

TRiO



25 Years in TRiO

A Report on the TRiO Programs in Minnesota 1984–2009

TRiO Overview



“All I knew is that I wanted to go to college. The TRiO advisor didn’t look at me like I was some foreign object, but instead calmly assured me and helped me through all the steps needed to attend. AMAZING! I felt so liberated after walking out of her office. Something I never thought I could do had been done. It was a huge moment for me.”
—Tai Burgos

25 Years in TRiO is a report of the Minnesota TRiO, documenting how the TRiO programs in Minnesota have been accountable to their legislative intent—the purposes for which these programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Education. TRiO programs were established during the mid-1960s as a national initiative to increase the availability to and success in post-secondary education for disadvantaged and traditionally under-served students. Funded initially through the Equal Opportunity Act (1964), subsequent programs were funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The first TRiO project in Minnesota was funded in 1965, 45 years ago. As of 2009, there were 64 TRiO projects in the state.

TRiO is the umbrella term given to the first three educational opportunity programs:

- Upward Bound (1964)
- Educational Talent Search (1965)
- Special Services (established in 1968, renamed Student Support Services in 1987).

Six programs were added to the TRiO family to make the current total of nine programs:

- Veterans Upward Bound (1972)
- Educational Opportunity Centers (1972)
- TRiO Training Grants (1976)
- Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (1989)
- Upward Bound Math and Science (1989)
- Dissemination Partnerships (1999)

TRiO grants are awarded to agencies and post-secondary institutions in a competitive proposal process based on need in the area and the ability of the applicant to provide high quality services. The following report documents the performance of Minnesota’s TRiO programs for a 25-year period, from 1984, the first year statewide data was compiled, through 2009. During this time, the number of individuals served by Minnesota’s TRiO programs grew from 4,338 in 1984 to 15,560 individuals in 2009. TRiO grant dollars in Minnesota reached \$21,718,005 in 2009.

TRiO Programs at a Glance

Upward Bound programs serve low-income and first-generation high school students and veterans with year-round academic tutoring and counseling, post-secondary preparation and enrollment assistance, financial aid guidance, and summer programs consisting of academic and cultural enrichment. There are three types of Upward Bound programs:

- Upward Bound** assists participants to remain in high school, graduate, and enroll in and complete a post-secondary program. Minnesota has 24 Upward Bound projects serving over 1,500 students annually. There are 964 Upward Bound programs nationwide.
- Upward Bound Math and Science** prepares select high school students who express an interest in math and science careers. There are 117 UBMS programs nationwide. Minnesota’s two programs serve an average of 100 students per year.
- Veterans Upward Bound** prepares veterans to obtain a GED and improve academic skills for post-secondary enrollment. Minnesota has two Veterans Upward Bound programs, serving 240 participants annually.

Educational Talent Search serves individuals ages 11 to 27 in providing advising and assistance on academic progress, career planning, post-secondary enrollment, and student financial aid. There are 466 Educational Talent Search projects nationwide. Minnesota has seven projects serving nearly 5,300 students annually.

Student Support Services participants are college students who are low-income, first-generation college students or students with disabilities. Student Support Services seeks to increase the retention, graduation, and transfer rates through intensive services, including academic advising, counseling, tutoring, instruction, and cultural enrichment. Minnesota has 25 Student Support Services projects serving over 5,800 students each year. There are 947 Student Support Services programs in colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

Educational Opportunity Centers provide information and assistance to low-income and first-generation adults, age 19 and up. Services include counseling, financial aid and scholarship application assistance, career exploration and decision-making assistance. Nationally, there are 124 Educational Opportunity Centers. Minnesota’s two Educational Opportunity Center programs serve approximately 2700 individuals annually.

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, a federal TRiO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to prepare participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. The goal of McNair is to increase graduate degree attainment of students from underrepresented segments of society and to encourage these students to consider becoming college professors. McNair scholars enroll in the program during their sophomore or junior year in college. Minnesota has six McNair projects serving over 150 students per year. Nationally, there are 201 McNair projects.

TRiO Achiever

Arland P. Fanning

EDUCATION: MA in public administration, *Hamline University*
OCCUPATION: Clinical Outpatient Treatment Director, *Juel Fairbanks*

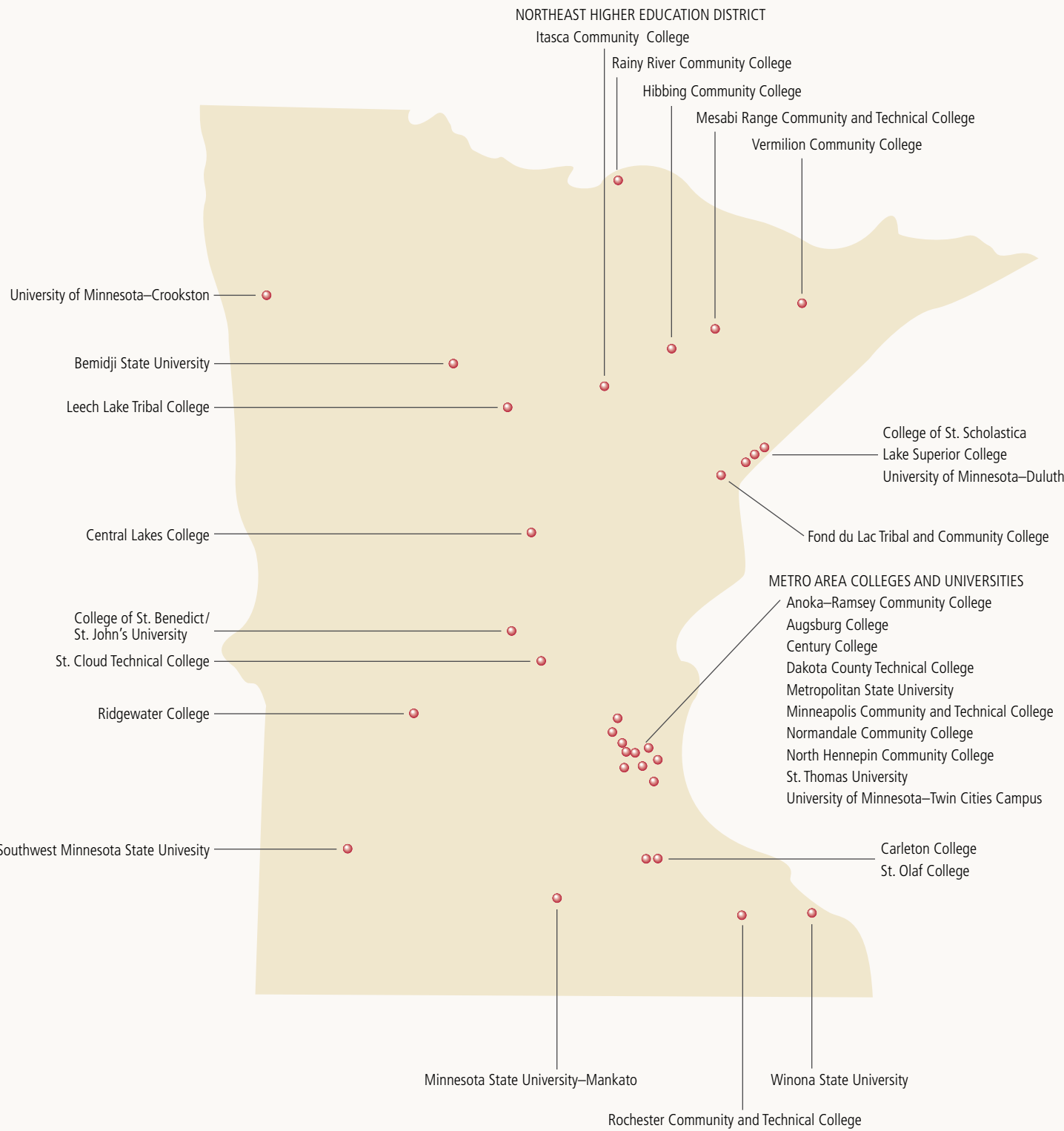
I, Arland P. Fanning, became part of the TRiO program in the school year 2001 and was assisted in developing my goal plan with Nardos Senbeta. I was very unsure if I had the ability to succeed at the college level because of my past substance abuse problems. This issue was disclosed to Nardos during our meetings, and I was assured that many individuals make bad decisions, but if I truly want to improve the quality of my life there is opportunity at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

