



For more information on TRiO:

Montana Aspire - www.aspireonline.org/montana

Regional Aspire - www.aspireonline.org

Council for Opportunity in Education - www.coenet.us

U.S. Department of Education TRiO Home page -

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

For more information on TRiO in Montana, contact:

Kelly Buck, President of the MT Chapter of ASPIRE

MSU Billings

1500 University Drive Billings, MT 59101

(406) 657-1668 kelly.buck@msubillings.edu

This booklet was designed by Barb Waters, Outreach Advisor for the Upward Bound and Talent Search programs at MSU Billings.

Montana TRiO Fact Book 2016

Federal TRiO Programs

U.S. Department of Education

Overview

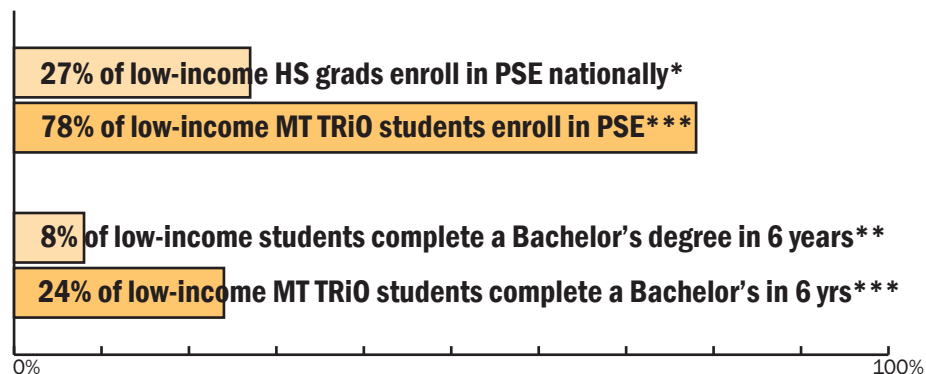
What is TRiO?

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to provide educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation, and Americans with disabilities. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRiO programs. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

TRiO in Montana is working

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

The Current Numbers....



Statistics based on students coming from families with income less than \$36,000

*Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, October 2010, Number 220

**Data Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, November 2010, Number 221

***9-year average of Montana Upward Bound APR data

The Federal TRiO Programs

Upward Bound—Services include instruction in math, science, language arts, foreign language and other skills necessary for success in college; academic, financial, and personal counseling; assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications; and career exploration.

Educational Talent Search—Services include academic, financial, career, or personal counseling; tutorial services; exposure to college campuses; assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications; special activities for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; and workshops for the families of participants.

Educational Opportunity Centers—Services include academic advising, personal counseling, and career advising; help in completing applications for college admissions, testing, and financial aid; and financial and economic literacy activities.

Upward Bound Math & Science—Services include summer programs consisting of intensive math and science training; year-round counseling and advising; exposure to university faculty who do research in math and science; computer training; and scientific research conducted under the guidance of a faculty or graduate student mentor.

Veterans' Upward Bound—Services include intensive basic skills development for GED completion; refresher classes for subjects required in college; academic, financial, and personal counseling; tutorial services; assistance in completing college entrance and financial aid applications; and assistance in securing veterans' services.

Student Support Services—Services include academic tutoring; assistance in college course selection; assistance in completing financial aid and scholarship applications; financial and economic literacy education; assistance in applying to graduate and professional programs; assistance in transferring from two-year to four-year programs; individualized personal, career, and academic counseling; and mentoring.

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

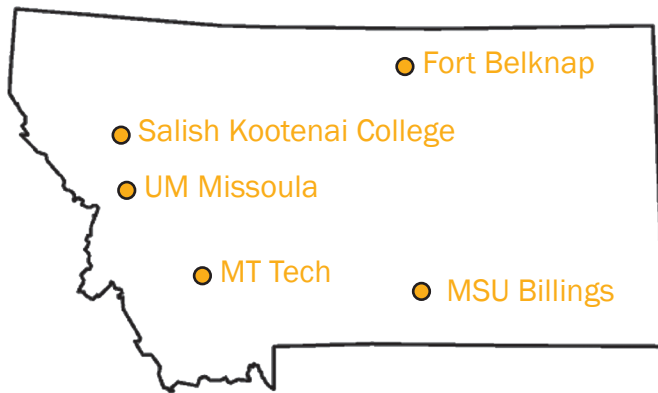
Upward Bound

TRIO

Purpose

Upward Bound (UB) works to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from PSE. Classic UB serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

