology and received his MA in Psychological Counseling from Monmouth University in 2009. Kevin currently teaches English as a foreign language in Kimitsu, Japan. In Kevin's graduation address to the MSUB community, he summed up his experiences by saying, *"In many areas of our lives we have had ups and downs, but the thing that has pushed us through is the hope for something better – a better job, a more exciting and enjoyable life, the benefits of continual education, or the pleasure of a job well done."*

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	659
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	78%
Yearly retention rate in project	80%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	70%
Freshman to sophomore year PSE persistence	75%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2004 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	35%
% of 2004 grads still enrolled in PSE program	25%
% of 2004 grads still enrolled in or graduated from PSE	60%
(2009-2010 ED Annual Report Data - 8 of 9 programs reporting)	

# Educational Talent Search

The second outreach program created as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

## 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 the postsecondary education institution of their choice.

Educational Talent Search also serves high school dropouts, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

## Services

- Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs
- Career exploration and aptitude assessment
- 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
- Mentoring programs
- Special activities for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders
- Workshops for the families of participants

## Montana Information

- 4 Programs
  - MSU Billings
  - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education - Helena
  - Fort Belknap Indian Community
  - Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- Funded to serve 3,500 students

## A Success Story - Mallory Johnston



Growing up in a large, low-income family, Mallory had the desire and motivation to attend college, but wasn't sure she had the what it takes to succeed in college. She was one of five children and watched her older siblings as they graduated from high school and started their college lives. Scholarship opportunities were few and far between for her sisters and it became discouraging for her family of first-generation college students. Mallory was a bright student with potential and drive, but had no one to really push her to work for the things she wanted until she joined ETS during her junior year of high school. She began to study for the SAT and ACT and started researching college scholarships. ETS helped her create deadlines, organize study sessions to help prepare for tests, apply for scholarships, and even fill out her college application and FAFSA. *"With the assistance, guidance and support of ETS I could see my life changing and my opportunities emerging."* In college Mallory joined SSS and received assistance with tutoring, registering for classes, and connecting with a mentor that was attending college for a similar degree. She received a TRiO achiever award and a scholarship for her participation and dedication. *"Through it all, I had an incredible group of people I could always count on to motivate me and encourage me to push through any obstacles that came my way."* Mallory graduated in May of 2008 with a degree in Business Administration and Management and started a corporate career with Farmers Insurance as a Marketing Specialist. *"ETS and TRiO encouraged me to succeed and provided the tools I needed to do so. I am thankful for the opportunities and services they provided to me and my family."*

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	3,768
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
Secondary school retention	98%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	69%
% of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end	94%
(2009-2010 ED Annual Report Data)	



# Educational Opportunity Centers

The Higher Education Amendments of 1972 added this fourth program to the TRiO group.

## Goal

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

## Services

- Academic advising
- Personal counseling
- Career workshops
- Information on postsecondary educational opportunities
- Information on student financial assistance
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Assistance in completing applications for college admissions, testing, and financial aid
- Coordination with nearby postsecondary institutions
- Media activities designed to involve and acquaint the community with higher education opportunities

## Montana Information

- 10 outreach sites under one program administered by Montana State University-Northern
  - Billings
  - Browning
  - Butte
  - Fort Peck
  - Great Falls
  - Havre
  - Helena
  - Kalispell
  - Pablo
  - Rocky Boy
- Funded to serve 2,500 students

## A Success Story - Jamaica Moore



Jamaica Moore was a high school drop out with an eighth grade education. She worked for 15 years in the bar industry and became engulfed by work and alcohol. Just 5 years ago she realized she wanted more for herself. After finishing her GED at EOC, the idea of attending college became a real possibility. With the help of the staff at EOC, she was able to enroll for college preparatory courses, and apply for admission to MSU Billings.

Now, she is one semester away from earning her Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Psychology. *"A past I was once not proud of has become my inspiration to make the most of my life. I could never fully express the gratitude I have for the help and encouragement I received through TRiO."* She also took an opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with her Ecology class and found there an enthusiasm for the Spanish language which she nurtured with three years of Spanish classes. Jamaica is currently applying for the Masters of Physician's Assistant Studies program at Rocky Mountain College. She is also considering taking the MCATs to apply for a medical school program because of the encouragement of one of her professors. *"Five years ago, I would never have imagined myself applying for a medical school program, now I find it to be a new challenge I am excited to face."*

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	2,500
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
% of secondary school drop outs re-entered secondary ed.	79%
% of college-ready participants enrolled in or admitted to PSE for 1st time	91%
% of postsecondary stopouts re-enrolling in postsecondary	91%
% of college-ready participants receiving assistance in applying to PSE	94%
% of college-ready participants receiving fin. aid assistance	86%
% of seniors graduated/completed GED	89%
(2009-2010 ED Annual Report Data)	

# Veterans' Upward Bound

This program became a new component of Upward Bound in 1972 to meet the educational needs of military veterans.