I enrolled for classes at MCTC at the high school level but continued to have confidence instilled in me from the advisors and professors in the TRiO Program and MCTC. I finally succeeded by passing all of the classes taken my first semester and reaching the dean’s list the remaining semesters at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. I graduated with my AS in business management in May 2004, as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. I earned a couple of awards such as Collegiate All-American Scholar Award and the National Collegiate Business Award during my schooling at Minneapolis Community and Technical College to add sunshine to a dream that developed into a realization.

I transferred to Metropolitan State University and graduated with a BS in addiction counseling in May 2006. I became a licensed alcohol and drug counselor in 2008. I maintained a grade point average that opened up the opportunity for me to be accepted as graduate student at Hamline University masters program in public administration, so I could build the business degree earned at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. I have four classes remaining to earn my master’s degree.

There is an interest for me to acquire my doctorate degree, but I have not decided the discipline at this point. I only want to be an example for any person struggling with believing that a person with past troubles in their life can succeed. I am living proof that success is attainable. Your dreams can be achieved with positive support, commitment, and hard work.

2008-2009 TRiO Programs in Minnesota



Upward Bound

- Anoka-Ramsey Community College (3)
- Bemidji State University
- Central Lakes College
- Century College
- College of St. Benedict / St. John's University
- College of St. Scholastica
- Dakota County Technical College
- Hibbing Community College
- Itasca Community College
- Lake Superior College
- Mesabi Range Community and Technical College
- Metropolitan State University
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- Normandale Community College
- Rochester Community and Technical College
- St. Olaf College
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Upward Bound Math and Science

- College of St. Scholastica
- Mesabi Range Community and Technical College

Veterans Upward Bound

- Bemidji State University
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Educational Talent Search

- Century College
- College of St. Scholastica
- Itasca Community College
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- Normandale Community College
- St. Olaf College

Educational Opportunity Centers

- Minneapolis Community and Technical College (2)

Student Support Services

- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Augsburg College
- Bemidji State University
- Carleton College
- Central Lakes College
- Century College
- College of St. Scholastica
- Dakota County Technical College
- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Lake Superior College
- Leech Lake Tribal College
- Metropolitan State University
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- Northeast Higher Education District Colleges:
 - Hibbing Community College
 - Itasca Community College
 - Mesabi Range Community and Technical College
 - Rainy River Community College
 - Vermilion Community College
- Normandale Community College
- North Hennepin Community College
- Ridgewater College
- Rochester Community and Technical College
- St. Cloud Technical and Community College
- St. Olaf College
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- University of Minnesota-Crookston
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Winona State University

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

- Augsburg College
- College of St. Scholastica
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- St. Olaf College
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of St Thomas

TRiO Programs by Minnesota Higher Education System

“TRiO programs have provided crucial support for thousands of students in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Increasing access, opportunity, and success for underrepresented students is a top priority of the system’s board of trustees, and TRiO plays an important role in enabling these students to reach their educational goals, lead fulfilling lives, and contribute to the quality of life in communities throughout Minnesota. We have 48 different TRiO programs on our campuses. We salute TRiO for its 25 years of exceptional service.”
—James H. McCormick
Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



“This is a significant moment in Minnesota’s history, with the ethnic diversity of our student population exploding. Embracing demographic change as a gift is an imperative for our state; one key is that we provide a strong education to all. Hosted by a number of colleges, both public and private, TRiO programs have already helped thousands of students. In an increasingly multicultural Minnesota, TRiO will be needed more than ever. Beyond the students themselves, TRiO’s little-known programs benefit the whole state: Minnesota is enriched when we increase the odds that students succeed and earn college degrees.”
—Paul Pribbenow
President, Augsburg College
Chair, Minnesota Private College Council

“Currently, the University of Minnesota hosts five TRiO programs at three coordinate campuses. That the University has funded undergraduate scholarships for Upward Bound alumni and graduate school fellowships for alumni of TRiO McNair programs reflects our support of the goals and conduct of these programs. TRiO has been the backbone of University equal educational opportunity pipeline efforts since 1966, when the Upward Bound high school outreach program was established in what is now the College of Education and Human Development. The TRiO pipeline enriches our undergraduate and graduate student body, as well as our faculty—in fact, two of the five faculty in the University of Minnesota Duluth Department of American Indian Studies are alumni of the University TRiO McNair Scholars Program.”
—Robert H. Bruininks
President, University of Minnesota