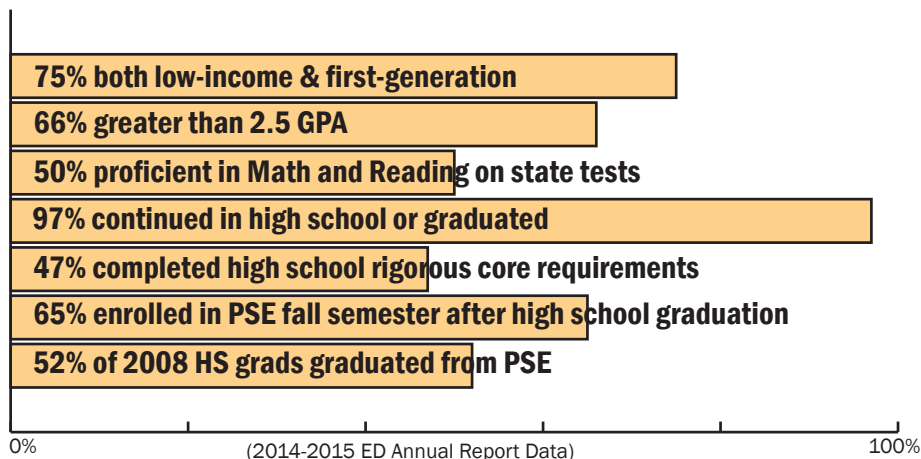
Locations



5 programs

**373
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Joseph Caye

Joe Caye, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, graduated from Polson High School in 2002. He completed an information systems degree at the University of Montana in 2009 and had every intention of coming home to the reservation. Joe spent a year working with Enrollment Services at Salish Kootenai College, but his career aspirations and desire to better support

his growing family led him back to school at Montana Tech where he earned a second bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. When Joe made this decision, he had just found out his wife was to have a baby, and he dreaded the thought of being away. He gathered inspiration from his parents, friends, and relations, each of whom added to his life motto by encouraging him to *"just start, don't hesitate, don't quit, and don't be afraid."* His Upward Bound Instructor likewise recalls his uncommon work ethic exemplified when he insisted on completing high school math assignments with his left hand after he broke his right hand playing football. In 2014, Joe graduated from Montana Tech with a Bachelor's in electrical engineering and has found great satisfaction in his position as a distribution engineer for Mission Valley Power, where he helps take care of electric needs for over 19,000 service entities. Joe is also embracing family life with his wife and children in Polson, which means first ski lessons, coaching T-ball, and providing his children with the same encouragement and words of wisdom he attributes to his success.

"I knew who I was and what I wanted and that kept me going."

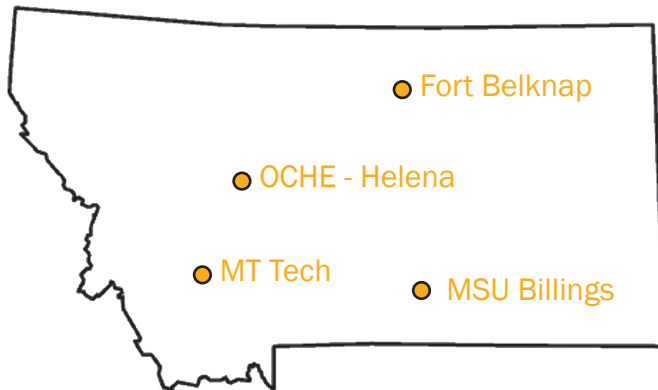
Educational Talent Search

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Educational Talent Search (ETS) is to increase the number of youth, 6th-12th grade, from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in the PSE institution of their choice. Educational Talent Search also serves high school dropouts, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

