

2023 Utah

TRIO

FACT BOOK





2022-2023 Utah ASPIRE Board

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Dear Friend of TRIO,

Thank you for your continued support and for the recent increase in funding for federal TRIO programs in FY23. Utah TRIO programs rely on federal funds to provide services and activities that support our mission of educational opportunity and college success for low-income, first-generation college students across the state.

Each year, Utah ASPIRE compiles this TRIO Fact Book to share TRIO student success stories and the wonderful TRIO work happening across Utah with local communities and with our representatives in Congress.

As you will see in the following pages, TRIO programs are lifechanging for many thousands of students in Utah who might not otherwise have the opportunity and/or skill set to graduate from college. For each of the student spotlights included in this book, there are thousands more successful TRIO students who are now changing the world and the life trajectories of their families with their college degrees.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education and housed in the Higher Education Opportunity Act, TRIO programs provide resources to reduce poverty in Utah while creating an educated workforce. Utah's TRIO programs increase the quality of life for students and their families while also increasing state revenue, as most pre-college TRIO students go on to attend institutions in Utah and, once they are in college, TRIO programs help them to be successful.

We appreciate your time and hope you are able to look through this book, where we have highlighted TRIO program outcomes in each congressional district and all across Utah. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Samantha A. Hill, M.S.
President | Utah ASPIRE
Director | TRIO Upward Bound | Weber State University

What are federal **TRIO** programs?

TRIO is a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. **844,383** low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities spanning from sixth grade through college graduation and are served by **3,270** programs nationally.

Who do **TRIO** programs serve?

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served by TRIO programs must come from families with incomes at 150% or less of the federal poverty level and in which neither parent has graduated from college. Some TRIO programs help students in grades 6 through 12 prepare for college, while others serve undergraduate students while they are in college and graduate school.

TRIO Program	Description
Talent Search	Pre-college support for students in grades 6-12 and adults up to age 27.
Upward Bound	Pre-college support for students in grades 9-12.
Student Support Services	College support for undergraduate students.
Veterans Upward Bound	Support in preparing and transitioning into college for veterans.
Educational Opportunity Centers	College skills support for qualifying adults and youth not served by Talent Search.
McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement	Tutoring, mentoring, academic counseling, and activities to assist students in preparation for enrollment and success in graduate programs.

In 2022, Utah **TRIO** programs...

- ✓ Served over 7,000 TRIO students, most from low-income households.
- ✓ Provided vital pre-college academic support to students in 93 middle and high schools in low-income communities across the state.
- ✓ Helped almost 500 high school seniors enroll in college.
- ✓ Helped over 600 first-generation college students graduate with their degrees, including four doctoral degrees.
- ✓ Provided vital connections to community resources and academic support in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

TRIO in Utah

Programs Across the State



Senator
Mike Lee
State of Utah

27 TRIO programs
Funding: \$10,057,512

7,243 students served



Senator
Mitt Romney
State of Utah



TRIO in Utah

Programs by Congressional District

UT-1



Congressman
Blake Moore

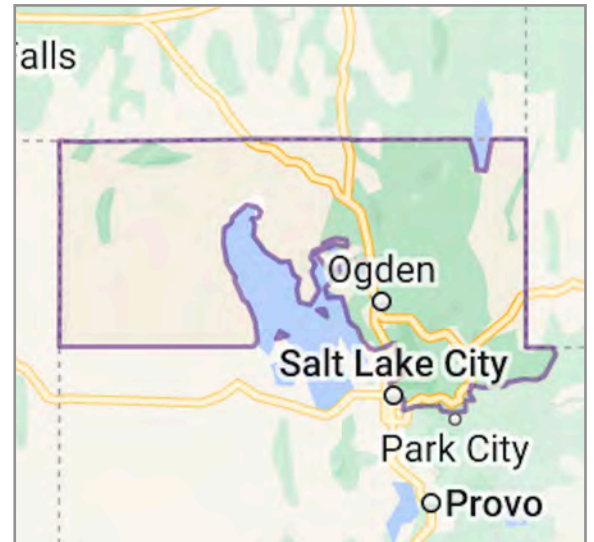
District 1

7 TRIO programs

Funding:

\$2,784,603

***1,172 students
served***



UT-2



Congressman
Chris Stewart

District 2

7 TRIO programs

Funding:

\$2,706,936

***2,042 students
served***



TRIO in Utah

Programs by Congressional District

UT-3



Congressman

John Curtis

District 3

8 TRIO programs

Funding:

\$2,883,891

***2,926 students
served***



UT-4



Congressman

Burgess Owens

District 4

5 TRIO programs

Funding:

\$1,682,082

***1,103 students
served***



TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 1



Roxsana Torres is a senior at Itineris Early College High School and has been a part of the University of Utah's TRIO **Upward Bound** program for four years. Throughout her time with **Upward Bound**, she has been eager to learn, attentive to staff, and has always demonstrated a strong desire to excel in all her work. She is a quintessential high school student, one who the team does not have to worry about in regards to academics or participation; she is exceptional and is in fact, the top student participant in the program this year. Alongside **Upward Bound**, Roxsana maintains high grades and is involved in several extracurricular activities in and outside of school. She understands the importance of equity and inclusion working with individuals from the unhoused community by providing resources and assistance. Academically, Roxsana's strong performance speaks to the high-quality work she produces and her exceptional ability to manage her time. She has taken multiple college level courses as a high school junior and in fact is the first rising senior to take college level courses during the summer program while other students in her grade take high school level courses. Roxsana is an incredibly mature young woman who has overcome multiple personal and family obstacles to get to where she is today. This is what drives her to excel in every task that comes her way. She has been admitted to multiple colleges and has received multiple scholarship offers both in and out of state. Roxsana has decided to attend the University of Oregon where she plans to major in Chemistry afterwards pursuing law school with an emphasis in immigration law. Roxsana is a true TRIO rock star and is prepared to put in the effort and work needed to be successful now and in her future.

Anwar Shelali is a first-generation, mechanical engineering and business/entrepreneurship student. He has a goal of obtaining a master's degree in business administration and through his hard work, drive, and ambition, there is no doubt he will reach his goals. Anwar was born in Kenya to loving parents who were forced to flee their homeland of Somalia. In 2009 his family arrived to Utah to seek a safer and better life. Like many other TRIO students, Anwar has faced several challenges in his young life. In 2017 he returned to Kenya to live with his grandparents for over a year and missed his entire freshman year of high school. When he returned to Utah he had to work incredibly hard to make up for lost time. Through his hard work, dedication, and support from **Upward Bound**, Anwar was able to graduate on-time, with a high GPA and was selected as a First Ascent Scholar, a highly competitive David Eccles School of Business program and scholarship. Anwar has excelled at the University of Utah most recently making the Dean's list. He is a staple in the TRIO office and is one of the friendliest students whose smile can light up the room. He is incredibly humble and shares his gratitude to his parents who made the difficult sacrifice to leave everyone and everything they knew behind to make a better life in America. He shares that along with the essentials of life he has here in Utah, he is most thankful for the opportunity to attend college. Anwar's priorities are solid and with his commitment to his education, we know he will continue to do his part in making this world a better place.



TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 1



University of Utah TRIO Upward Bound students visit the Utah State Capitol.



University of Utah TRIO Student Support Services students on a graduate school tour at NYU.



Weber State University TRIO Upward Bound graduates complete their associate degrees (May 2022).



Weber State University TRIO Student Support Services students participate in service projects during Spring Break in San Diego, CA.

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 2



Nominated by her TRIO **Talent Search** advisor, Brooke Goold, to be in the TRIO/ETS **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT** is Yvonne Plancarte. Yvonne has gone through a lot of hardship in her life and especially while completing high school. She ended up graduating early so that she could get a job to help supplement her family's income. She was accepted to the University of Utah and hopes to study nursing. She is on the high honor roll and took a lot of CE classes while attending Dixie High School. She is hard-working and determined to meet her goals. It is inspiring. We know she will go far in life.