YEAR 2008-2009

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (MnSCU)

- 48 TRiO projects located on 23 campuses
- 19 Upward Bound projects
- 5 Educational Talent Search projects
- 2 Veterans Upward Bound
- 2 Educational Opportunity Centers
- 18 Student Support Services projects
- 1 Upward Bound Math and Science center
- 1 McNair Scholars Project

Federal TRiO grant dollars received \$15,052,022
Students served 12,635

MINNESOTA’S PRIVATE COLLEGES

- 14 TRiO projects located at 6 colleges
- 3 Upward Bound projects
- 2 Educational Talent Search projects
- 4 Student Support Services projects
- 1 Upward Bound Math and Science center
- 4 McNair Scholars projects

Federal TRiO grant dollars received \$3,806,146
Students served 2,494

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SYSTEM (TWIN CITIES, DULUTH, CROOKSTON)

- 5 TRiO projects located on 3 campuses
- 2 Upward Bound projects
- 2 Student Support Services projects
- 1 McNair Scholars project

Federal TRiO grant dollars received \$1,988,193
Students served 654

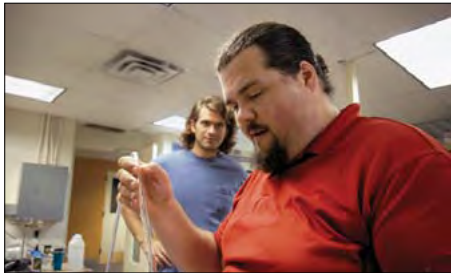
LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

Federal TRiO grant dollars received \$255,276
Students Served 160

List of TRiO Programs

Each of the TRiO programs targets a specific population and works to ensure that those TRiO program participants gain access to higher education. These individual programs are:

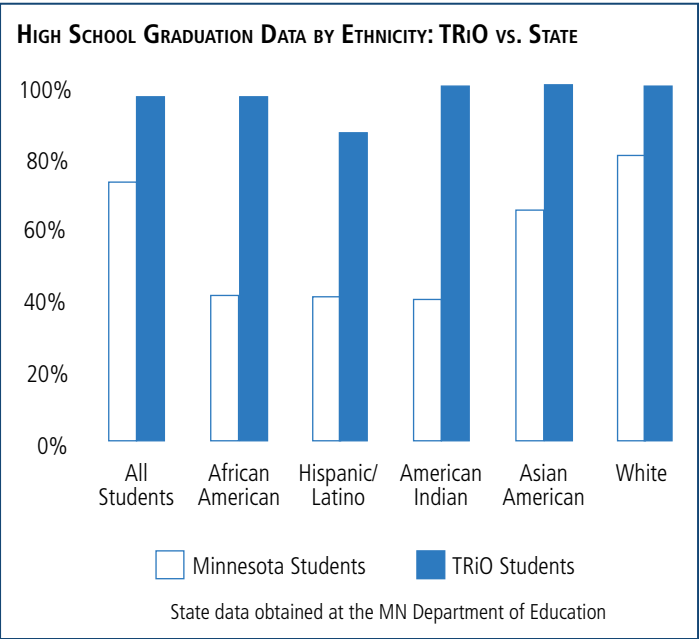
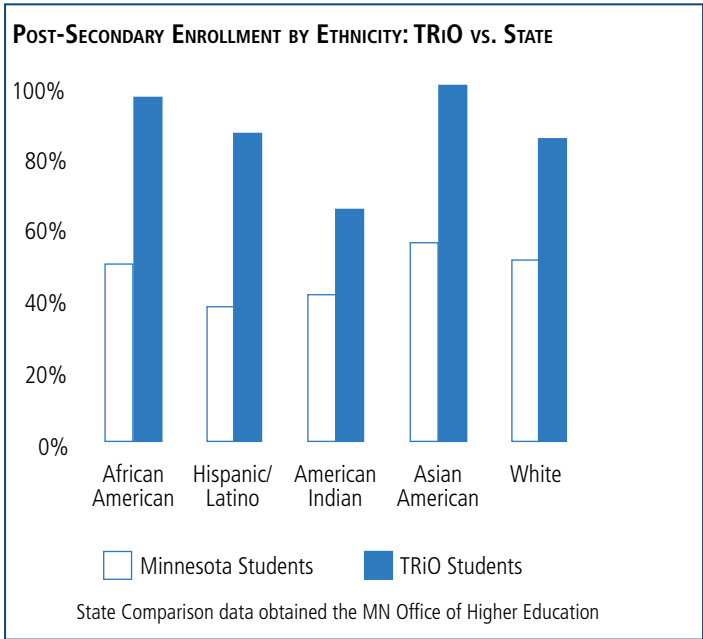
- Upward Bound
- Educational Talent Search
- Student Support Services
- Educational Opportunity Centers
- Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program





Minnesota 25-Year Outcomes and Summary Data

State Comparison Data:



Upward Bound 2008–2009
Program Year Summary

Legislative Intent:

To increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education (all Upward Bound).

To help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in these fields (Upward Bound Math and Science).

Participants Served:

Minnesota has three types of Upward Bound programs—24 Upward Bound programs; 2 Upward Bound Math and Science programs; 1 Veterans Upward Bound program.

- \$7,840,888 was received to serve 1,530 Upward Bound students.
- \$513,415 was funded to serve 103 students in the Upward Bound Math and Science program.
- \$607,478 was provided to serve 240 U.S. Veterans.
- Total for all Upward Bound programs was \$8,711,781 to serve a total of 1,753 participants.

80% of all Upward Bound participants are both low income and first generation.

In 2008–2009, 56% of Upward Bound participants were students of color, 36% were male, and 64% were female.

87% of 9th, 10th and 11th grade participants returned in 2009–2010.

Performance Outcomes:

97% of Upward Bound students scheduled to graduate from high school did graduate.

85% of Upward Bound students that graduated from high school enrolled in postsecondary education the fall following graduation.

