Celebrate National TRIO Day!

Background

In 1986, a congressional resolution (H. Con. Res. 278) declared that Saturday, February 28, 1986, should be designated as " National TRIO Day" to commemorate the annual achievements of the Federal TRIO programs in communities across the country.

Ways to Celebrate

National TRIO Day has become a day of service, where TRIO participants give back to their communities. Some ideas of ways to give back include:

- Building homes with Habitat and Humanity
- Organizing a voter registration drive
- Raising awareness about TRIO through visits to the State Capitol
- Reading to children at the local library
- Cleaning a park, river or other public area

Visit Us

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Lindell Library, Room 201
Minneapolis, MN 55454
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What is TRIO?

TRIO is a set of federally-funded college and community-based educational opportunity outreach programs that motivate and support students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds – including military veterans and students with disabilities.

Currently serving more than 800,000 students from middle school through college graduation and pursuing graduate school, TRIO provides academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary to promote college access, retention, and graduation.

The TRIO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers to education in America.

Where did TRIO come from?

The Educational Opportunity Act of 1964 established an experimental program known as **Upward Bound.** Then, in 1965, the Higher Education Act created **Talent Search**. The two programs assisted high school students pursuing college. Another program, Special Services for Disadvantaged Students (later known as **Student Support Services**), was launched in 1968 to assist students in completing college. Together, this "trio" of programs provided support for access to higher education for low-income and first-generation students. In 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. **McNair** Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program to help undergraduate students prepare for graduate school.

By 1998, the TRIO programs added **Educational Opportunity Centers**, **Upward Bound**, **Upward Bound Math-Science**, **Veterans Upward Bound**, and the **Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs Staff**.

Facts about TRIO

- Augsburg University is home to two TRIO programs: TRIO SSS and TRIO McNair!

- There are more than 200 McNair Scholars Programs nationwide across the US and Puerto Rico.

- According to 2019 data, TRIO SSS participants have higher success rates than eligible non-participants in degree completion at both two-year colleges (31.4% vs. 45.6%) and four-year colleges (43.4% vs. 51%).

- The McNair Scholars Program is named after Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an American NASA astronaut and physicist who lost his life in the Space Shuttle Challenger at the age of 35.

- More than 1,000 colleges, universities, and community agencies host more than 2,800 TRIO projects that serve more than 800,000 young people and adults.

TRIO