## Goal

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

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

## Services

- Intensive basic skills development in those academic subjects required for successful completion of a high school equivalency program and admission to PSE programs
- Short-term remedial or refresher classes for veterans who are high school graduates but have delayed pursuing a PSE education
- Academic, financial, and personal counseling
- Exposure to academic programs and cultural events
- Tutorial services
- Information on postsecondary education opportunities
- Assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Assistance in securing veterans services from other locally available resources

## Montana Information

- 1 Program
  - MSU Northern - based at MSU Billings
- Funded to serve 230 students

## A Success Story - Kevin Buck Elk



Kevin Buck Elk is an enrolled member of the Crow Nation and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Montana National Guard. Kevin's goal has always been to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering; however, during his first attempt at college he encountered financial and personal barriers and had to leave school. Kevin worked several seasons with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Department as a Heavy Equipment Operator Trainee.

Kevin was referred to the Veterans Upward Bound Program and enrolled in the free college prep courses. He graduated from the VUB College Transition Assistance Program and continued on to earn 70 credits from MSU Billings in the Pre-Engineering Program. During his enrollment at MSUB, he requested and used tutoring services in math and pre-calculus from the VUB Program.

Kevin has been accepted into the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program and has been awarded the Veterans Educational and Training Assistance Fund in Honor of the late Crow Tribal Chairman Carl E. Venne. He is currently enrolled in the Diesel Technology program at MSU Northern and earned a 4.0 grade point average during his first semester. Kevin says, "I always keep in touch with VUB staff at MSU Billings, because they always offer good advice and help me with personal or professional problems I encounter."

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	230
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	69%
Postsecondary education placement rate within 1st year	47%
Freshman to sophomore year PSE persistence	26%
Matriculation and graduation	
% of 2004 grads that graduated from a program of PSE	23%
% of 2004 grads still enrolled in PSE program	41%
% of 2004 grads still enrolled in or graduated from PSE	64%
(2009-2010 ED Annual Report Data)	

# Student Support Services - 4 year

This program was authorized by the Higher Educational Amendments in 1968 and became the third TRiO program.

## Goal

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/4-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. SSS provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants.

## 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
- Assistance with financial literacy
- Information about career options
- Mentoring
- Special services for students with limited English proficiency
- Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to current SSS participants who are receiving federal Pell grants.

## Montana Information

- 7 Programs
  - MSU Northern
  - Rocky Mountain College
  - University of Great Falls
  - University of Montana Missoula
  - MSU Billings
  - University of Montana Western
  - Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- Funded to serve 1,625 students

## A Success Story - Teri Jo and Greg Lanoue



At 17 years of age, Teri Jo found herself pregnant. After her son was born she entered a program for young mothers and earned a GED. Seeking a better life and future for her son, Teri Jo moved to Stevensville where she supported her family by working in restaurants. During that time she met her husband Greg who was employed by a tarp manufacturing company. A friend encouraged Teri Jo to get a college degree and helped her through the admissions and financial aid process.

Teri Jo started a degree in psychology and loved her classes, particularly math. She decided to explore some science courses and “*fell in love with the challenge of the program.*” Greg was so inspired by Teri Jo’s love of learning that he decided to begin college too!

Teri Jo works as a student researcher on a project to discover compounds that could lead to novel treatments for diseases caused by parasites. Her aspiration upon completion of her double major in psychology and chemistry is to enter graduate school in organic or medicinal chemistry. Greg, a business major, teaches billiards classes at UM and presently is the treasurer for Golden Key honor society. Both agree pursuing a college degree will provide for a better future for their three children.

*“The tools I learned in the study skills class, I’m still using today. I’ve utilized all of the services and found the book loan, tutoring, and grant aid to be so valuable. More importantly, I always feel if I have a problem, I can go back to TRiO, knowing somebody is on my side. I’m not sure I would have gotten this far without TRiO support.”*

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	1,857
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	69%
Persistence toward completion of degree or transfer	78%
Good academic standing	89%
6-year graduation rate	34%
Bachelor’s degrees awarded	394

(2008-2009 ED Annual Report Data - Most recent data available)

# Student Support Services - 2 year

This program was authorized by the Higher Educational Amendments in 1968 and became the third TRiO program.

## Goal

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

## 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
- Assistance with financial literacy
- Information about career options
- Mentoring
- Special services for students with limited English proficiency
- Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to current SSS participants who are receiving federal Pell grants.
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in four-year institutions (two-year college SSS).

## Montana Information

- 7 Programs
  - Blackfeet CC
  - Dawson CC
  - Flathead Valley CC
  - Salish Kootenai College
  - Chief Dull Knife College
  - Fort Peck CC
  - University of Montana Helena COT
- Funded to serve 1,315 students

## A Success Story - William James Polk



William James Polk, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, graduated from Browning High School in 1992. William postponed his college enrollment and joined the Air Force where he served his country for 6 years. In 2003, William decided to pursue his dream of becoming a math teacher. He not only wanted to give his family a better life, but also wanted to make a difference in the lives of the children in his community on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. William graduated from the Blackfeet Community College (BCC) in 2005 with an AS degree in math and science. He was the class valedictorian at BCC with an impressive 4.0 cumulative GPA. William continued his education at University of Montana earning a BA in Math Education again with a 4.0 GPA. William is the first member of his family to earn a BA. William currently teaches math at BCC. He considers hard work and determination to be his most valuable strengths. *"The BCC Student Support Services program encouraged and supported me throughout my academic career. It was nice to know that whatever happened or was going on with me academically or personally, there was always someone there to assist me, point me in the right direction, or just listen to me. The SSS program hired me as a peer tutor while I attended school at BCC. Being a tutor helped offset my financial situation during the winter months while I was a student and wasn't able to work."*