Laura Pollak

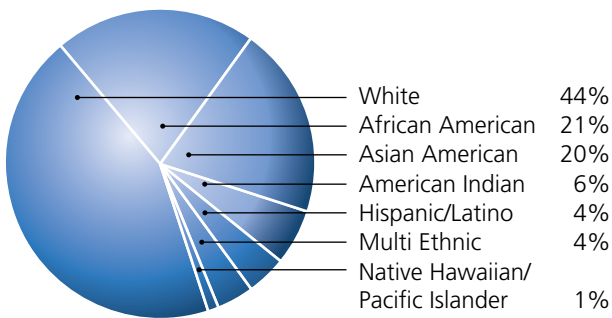
EDUCATION: BA in biology, *The College of St. Scholastica*
Enrolled in pharmacy program,
University of Minnesota-Duluth College of Pharmacy

I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without the support of TRiO programs. Being a first-generation college student from a low-income family, I had no idea how to begin to prepare for college. Upward Bound Math and Science program not only provided assistance with college and scholarship applications, they provided an overwhelming support system that made me believe that the possibilities for my future were endless. With the direction and support provided by Upward Bound Math and Science program, I was able to receive scholarships to fund my entire undergraduate education. By taking part in the six-week summer programs, I was able to develop confidence, drive, and a passion for learning that many students do not attain until well into college. This provided me with the tools I needed to succeed while attending college.

Once I was in college, one of the staff members from Upward Bound Math and Science program suggested that I apply for the McNair program because of my interest in post-graduate education. The McNair program provided me with the support and guidance I needed to get accepted into pharmacy school. They provided networking and research opportunities, as well as assistance with my pharmacy school applications. The time and effort that the McNair program put forth so that I would be successful was incredible.



ETHNICITY OF 2008–2009 PARTICIPANTS

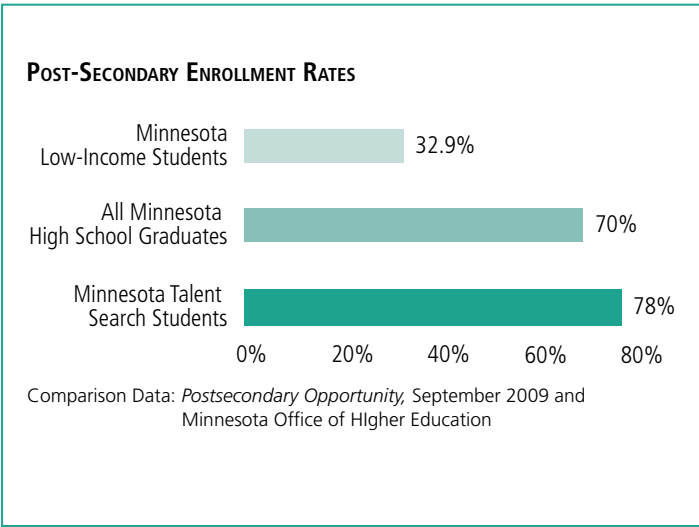
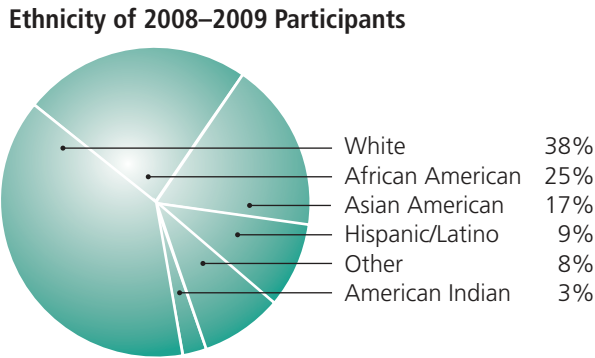




“Being a part of Educational Talent Search made a difference in my pursuit of a college. I knew I was college bound, but I didn’t believe it was going to require a lot of hard work. Educational Talent Search showed me I was very wrong. They drove the point ‘everything I do in high school will count in some way in college.’ I had to do the extra work just to make my application unique in comparison with the others.”

—Tiphany “PH” Copeland

Minnesota 25-Year Outcomes and Summary Data



Educational Talent Search 2008–2009 Program Year Summary

Legislative Intent:
To increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in the post-secondary education institution of their choice.

Participants Served:
In 2008–2009, Minnesota received over \$2,000,000 for 7 Educational Talent Search programs serving 5,299 students.

73% of all participants served are both low-income and first-generation.

In 2008–2009, 60% of Educational Talent Search participants were students of color, 41% were male, and 59% were female.

Performance Outcomes:
32.9% of low-income students in Minnesota enrolled in college after high school.

70% of all Minnesota students enrolled in college after high school.

78% of Educational Talent Search participants enrolled in college after high school.

Angelica Torralba-Olague
EDUCATION: BA, *St. Olaf*
MA in international business and management,
St. Mary's University
OCCUPATION: Youth Program Coordinator

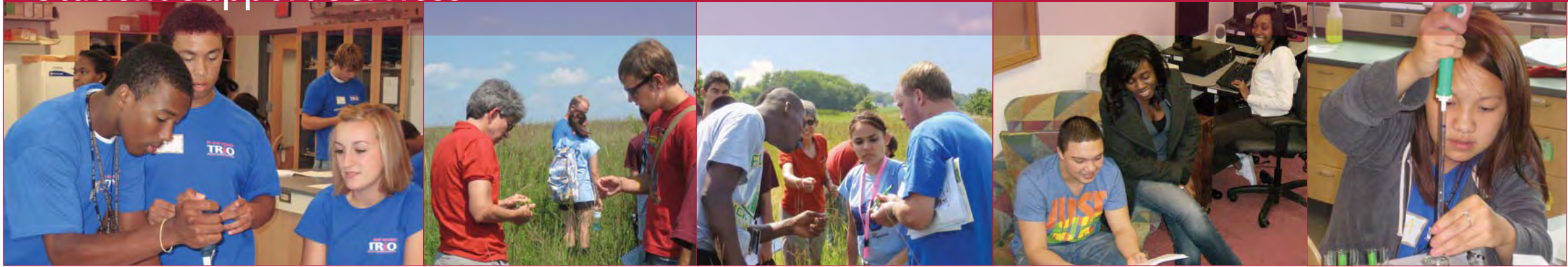
My family immigrated to the US when I was 6 years old. My father passed away when I was 9 years old and my mother raised all of us as a single mother. The Educational Talent Search program at my high school was a blessing for me as I needed that support and guidance through the college application process and to learn about different scholarship opportunities.