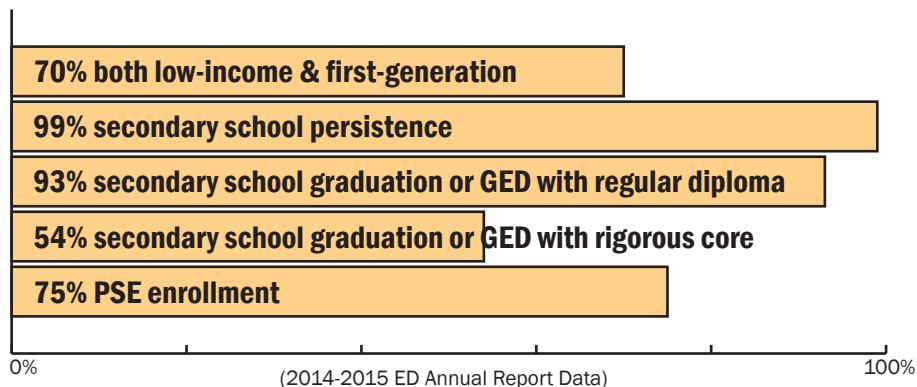
Locations



4 programs

**3,076
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Jennifer Stoneking

Jennifer Stoneking inherited her drive for success from her mother who worked an 84 hour work week as a waitress to provide for her family. Jennifer's TRIO mentors convinced her of her academic potential and encouraged her to believe that going to college was possible. Through Talent Search Jennifer found that she was eligible for many scholarships. During her senior year of high school Jennifer

was active in five clubs, earned two scholarships, and worked a 50 hour work week to afford her first semester of college tuition. Her hard work continued when her father passed away unexpectedly during her second semester in her college career. TRIO services helped her remain in school by communicating with her professors, as well as recording lectures she missed. Jennifer is currently a student at the University of Montana double majoring in Social Work and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She plays a significant role in UM's Triota chapter, a National Women's Honor Society, and works to encourage diversity, egalitarianism, and a supportive academic environment for all students. Jennifer also works with the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center in her spare time. After graduating from UM, Jennifer plans on earning her Ph.D.

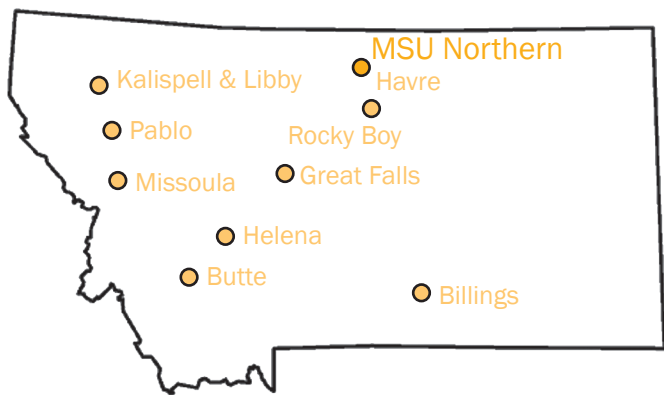
“Hard work is not the only key to success - outside societal factors absolutely restrain you. I want to help others overcome these obstacles just as Talent Search did for me.”

Educational Opportunity Centers TRiO

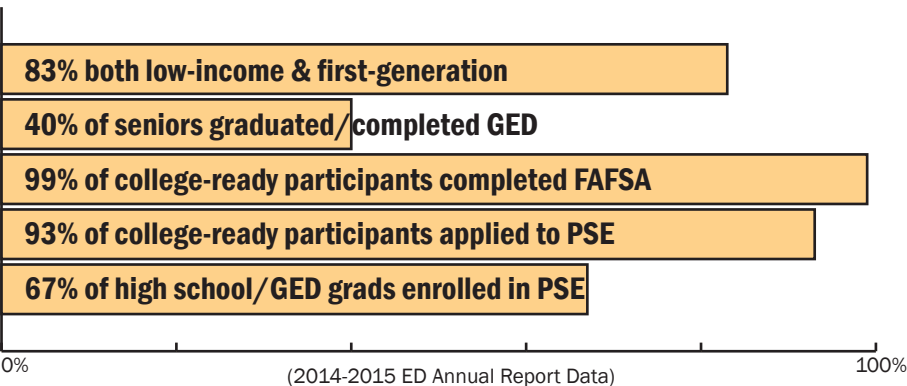
Purpose

The goal of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in PSE. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process.

