



**West Virginia TRiO  
Fact Book 2014  
Federal TRiO Programs  
U.S. Department of Education**

For more information on TRiO in West Virginia, contact:

**Carol Suder-Howes, WV TRiO Programs 100 Campus Drive Elkins, WV 26241**

1-304-637-1989    [Howesc@dewv.edu](mailto:Howesc@dewv.edu)

**WVTRIO.Org**

## What is TRiO?

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

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. Each plays a unique role in providing educational opportunity for eligible students.

## Why TRiO?

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

### TRiO in West Virginia is working.

In fact, when we compare West Virginia 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

	West Virginia Average	WV TRiO Student
% of low-income High School graduates enrolling in postsecondary education	58.3%*	81.9%
% of students who persisted toward completion of a post-secondary program	66.4%	85.0%

\*WV HEPC Data Report as of 2005-2008

\*\*Most recent state data available

# Educational Talent Search

This 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, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 a degree.

## 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

### West Virginia Talent Search Programs:

Greater Appalachia Outreach, Inc.

Marshall University – Empowering Appalachia Talent Search

Marshall University – Heart of Appalachia Talent Search

Funded to serve 1725 students in West Virginia



**Derek Collins**  
**Marshall University**  
**Heart of Appalachia Talent Search**

When the director, Angela Holley, of the Heart of Appalachia Talent Search (HATS) Program at Marshall University asked me to write how the HATS Program aided my educational pursuits, only one word came to my mind, honored. This program has given me many opportunities and advantages in pursuing my dream career of becoming a medical doctor.

During my middle and high school years, the HATS program provided me with a knowledgeable and eager to help mentor, Tira Runyon. Each month Tira visited my school and presented lessons on ways to be a successful student. Lessons ranged from note taking skills and study tips to making sure you get adequate sleep in order to stay focused during classes. When the time that college applications and FASFA drew near, HATS provided workshops on filling out every detail and provided waivers for college entrance exams.

The program also offered many opportunities to meet students from the other schools that participated in HATS such as campus visits to West Virginia University and Marshall University. Another opportunity was the Career Camp. The camp not only let me meet new people, but also gave me a closer look at student life at Marshall University. Throughout the weekend, we took campus tours, listened to guest lecturers and participated in a variety of games and experiments dealing with forensics. This was my first hands-on experience with forensics, which ultimately led to my decision to major in chemistry at Marshall University for my undergraduate degree.

The benefits of the program did not stop upon graduation from high school. During my time at Marshall, I would stop by their office just to talk. While I was no longer in the program, they never stopped treating me as one of their kids. Angela, Tira, Scott and Shannon always provided helpful insight to any questions I had about school and life in general. In order for any program to work and have an impact on children, you must have people with outstanding character who truly want to make a difference in the world.

As a medical student at West Virginia University School of Medicine, I can say that the HATS Program, more specifically the workers in the HATS Program, has truly made an impact on my life. How great of an impact, only time can tell.

Number of students served	1134*
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	67%*
Yearly retention rate	97%*
Post secondary education placement rate within 1 <sup>st</sup> year	66%*
Percentage of seniors earning High School diploma or GED at year end	99%*
% of seniors completing a rigorous secondary school program of study	90%

\*2012-2013 reported data 2 of 3 programs reporting

# Upward Bound

Emerged 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

### West Virginia Upward Bound Programs:

- (2) Concord University
- (2) Davis & Elkins College
- Mingo County Commission
- Marshall University
- Salem University
- West Virginia State University
- West Virginia University Institute of Technology
- West Virginia University

Funded to serve 772 students



**Laura Moyers**  
**Davis & Elkins**  
**Upward Bound**

I was very shy when I started the Upward Bound Program. When the program started I had never visited a college campus. My parents both worked full time jobs, so they did not have time to take me to tour any campuses. I visited over twenty colleges and universities during my tenure with the Upward Bound Program. Touring schools with Upward Bound gave me the opportunity to compare different campuses and programs and make a much more educated decision when it came time to apply. I applied to 14 different schools. I got accepted to 13 of them. I chose to attend Washington and Lee University.