My Educational Talent Search advisors helped me learn about different colleges, scholarships and how to be successful in school. The program exposed me to various educational opportunities by visiting Minneapolis Community and Technology College, the University of Minnesota and St. Olaf College. They provided tutoring, financial aid information nights and more. It was the Educational Talent Search program that helped me realize my potential in being able to attend a four-year, private institution—St. Olaf College. TRiO's assistance made it possible and affordable to attend a four-year private institution and inspire me to work in the education field today.

I especially want to credit the Educational Talent Search program for working with me during high school. If it wasn't for Educational Talent Search, I would not have had the other opportunities that followed which helped me get to where I am today. I work as a community education youth coordinator, who manages youth development programs to ensure students have safe places to go to and caring adults during out-of-school time. I understand as a professional the importance of early college exposure and the impact it can have on young people. As someone who has worked at a charter school and currently at a school district, I recognize the need for structured programs like TRiO's Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound to work with our young people to get them into college in order to advance opportunities for students who otherwise may not have it.



Student Support Services



TRiO Achiever: Student Support Services

Ponloeu Chim

EDUCATION: BA in social work, *Winona State University*

OCCUPATION: Program Manager,
Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association

After surviving 4 years in Khmer Rouge labor camps in Cambodia and 11 years in a refugee camp in Vietnam, I arrived in the United States in 1992. I earned an associate's degree at Rochester Community and Technical College, where I participated in the Student Support Services program. I earned a bachelor's degree in social work at Winona State University. I have spent my

professional career advocating for refugees and immigrants like myself. I am currently the Professional Language Services Program Manager for the Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association in Rochester, MN, where I oversee 300 individual interpreters who speak over 50 languages. I am actively involved as a leader in the Rochester Vietnamese community and advise the Asian Student Organization at RCTC.



Lois Vosika-Weir

EDUCATION: BS in psychology, chemical dependency and youth studies,
University of Minnesota

Teaching license in special education,

St. Thomas University

MA in counseling psychology, *Saint Mary's University*

Administrative Principal K–12 license, *Hamline University*

OCCUPATION: Program Coordinator, *AGAPE Program*

As a professional, I hoped to have a career that involved working with teen moms, because I was a teen mother myself. I truly understand the roadblocks that young mothers experience in accomplishing their goals.

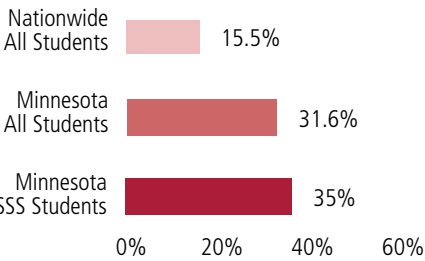
I have worked with young people for the past 24 years in a variety of therapeutic and educational settings while I was pursuing my education. For the past 15 years, I have worked with St. Paul Public Schools in the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. I am honored and thrilled to be the Program Coordinator at the AGAPE Program.



Minnesota 25-Year Outcomes and Summary Data

Student Support Services Graduation and Transfer Rates and Comparable Data

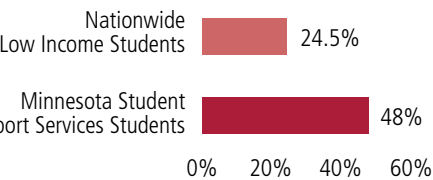
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES THREE-YEAR GRADUATION AND TRANSFER RATES



Two-Year College Data:

- Associates degree completion by age 25 for those who had entered college (nationwide) was 15.5% (*Postsecondary Opportunity*, March 2009).
- Minnesota three-year graduation or transfer rate for all students in 2007 was 31.6% (*higheredinfo.org*).
- Student Support Services student three-year graduation or transfer rate in 2009 was 35%.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES SIX-YEAR GRADUATION AND TRANSFER RATES



Four-Year College Data:

- National six-year graduation rate for low-income students was 24.5% (*Postsecondary Opportunity*, March 2009).
- Minnesota six-year Student Support Services student graduation rate was 48%.

Student Support Services 2008–2009 Program Year Summary

Legislative Intent:

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.

Participants Served:

In 2008–2009, Minnesota received over \$8.4 million in funding for 25 Student Support Services programs serving over 5,800 students.

In 25 years, the total number of Student Support Services participants served in Minnesota increased from 1,532 to 5,813, a 379% increase.

Fourteen Student Support Services programs were at MnSCU two-year community and technical colleges.

Four Student Support Services programs were at four-year private colleges.

Five Student Support Services programs were at four-year MnSCU colleges.

One Student Support Services program was at Leech Lake Tribal College.

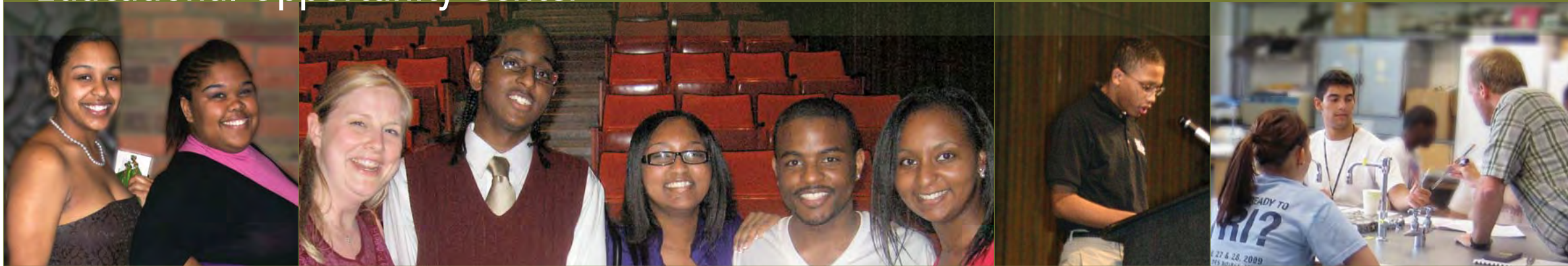
Two Student Support Services programs were at University of Minnesota campuses.

Of the total number of Student Support Services participants served, 73% are low-income and first-generation college students or have a disability.

In 2008-2009, 43% of Student Support Services participants were students of color.