Locations



Montana Outcomes



Betty LaFountain-Couture

After Betty's father died when she was four months old, Betty's mother raised 7 children as a single parent. Betty describes her early years as very dysfunctional because of poverty and addiction. She changed her life for the better when she sought out a recovery program in 2002 and again when Betty and 3 of her adult children obtained their GED's from SKC in 2008. When Betty came to SKC as a non-traditional student who was also raising two grandchildren, she faced the major obstacle of being in default on a student loan from a previous college attempt. With the help of EOC, she was able to get the student loan out of default and obtain financial aid and assistance through vocational rehabilitation. During her years at SKC, Betty also received the services of the Student Support Services. Betty became a student mentor in the SSS program which she felt was a perfect match while pursuing her social work degree. She was especially aware of non-traditional students entering college and reached out to them and helped to meet their needs. Betty assisted many students with the applications to obtain SNAP and housing assistance and served as president of the SKC Cares social work club. Betty graduated from SKC with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work in 2014. Members of her family whom she had been estranged from for years came to Montana to see her graduate. Her education was a catalyst in reuniting her with her family. Three of her children have also attended SKC. Betty has become a role model in her family and others have followed her in pursuit of their post-secondary education. She is currently working on her MSW at Walla Walla University where she has a 3.8 GPA.

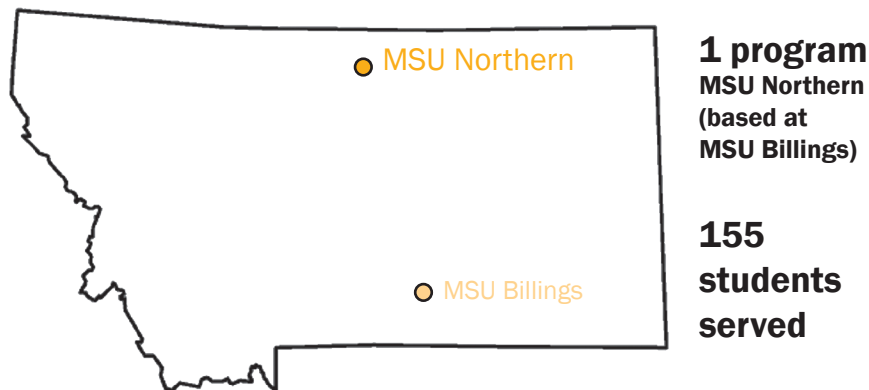
Veterans' Upward Bound

TRIO

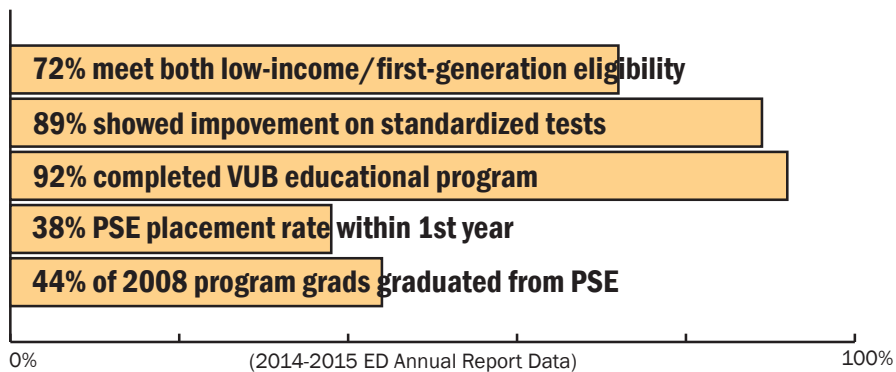
Purpose

The goal of Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB) is to increase the rates at which participating veterans enroll in and graduate from PSE. Veterans' UB serves low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter PSE.