## Montana Outcomes 2010

Number of MT students served	1,365
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	81%
Persistence toward completion of degree or transfer	71%
Good academic standing	84%
4-year rate of graduation or transfer to a 4-year college	37%
Degrees awarded	225

(2008-2009 ED Annual Report Data - 6 of 7 programs reporting; Most recent data available)



# McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

The McNair Scholars Program is nationally recognized as a graduate school preparatory program that offers undergraduate students from all academic disciplines opportunities to excel academically. The program facilitates each student's successful application to graduate school and better equips them with confidence, knowledge and skills for meaningful and relevant contributions to their professional career endeavors.

## Goal

The goal is to promote equity in graduate school enrollment by encouraging the completion of doctoral degrees by low-income, first generation or underrepresented minority students.

## Services

- Research opportunities for participants who have completed their sophomore year of college
- Mentoring
- Summer internships
- Tutoring
- Academic counseling
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in graduate programs
- Seminars and other scholarly activities designed to prepare students for doctoral studies

## Montana Information

- 1 Program
  - Montana State University Bozeman
- Funded to serve 25 students

## A Success Story - Jocee Stirling



Jocee is a senior in the Department of Animal and Range Science who will be graduating with her bachelor's degree in May 2011 and plans on attending graduate school to pursue her Ph.D. in Range Science. Jocee grew up on a small family ranch and is a member of the Spirit Lake Tribe in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Jocee has a strong desire to be the first in her family to earn her bachelor's degree. As a McNair Scholar, Jocee consistently delivered quality work and met all deadlines related to her summer research internship and participation in the McNair Program. Jocee travelled to the University New Mexico - Albuquerque where she attended a national McNair Scholars Research and Leadership conference and professionally presented her research at the poster symposium titled: The Impact of Management Intensive Grazing in a Native Warm Season Pasture. Jocee is a well rounded student who takes advantage of opportunities around campus and the community while she works to achieve her academic goals. Most recently, Jocee was selected as the first intern for the newly awarded National Science Foundation's Wildfire PIRE project in New Zealand where she will be studying the impacts of wildfires on land ecology and range management.

Jocee has grown substantially as a McNair Scholar and has no plans of stopping there. Her academic achievement and success stands as a tribute to her perseverance and commitment to her education.

## Montana Outcomes 2010

This recently funded program began operation in Spring Semester 2010.

Number of MT students served	39
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	76%
Percent meeting minority in graduate education eligibility	20%
Average GPA	3.5

(2009-2010 ED Annual Report Data)

# TRiO in Montana

Program Location	Students	Funding
<b>Student Support Services - 4 year</b>		
Montana State University Billings	250	\$314,467
Montana State University Northern	240	263,239
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	120	220,000
Rocky Mountain College	250	300,275
University of Great Falls	230	297,857
University of Montana Missoula	375	420,751
University of Montana Western	160	255,505
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>2,072,094</b>
<b>Student Support Services - 2 year</b>		
Blackfeet Community College	170	310,190
Chief Dull Knife College	100	120,000
Dawson Community College	130	281,671
Flathead Valley Community College	350	333,579
Fort Peck Community College	175	299,285
Salish Kootenai College	230	301,265
University of Montana Helena COT	160	220,000
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,865,990</b>
<b>Student Support Services Combined Total</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>3,938,084</b>
<b>Educational Opportunity Centers</b>		
Blackfeet Community College		
Flathead Valley Community College		
Fort Peck Community College		
Helena Job Service Workforce Center		
Lincoln Center		
Montana State University Northern		
Salish Kootenai College		
Stone Child College		
University of Great Falls COT		
Montana Tech of the University of Montana		
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>597,371</b>

Program Location	Students	Funding
<b>Educational Talent Search</b>		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	835	317,274
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,250	584,694
Montana State University Billings	600	226,600
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	800	226,600
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>1,355,168</b>
<b>McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement</b>		
Montana State University Bozeman	26	220,000
<b>Classic Upward Bound</b>		
Chief Dull Knife College	60	250,000
Flathead Valley Community College	65	296,344
Fort Belknap Indian Community	75	323,805
Montana State University Billings	75	328,398
Salish Kootenai College	80	361,962
University of Montana Missoula	70	411,285
Montana Tech of the University of Montana		
Lower Clark Fork	60	250,000
Montana Tech	60	287,881
Ruby Valley	60	250,000
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>2,759,675</b>
<b>Veteran's Upward Bound</b>		
Montana State University Northern	230	526,727
<b>Upward Bound Combined Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>3,286,402</b>
<b>Grand Total for 30 programs</b>	<b>9,786</b>	<b>\$9,397,025</b>