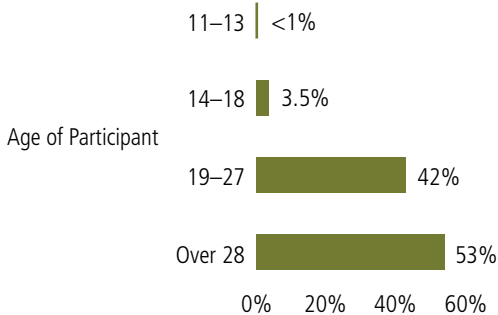
Performance Outcomes:

87% of Student Support Services students were in good standing. The graduation rate of students involved in Student Support Services doubled that of the national average.

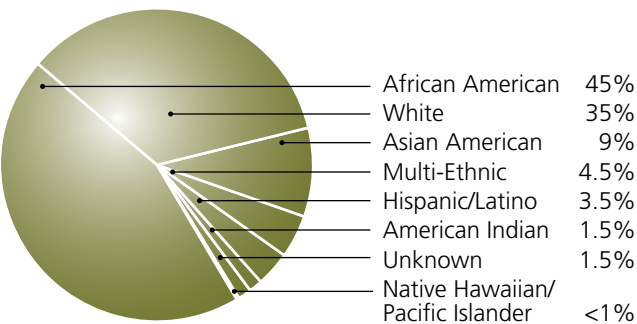


Minnesota 25-Year Outcomes and Summary Data

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER PARTICIPANTS



ETHNICITY OF 2008-2009 PARTICIPANTS



Educational Opportunity Center 2008-2009 Program Year Summary

Legislative Intent:

To increase the number of adult participants who enroll in the post-secondary education institution of their choice.

Participants Served:

The Educational Opportunity Centers have served over 52,300 people in Minnesota since the inception of the first Educational Opportunity Center in 1988, and the second Educational Opportunity Center in 1994. In the most recent two-year period from 2007-2009, Educational Opportunity Centers have served 5,400 people.

Of the total number of Educational Opportunity Center participants served, 80% were low-income and first-generation college students.

In 2007-2009, 56% of Educational Opportunity Center participants were female and 44% were male.

78% applied for financial aid.

Of the 71% who applied for admission to post-secondary schools:

- 80% enrolled in a public two-year college.
- 5% enrolled in a public four-year college.
- 3% enrolled in a private four-year college.
- 5% enrolled in a public vocational college.
- 5% enrolled in a proprietary school.

Of secondary school dropouts served, 78% returned to a continuing education program.

Locations of Educational Opportunity Center sites include:

- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- The Ronald Hubbs Center
- The Anoka County Workforce Center
- The North St Paul Workforce Center
- The St Paul Midway Workforce Center
- SHAPE in Bloomington
- The Paul and Sheila Wellstone Neighborhood House, St Paul
- Hopkins Adult Education

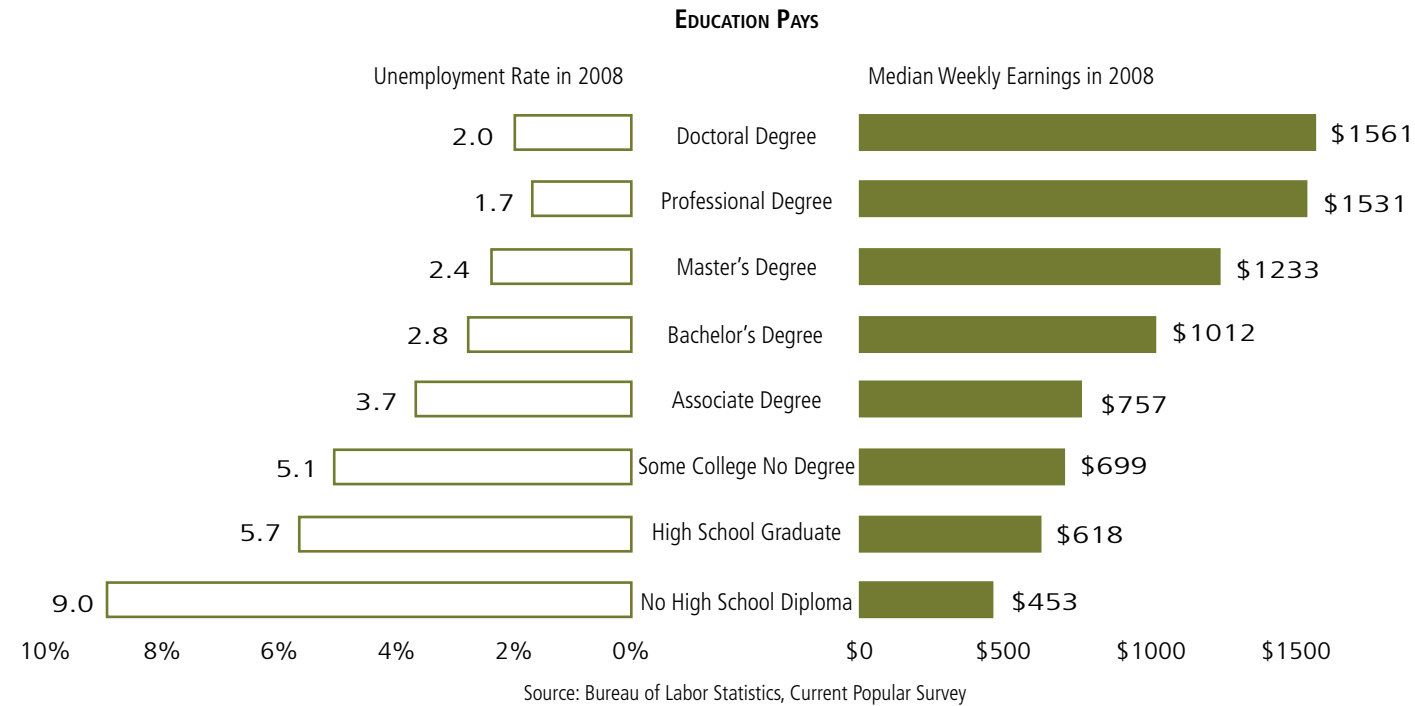
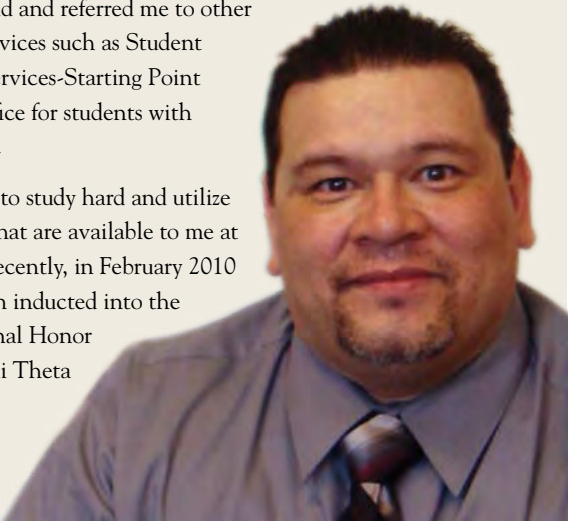
Joseph M. Garcia