I did not visit Washington and Lee University with Upward Bound. However I only had the confidence to schedule a visit and ask appropriate questions because of my Upward Bound experiences. Because I had the confidence to ask the right questions I found out that Washington and Lee University offered a wonderful scholarship. I applied for it and was granted the J. Edward Lewis Scholarship. That scholarship pays the full cost of attendance. Because of Upward Bound I had the confidence to find and attend a University that is consistently ranked in the top 15 Liberal Art Schools in the nation. I graduated there in only three years because of the college credits I was able to accumulate before starting through the Upward Bound Program.

I am currently working for the state of West Virginia as a Child Protective Services Worker. I am also currently pursuing my Master's of Social Work degree. I am getting my degree through the state's Title IV-E program. Again I utilized the skills that Upward Bound taught me to find funding and use it to meet my goals. I am very excited to be attending WVU's MSW program. Someday I may even decide to get my PHD. Without the guidance from Upward Bound, I would not have had the skills necessary to find and pursue the quality of education that I received at Washington and Lee University. I cannot thank the staff at Davis and Elkins Upward Bound enough for all that they gave me through this experience!

Number of students served	375*
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
Yearly retention rate	91%
Postsecondary enrollment	81%
Academic improvement on standardized test	70%
Postsecondary persistence	84%

\*2011-2012 Report Data 5 of 10 programs reporting

## Student Support Services

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) 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.

### 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
- 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.

#### West Virginia Student Support Services Programs:

Bluefield State College  
Concord University  
Glenville State College  
Marshall University  
Shepherd University  
Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College ( year)  
West Virginia State University  
West Virginia University Institute of Technology  
West Virginia University/Morgantown

Funded to serve 1850 students



**Faith St. Clair**  
**West Virginia University**  
**Student Support Services**

TRiO has been a very important program to the person I am today. The first TRiO program I participated with was Upward Bound. Upward Bound helped me realize I could get to college. I always wanted to go to college but, since no one in my family had attended college, I did not understand what resources were available for me to get there. Upward Bound opened many opportunities to me as a high school freshman. I was able to receive tutoring to help me keep my grades up to qualify for the PROMISE scholarship and meet college requirements. Upward Bound also helped me decide which college I wanted to attend.

I am now a junior at West Virginia University and a participant of the Student Support Services which I learned was available through Upward Bound. Student Support Services has helped me in ways that go above and beyond education. This program helped me deal with the loss of both my grandparents who raised me after the death of my mother. SSS kept me going when all I wanted to do was quit. SSS is not just a program for first generation college students; it is a family. TRiO programs are necessary for low income and or first generation students, without these programs I would not be in college today or the young woman I am with the potential to contribute to society in the future. TRiO provides many services but in my opinion, emotional support is the most important it offers.

I on behalf of many West Virginia students in my same situation, I ask you to please continue to fund the TRiO programs and increase funding so that many can have the opportunities earned through higher education.

Number of students served	583*
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
Persistence towards graduation	85%
Good academic standing	93%
Total 4 year degrees awarded	56%

\*2010-2011 Report Data 3 of 9 programs reporting

## Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program

This program was authorized by the Higher Educational Amendments and in 1968 it became a Trio Program. It was named in honor of Robert E. McNair the astronaut.

### Goal

The McNair Program is designed for college students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with these participants through their undergraduate requirements, encourage their entrance into graduate programs, and track their progress to successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal of the McNair Program is to increase the attainment of PhD's by students from underrepresented segments of society.

### Services

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

#### West Virginia Ronald E. McNair Programs:

Concord University  
West Virginia University/Morgantown

Funded to serve 55 students



**Adam Carte**  
**Ronald E. McNair Program**  
**West Virginia University**

Adam Carte, a senior at West Virginia University, has been traveling across the United States interviewing with Ph.D. programs in biological and biomedical science at top-tier universities, all while preparing for graduation in May. Carte is a first-generation college student from Hico, W.Va., studying biochemistry with a minor in biology. He currently serves on the WVU Student Government Association Board of Governors and founded the WVU Association of Undergraduate Researchers. When Carte began his college career, he originally wanted to attend medical school because he excelled in math and science in high school. However, after conducting research in a biology lab his sophomore year, Carte said he realized he wanted to pursue a Ph.D. rather than a M.D. "I think I can contribute more to science than I can to medicine," Carte said. "Understanding the fundamentals and molecular biology are probably where my skills fit best."