Locations



Montana Outcomes



Jared Sharp

Jared Sharp completed high school with no immediate plans for college. Motivated by the events of 9/11, he enlisted instead in the Montana Army National Guard at the age of 19 and was immediately deployed to Iraq. After his first deployment, his sergeant, a former VUB student, referred Jared to the program, and he enrolled fall 2006. His initial plans were for a 2-year degree and to find out if college was

right for him. *"Coming back home was really difficult for me but Veterans' Upward Bound definitely helped me a lot with learning and coping."* Jared thrived in an academic setting, changing his major to History and deciding on teaching as his career goal. As a veteran who was deployed before and again during his college years, there were challenges, and Jared was very active in working through the effects of his military service. In spite of occasional setbacks, Jared persisted and earned a Bachelor's in History in 2014. He immediately enrolled in graduate school and will finish a Master's of Education in May 2016. Like most veterans, Jared desires to be of service to others. His choice of profession offers him a tangible way to make a difference in the lives of children. He recently moved to Massachusetts where he accepted a teaching position at a residential school for children with autism. His own non-traditional path through school gives him a special sensitivity for these students who are on their own unique paths.

"Having other veterans there to talk to that had also been through similar difficulties was a huge help."

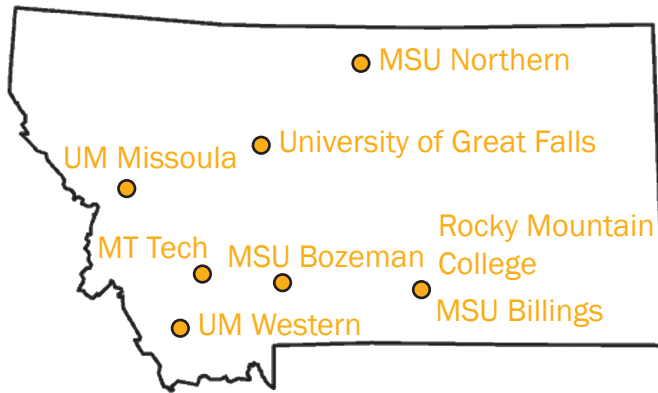
Student Support Services - 4 year

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/4-year projects is to increase college retention and graduation rates of participating students. SSS provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of PSE. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants. In 2014-2015, 318 Bachelor's degrees were earned by MT SSS participants.

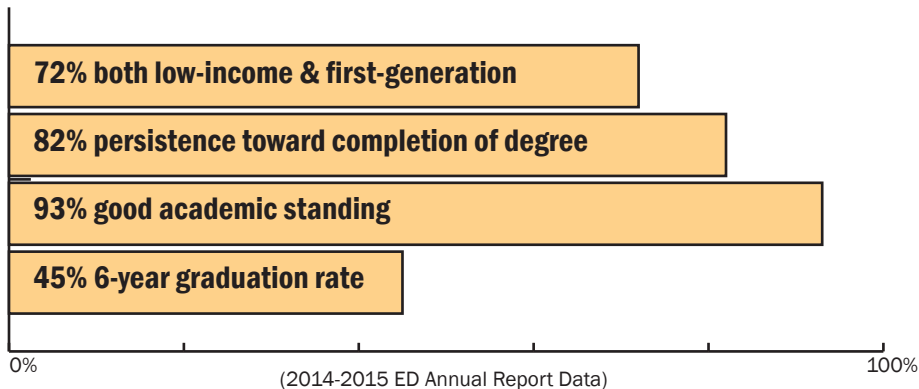
Locations



8 programs

**1,765
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Nathan Boll

Nathan Boll entered UM Western in 2010 as a non-traditional, low income, first generation student. Nathan quickly found great success at UM Western. He became an active participant in SSS, as well as manager of the campus radio station, co-creator of an intramural rugby club, residence hall director, and member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society. The summer before his senior year, Nathan received a coveted Research

Scholarship with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory through NASA, where he worked with the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. After graduating in 2013, he was asked to return to NASA as a Research Associate for the highly competitive NASA Space Academy. After his 10-week detail at the NASA Glenn Research Center, where he co-authored a mission proposal for Venus environmental probes, Nathan attended the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, & Space Sciences with a full-ride scholarship. Nathan has since held several positions with NASA and is currently serving as the Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellow to the Space Studies Board at the National Academy of Sciences. He is enrolled at the George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs Space Policy Institute with an expected graduation date of May 2017. "The dedicated TRIO staff provided me with consistent support throughout my academic program, including the areas of course selection and enrollment, but also came through with financial assistance when I needed it most."