EDUCATION: Pursuing AAS Degree in graphic design and visual communication, Minneapolis Community and Technical College

I am an ex-convict. I was let out of prison in June 2006. I had to stay in a halfway house, where I was instructed to do something productive with my time. I decided to go back to college and do something with my life to gain a career. Well, we all heard that same ol' weeping song from a million other felons; it's that song that keeps us paralyzed from getting out there and making something of ourselves. So, it's that heavy laden coercive thought of doubt with a couple of disappointing rejections from job offers that does it. It's that last excuse saying to ourselves "I tried" stamping the period of an ending of a sentence, and it ends with the word "failure".

There were a lot of obstacles that I had to overcome to become a successful student. To get in college, I first had to apply for financial aid, so I made an appointment with TRiO Educational Opportunity Center Advisor Anna Gusovsky. I had loans in default and Anna instructed me how to resolve this problem. After rehabilitating my loans, Anna helped me apply for admissions, financial aid and referred me to other MCTC services such as Student Support Services-Starting Point and the office for students with disabilities.

I continue to study hard and utilize resources that are available to me at MCTC. Recently, in February 2010 I have been inducted into the International Honor Society-Phi Theta Kappa.

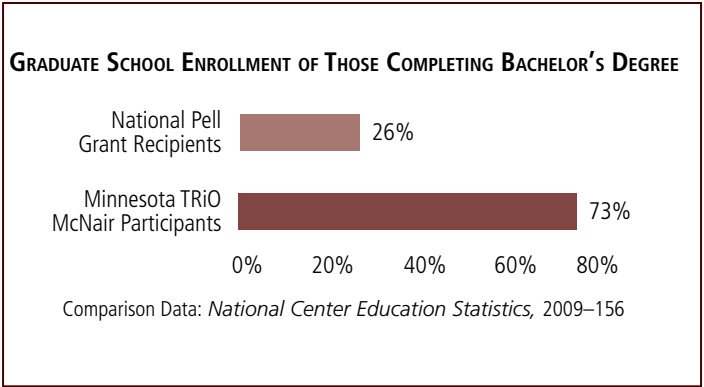
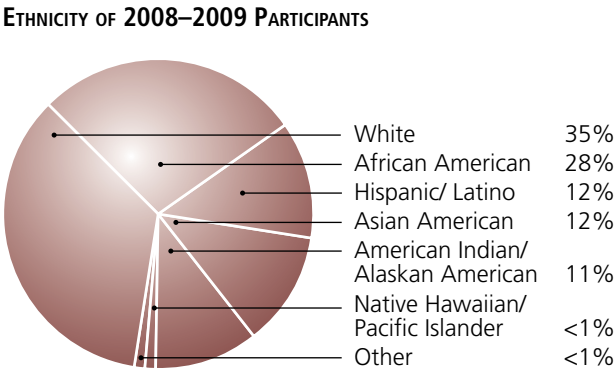




“I first entered TRiO hoping to figure out if college was the right thing for me. If so, could I do it as a divorced mother of two very young kids, one of whom has cerebral palsy and is a quadriplegic. TRiO showed me that my dreams were possible and gave me the information to help me pick the best path for me.”

—Sandra Lee Virula

Minnesota 25-Year Outcomes and Summary Data



McNair 2008–2009 Program Year Summary

Legislative Intent:

To increase the attainment of doctoral degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

Participants Served:

In 2008–2009, Minnesota received over \$1,200,000 in funding for six McNair programs serving over 150 students.

100% of students served are low-income and first-generation college students or underrepresented in higher education.

65% of McNair participants in 2008–2009 were students of color.

Performance Outcomes:

26% of Pell recipients who completed bachelor's degrees and enrolled in graduate school (*National Center Education Statistics, 2009–156*).

73% of McNair participants who completed bachelor's degrees enrolled in graduate school.

Minnesota has 157 McNair participants who have completed master's programs and 24 who have completed PhD programs.

Rozenia A. H. Fuller

EDUCATION: MA in divinity, *Princeton Theological Seminary*

OCCUPATION: Chaplain, *PHS Senior Living*
Associate Interim Pastor, *Rossmoor Community Church*

I am an alumna of Augsburg's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program and a 2002 graduate in youth and family ministry. I earned my master's of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, I am chaplain for PHS Senior Living in Princeton, New Jersey, and Associate Interim Pastor at Rossmoor Community Church, also in New Jersey. While at Augsburg College, I was the recipient of the prestigious Marina Christiansen Justice Award and the Linda Schremp Alberg Student Development Award for exemplary student leadership. I am a member of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches and of Windsor Highstown Area Ministerium.



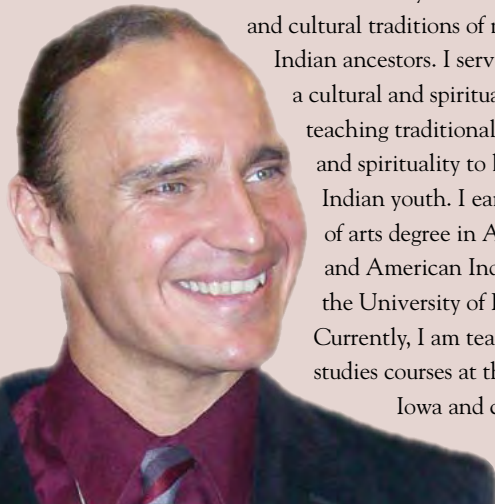
Steven Williams

EDUCATION: MA in American studies and American Indian studies, *University of Iowa*

OCCUPATION: Instructor, *University of Iowa*

I am an alumnus of the Augsburg College McNair Program and a 2002 graduate in K–8 Elementary Education. While at Augsburg, I was the recipient of the Independent School District #196 Teacher of Color Grant, a Coca-Cola National Museum Fellow at the MN Historical Society, and was inducted into the Pi Lambda Theta International Honor Society of Educators. I was also a special ambassador to the Chengde, China, business and education delegation. I am a mixed blood Kiowa Indian and Norwegian

and have dedicated my life to the spiritual and cultural traditions of my American Indian ancestors. I served for years as a cultural and spiritual consultant teaching traditional history, culture and spirituality to local American Indian youth. I earned my master of arts degree in American studies and American Indian studies from the University of Iowa in 2007. Currently, I am teaching Native studies courses at the University of Iowa and completing my PhD dissertation.