Carte said he has always been passionate about science and understood that, if he were to attend medical school, he would only be practicing a subset of science. "If I get a Ph.D., I can be a scientist and continue doing something I love." Carte applied to 10 different graduate programs at eight different schools and accepted seven interviews from some of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country. "It's been a lot of work. I've had to write a lot of essays, and I'm thankful for the professors who wrote letters of recommendation for me," he said.

Carte was recently accepted into the Biological and Biomedical Sciences program at the Harvard Medical School of Harvard University. He interviewed with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the Harvard Systems Biology program and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Biology program, but Harvard BBS is the first program from which he has heard back. Carte will finish his interviews at Rockefeller University, Stanford University and the University of California Berkeley.

These programs are seeking students who have the aptitude to grasp the challenging concepts of biology and biochemistry. They are also looking for students who have adequately prepared themselves for careers in the field of science during their undergraduate education. Carte said he contributes his success in his undergraduate career to hard work. "I have a drive to succeed and outperform students coming from more prestigious universities, and I've really worked hard for what I've accomplished," Carte said. Carte said his final decision will be based upon which program suits him best. "In the past few weeks I've met Nobel Prize winners and scientists who have written my textbooks," Carte said. "This has been a great experience, and it's nice that I have Harvard to fall back on."

Number of students served	25*
Number of participants who received their baccalaureate degree	19
Number of participants enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program	14
Number of prior year participants who completed a doctoral degree program this period	1
Number of participants who completed a Master's Degree program this period	3
Number of participants who completed a doctoral degree within the last ten years	8

\*2012-2013 Report Data 1 of 2 programs reporting

# Educational Opportunity Centers

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

## Goal

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

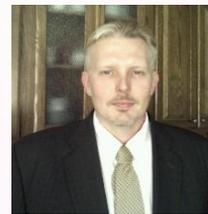
## Services

- Academic advising
- Personal counseling
- Career workshops
- Information on postsecondary education
- Information on student financial assistance
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- 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

### West Virginia Educational Opportunity Center Programs:

Bluefield State College  
 Greater Appalachian Outreach, Inc.  
 Marshall University

Funded to serve 3551 students in West Virginia



**Harry Whitlow**  
Bluefield State College  
Educational Opportunity Center

My name is Harry Eugene Whitlow and my dream had always been to finish my college degree, but life got in the way. Everything was going ok. I was in my thirties with a family to support. I had a high paying factory job that took care of that. I wasn't living my dream, but life was fine. I was stunned when word came that everyone in my section of the factory would be laid off permanently. The company had decided to move our jobs to China.

This negative situation turned into a positive one. The local Congressmen, Rick Boucher, worked hard to ensure that our circumstance qualified for a program called Trade Readjustment Act. This program would pay for two years of education for those affected employees as well as money to cover living expenses. This was my opportunity to finish my college education. I met with an advisor at the local Workforce Center. I didn't know where to begin. I knew nothing about the school, how to enroll, or what services were available. I needed help.

I don't remember who connected me with the Educational Opportunity Center at Bluefield State College. I do remember the Educational Outreach Counselor being knowledgeable, helpful, and kind. She helped me complete my college application and financial aid paperwork. I didn't even know what a FAFSA was. The EOC helped start my path towards completing my dream.

I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bluefield State College in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Social Science with a major in history and humanities and an emphasis in English. I participated in the Veterans Upward Bound and Student Support Services both programs played a role in my success. I was even a McNair Scholar. These and other factors contributed to my path towards success, but the path started with an Educational Outreach Counselor from the Educational Opportunity Center.

My college education has provided me with the opportunity to pursue a career that I love and care about. I am now an Educational Outreach Counselor working for the Educational Opportunity Center at Bluefield State College, helping people in the same manner that I was helped.

Number of students served	2,460*
Percent meeting both low-income/first-generation eligibility	77%
Percent of students persisting	85%
Percent of students in Good Academic Standing	93%
Percent of students attaining Bachelor's Degree	56%

\*2012-2013 reported data 2 of 3 programs

## Veterans' Upward Bound

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

### Goal

The goals of Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB) are 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

#### West Virginia Veterans' Upward Bound Programs:

Davis & Elkins College

Funded to serve 158 students



**Paul Long**  
Davis & Elkins College  
Veterans' Upward Bound

I think of my time with Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) as a journey because they have been a major part of my life since the first day I found the program almost 7 years ago. It was 2007 and I had recently retired from a 22 year career in the United States Army. I started taking college classes while stationed in Germany in the mid 1990's. I always wanted to finish my college degree when I was in the military but settled for taking classes sporadically as my duty allowed. I concentrated on being a soldier first and duty often required long hours and the time required to pursue college was limited.