"With TRIO behind me, I was better able to focus on my studies and pursue opportunities to achieve my life goals."

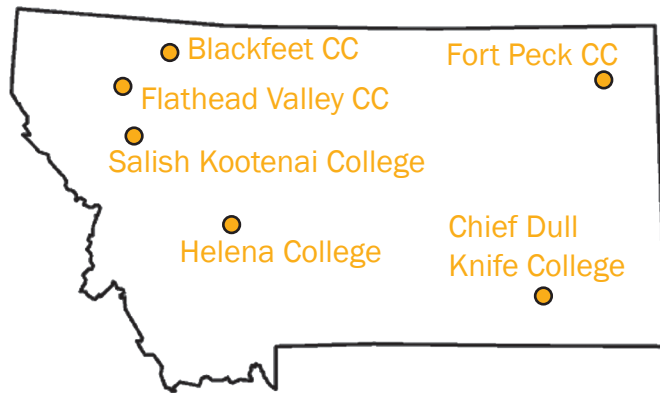
Student Support Services - 2 year

TRIO

Purpose

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS)/2-year projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next, particularly from 2-year degree programs to 4-year degree programs. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants who are receiving federal Pell Grants. In 2014-2015, 201 degrees or certificates were earned by MT SSS participants.

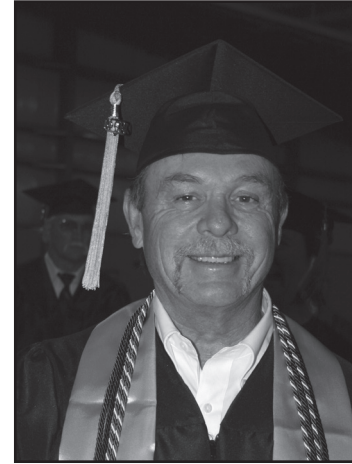
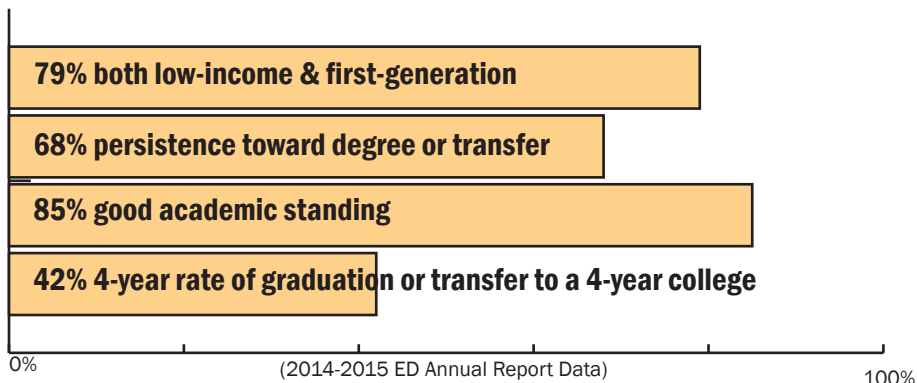
Locations



6 programs

**1,155
students
served**

Montana Outcomes



Robert Daniels

Robert Daniels grew up in Great Falls and started his academic career at the Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) in 2011. Rob graduated with an AA in Substance Abuse Counseling in spring 2014 with a 3.86 GPA. He is currently enrolled at UM, made the Dean's List in Fall 2015, and is on track to graduate in June 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Rob has been an active member of the FVCC

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

"I'm excited about my future again."

McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement

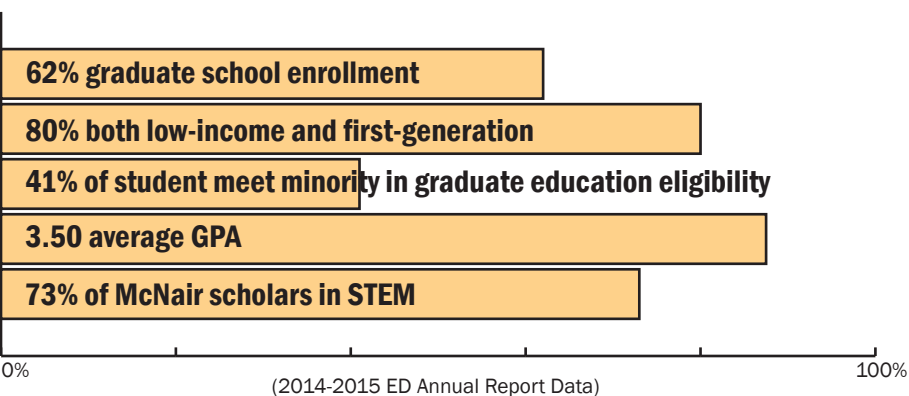
Purpose

The goal of The McNair Scholars Program is to promote equity in graduate school enrollment by encouraging the completion of doctoral degrees by low-income, first generation or underrepresented minority students. The program facilitates each student’s successful application to graduate school and better equips them with confidence, knowledge and skills for meaningful and relevant contributions to their professional career endeavors.

Locations



Montana Outcomes



Deb Blanchard

Deb Blanchard came to college as a first generation, non-traditional aged student. *“Being a nontrad presented its own set of challenges in addition to being a 1st gen student. Thankfully I had SSS at MSU to help ground me. Once I realized that I would need a graduate degree to do the kind of work I aspired to, the McNair program was instrumental in giving me the confidence and support I needed to*

pursue my goals.” As a McNair Scholar, Deb worked on a research project exploring how multicultural “hybridity literatures” could be integrated into the classroom as a basis for discussion and dialogue between students from different racial backgrounds. Upon graduating from MSU with an English degree in 2011, Deb immediately went into a Master’s program and graduated in 2013. Currently, she is working on a doctoral degree in Adult and Higher Education. Her research interests include first-year studies, first-generation and nontraditional student transitions into college, and the scholarship of teaching and learning in the university setting. *“I honestly don’t know if I would have pursued graduate school to this degree without the continued support and encouragement of the McNair program I was a part of.”*

“I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of a program that appreciated that I had something to offer higher education and academia.”

TRiO in Montana

TRiO

Program Location	Students	Funding
Student Support Services - 4 year		
Montana State University Billings	250	\$304,719
Montana State University Northern	240	255,079
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	120	213,180
Montana State University Bozeman	140	220,000
Rocky Mountain College	250	290,966
University of Great Falls	230	288,623
University of Montana Missoula	375	407,708
University of Montana Western	160	247,584
Program Total	1,765	2,227,859
Student Support Services - 2 year		
Blackfeet Community College	170	294,826
Chief Dull Knife College	90	141,390
Flathead Valley Community College	350	323,317
Fort Peck Community College	175	270,551
Salish Kootenai College	230	291,922
Helena College, University of Montana	140	220,000
Program Total	1,155	1,541,906
Student Support Services Combined Total	2,920	3,769,765
Educational Opportunity Centers		
Billings – Lincoln Center		
Butte – Highlands College of Montana Tech		
Great Falls – Great Falls College, MSU		
Havre - Montana State University Northern		
Helena – Helena Job Service Workforce Center		
Kalispell & Libby – Flathead Valley CC		
Missoula – Missoula College, UM		
Pablo – Salish Kootenai College		
Rocky Boy Reservation – Stone Child College		
Program Total	2,500	597,371

Program Location	Students	Funding
Educational Talent Search		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	694	317,274
Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,287	584,694
Montana State University Billings	592	230,000
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	503	230,000
Program Total	3,076	1,361,968
McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement		
Montana State University Bozeman	25	220,000
Classic Upward Bound		
Fort Belknap Indian Community	75	323,805
Montana State University Billings	75	328,398
Salish Kootenai College	84	361,961
University of Montana Missoula	75	337,500
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	64	287,881
Program Total	373	1,639,545
Veteran's Upward Bound		
Montana State University Northern	155	341,000
Upward Bound Combined Total	528	1,980,545
Grand Total for 26 programs	9,049	\$7,929,649

(FY 2015 US Department of Education Data from Federal TRiO Website)