Programs by Minnesota Congressional Districts



Governor Tim Pawlenty speaking at a TRiO event at St. Cloud Technical College



Congressional District 1

“As a high school teacher, I saw all too often students who wanted to continue their education but needed additional guidance and support. Programs like TRiO have proven to help first-generation and low-income students maneuver through a challenging new environment and help them succeed throughout their college careers. We can, we should, and we are making entrance to our nation’s colleges easier and more affordable because it is the right thing to do for our kids and for our economy.”
—Congressman Tim Walz

Rochester Community College
Minnesota State University–Mankato
Winona State University

Total Students Served 1,617
Total Grant Award \$2,318,845

Congressional District 2

“TRiO programs are a critical tool for helping students gain access to—and succeed in—post-secondary education. Throughout my time in Congress, I have seen first-hand the benefits of the TRiO program for many disadvantaged and first-generation college students. As the senior republican on the Education and Labor Committee, I remain committed to increasing access to higher education for all Americans.”
—Congressman John Kline

Dakota County Technical College
Carleton College
St. Olaf College

Total Students Served 1,374
Total Grant Award \$1,002,037

Total Students Served: 15,905

Congressional District 3

“The opportunity to pursue higher education should be possible for all those who seek it, and TRiO has played a critical role in doing exactly that. I’ve seen firsthand the success of students who have utilized TRiO; students who may not have had those opportunities without the support of this program. The goal of higher education and a stronger workforce for the 21st century is something we all can—and should—support.”
—Congressman Erik Paulsen

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Normandale Community College
North Hennepin Community College

Total Students Served 1,590
Total Grant Award \$2,068,714

Congressional District 4

“TRiO programs are essential to expanding college access to Minnesota’s first-generation and low-income students who may otherwise not consider college an option. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Services, I will continue to support funding for TRiO programs and all programs that open the doors to opportunity and access to higher education.”
—Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Century College
Metropolitan State University
University of St. Thomas

Total Students Served 1,131
Total Grant Award \$1,590,803

Total Grant Award: \$21,139,266

Congressional District 5

“The TRiO programs provide a gateway to higher education for thousands of students from underrepresented communities. These programs get kids into college and provide the critical support needed to successfully earn their degrees. At its core, TRiO addresses our nation’s critical need to have an inclusive, highly educated, and skilled workforce. In my district, our many colleges with TRiO programs provide scholarships, leadership development, and college support services. I’m proud to work with the hard-working TRiO staff and the talented students they support and serve.”
—Congressman Keith Ellison

Augsburg College
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Total Students Served 4,684
Total Grant Award \$4,130,154

Congressional District 6

“I am very appreciative of the work TRiO is doing to open higher education opportunities to first-generation and low-income students. TRiO does excellent work in equipping our returning veterans for transition into college and the workforce. I continue to support TRiO’s efforts to expand Minnesotans’ access to higher education.”
—Congresswoman Michele Bachmann

College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University
St. Cloud Technical and Community College

Total Students Served 226
Total Grant Award \$568,837

Congressional District 7

“TRiO programs help students access and complete post-secondary education that might not otherwise have the opportunity. We need to support programs like TRiO because educated citizens improve the quality of life for everyone in Minnesota.”
—Rep. Collin C. Peterson

Bemidji State University
Ridgewater College
Southwest Minnesota State University
University of Minnesota–Crookston

Total Students Served 1,159
Total Grant Award \$2,304,251

Congressional District 8

“I am an ardent supporter of TRiO programs. Thousands of Minnesotans can share stories about how the services they received through TRiO—information, academic counseling, and personal support—helped them succeed in college. There is no question that TRiO programs are a necessary partner with financial aid to ensure that every student has a chance to enroll in and graduate from college.”
—Congressman James Oberstar

Northeast Higher Education District Colleges
Hibbing Community College
Itasca Community College
Mesabi Range Community and Technical College
Rainy River Community College
Vermilion Community College
Central Lakes College
College of St. Scholastica
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Lake Superior College
Leech Lake Tribal College
University of Minnesota–Duluth

Total Students Served 3,785
Total Grant Award \$6,744,364

“As a United States Senator from Minnesota, a state that takes great pride in providing quality education for all our citizens, I strongly support TRiO programs throughout our state. We must work together to assure college success for students from populations that are historically underrepresented on college campuses.”
—U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar



“The TRiO programs provide an incredibly important service by making a college education more accessible. I am proud to back their efforts to ensure that all students have the support they need to pursue their educational goals.”
—U.S. Senator Al Franken

2009 TRiO Scholarship Winners



Patrick Tinsley, Bruce Vento Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Upward Bound program at St. Olaf



Lisa Burg, Paul and Sheila Wellstone Memorial Scholarship Recipient
Educational Talent Search program at Minnesota State University–Mankato



Carri-Rin Tacheny, Ronald McKinley Scholarship Recipient
Student Support Services program at Century College

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Public Relations Co-chairs:

Janet Tauer [612] 659-6543 janet.tauer@minneapolis.edu
Mari Tototzintle [507] 786-3708 tototzin@stolaf.edu

Media Subgroup Co-chairs:

Dan Jackson [612] 330-1680 jacksond@augsborg.edu
Martha Thao [507] 786-3711 thaomm@stolaf.edu

Research and Evaluation Co-chairs:

Lisa Harris [763] 576-4657 lisa.harris@anokaramsey.edu
Katie Olives [507] 786-3780 olives@stolaf.edu

Graphic Design: April Conlee april.conlee@gmail.com

Contact:

For more information about this report and updates, or to learn more about the Minnesota TRiO Association:

Minnesota TRiO Association

P.O. Box 50693
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Phone: [612] 250-4660
www.mntrio.org

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