After I retired from the military in 2004 I worked as a Supply Technician with a defense contractor at Fort Campbell that rebuilt helicopters after they returned from combat duty. My wife and I then decided it was time to move to West Virginia to be near both our families. I knew that I wanted to complete college to make myself more marketable and needed some assistance with figuring out what program of study might be good for my situation. When I was at the Workforce West Virginia office in Morgantown inquiring about jobs, I saw a pamphlet about Veterans Upward Bound. I called to inquire about it and within a couple of days I was sitting down with one of their Academic Advisors telling my story. Their approach of meeting with veterans one-on-one really made me feel comfortable and I appreciated the individualized attention. They enrolled me in their upcoming math prep class and allowed me to work at my own pace to become familiar with the subject. During this same time they worked with me individually to help me with the enrollment process necessary to get into school.

It wasn't long before I found myself as a full-time student at West Virginia University and on my way to acquiring a 4-year degree. In August of 2009 I finished my Regents Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in Business Administration. I even graduated magna cum laude with a 3.88 GPA. But, my journey with VUB did not end there. About a year later a position as an Academic Advisor with VUB came open in my area. I anxiously applied hoping to get the opportunity to give back to a program that gave so much to me. I am proud to say that I still serve as that Academic Advisor for this program. I meet with veterans just like myself each day who want to better themselves through a college education. It is my goal to be as supportive to them, as their advisor, as VUB was to me as a veteran.

Number of participants served	120
Number of both low income and 1 <sup>st</sup> generation eligibility	85
Percent of participants persisting or completing the VUB program	87%
Percent of participants enrolling in PSE	47%
Percent of participants persisting in PSE	89%

2011-2012 Report Data of 1 program reporting

<b>Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Bluefield State College	WV	1,380	\$311,400
Greater Appalachian Outreach, Inc.	WV	1,038	\$311,400
Marshall University	WV	1,000	\$217,971
		<b>3,418</b>	<b>\$840,771</b>
<b>McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement (McNair) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Concord University	WV	28	\$238,820
West Virginia University	WV	24	\$208,492
		<b>52</b>	<b>\$447,312</b>
<b>Student Support Services (SSS) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Bluefield State College	WV	265	\$338,101
Concord University	WV	190	\$284,542
Glenville State College	WV	160	\$218,994
Marshall University	WV	200	\$269,861
Shepherd University	WV	160	\$202,031
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College	WV	190	\$252,724
West Virginia State University	WV	250	\$269,861
West Virginia University/ Institute of Technology	WV	200	\$277,041
West Virginia University/ Morgantown	WV	204	\$325,192
		<b>1819</b>	<b>\$2,438,347</b>
<b>Talent Search (TS) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Greater Appalachian Outreach, Inc.	WV	560	\$257,262
Marshall University	WV	592	\$217,971
Marshall University	WV	520	\$217,971
		<b>1,672</b>	<b>\$693,204</b>
<b>Regular Upward Bound (UB) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Concord University	WV	57	\$236,887
Concord University	WV	82	\$370,483
Davis & Elkins College/ Elkins	WV	83	\$374,828
Davis & Elkins College/ Elkins	WV	47	\$236,925
Marshall University	WV	77	\$326,020
Mingo County Commission	WV	63	\$209,491
Salem International University	WV	85	\$342,834
West Virginia State University	WV	104	\$468,902
West Virginia University Institute of Technology	WV	90	\$359,085
West Virginia University/Morgantown	WV	54	\$236,925
		<b>742</b>	<b>\$3,162,380</b>
<b>Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
West Virginia State University	WV	47	\$236,925
		<b>47</b>	<b>\$236,925</b>
<b>Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Grantees</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>FY 2012 Funding (2012-13 Project Yr)</b>
Davis & Elkins College	WV	150	\$336,907
		<b>150</b>	<b>\$336,907</b>
<b>Total Number of Students Served in WV</b>		<b>7900</b>	
<b>FY 2012 Funding For All WV TRiO Programs</b>			<b>\$8,155,846</b>