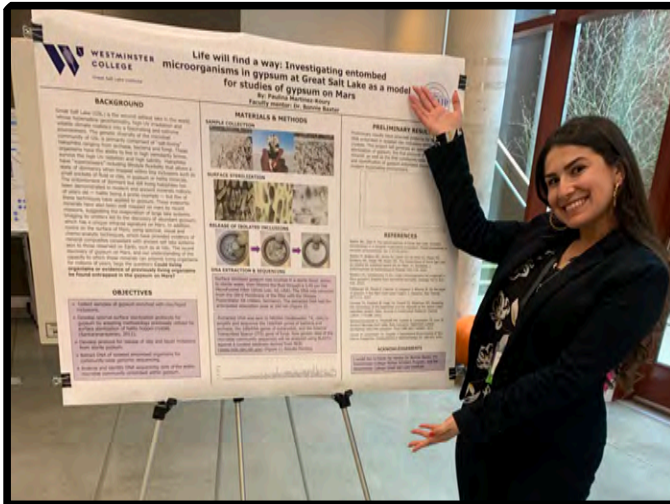
Areli Hernandez Islas is a senior **ETS** student from Snow Canyon. She has managed to keep a 4.0 cumulative GPA all through her high school career while taking many honors, AP, & CE courses. She also scored well on the ACT test. Areli has achieved her seal of biliteracy. With the manner in which Areli has approached her education she will be eligible for many scholarships at the college of her choice. We are proud of the academic achievements that Areli has accomplished to this point and look forward to seeing the finish to her high school career and attend a college of her choice.



Oscar came to Utah Tech during the fall of 2016 from Avalon, California. His parents came from Mexico without a high school education and Oscar basically worked in the fast food industry with a parent before coming to Utah Tech University. Oscar visited UTU during a spring break trip to tour western universities with a group from his high school. He liked the feel of UTU and applied and received an out-of-state tuition waiver and began his educational adventure. After one semester, Oscar became one of UTU's Student Ambassadors. This position waived his tuition while he was at UTU and, with his Pell grant and part-time employment, Oscar completed his associate of science degree in May of 2018. He continued at UTU to complete his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science in May of 2021 without taking out any student loans. Graduating debt free, he attributes his academic success and financial freedom to the **SSS** program and staff he met during his initial visit to UTU. As a UTU ambassador, every student he escorted on a tour around campus who qualified for TRIO, he would bring to the **SSS** offices to meet the staff and talk about the services he receives as a first-generation and low-income student.

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 2



A McNair scholar at Westminister College presents her research.



Southern Utah University TRIO Talent Search students tour BZI Steel for career exploration.



Southern Utah University TRIO Talent Search 9th graders tour Brigham Young University.



Westminister College McNair scholars at UCLA's McNair conference (July 2022).

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 3



It was as a teenager that Utah State University Moab graduate Kaylan Young found her professional passion. While in high school, Young landed an internship in an elementary school and knew it was what she wanted to do with her life. “I had an internship in a second-grade classroom and fell in love with teaching,” Young said.

Young, who was born and raised in Moab, then had a decision to make: where to attend college. She had already taken concurrent enrollment courses during high school as a **TRIO Talent Search** student. After mulling her options, Young decided on hometown USU Moab as the place to pursue a degree. “After I graduated high school, I had offers for colleges across the state from many schools,” Young said. “But I chose to stay in Moab and to pay for my schooling without having a lot of student debt.”

Young graduated during the Spring 2022 semester with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. After job searching, Young was hired as a kindergarten teacher at Helen M. Knight Elementary School in Moab. Young credits her time at USU Moab for allowing her to grow into the person she is now. “I’m a first-year kindergarten teacher and I’m loving every minute of it,” Young said. “USU Moab was a great experience. It helped me grow out of the shell I was living in in high school.”

“USU Moab was a life saver when it came to the financial aspect of school,” she said. “I’d highly recommend to anyone considering going to school to pick USU Moab. Graduating with a bachelor’s degree without debt is one of the best feelings in the world. If you are worried about paying for school, USU Moab is a great option.”

USU Moab Director of Students, Samantha Campbell, has enjoyed watching Young progress as she made her way through the program and found a job in her chosen field, “Kaylan is an example to any Moab student looking to stay in Moab and complete a degree,” Campbell said. “Kaylan is pursuing her dream career without ever having to leave home or going into debt. I am excited to see what the future holds for Kaylan and know that she is going to make a big difference in our local community. I feel grateful that USU Moab got to be a small piece of Kaylan’s success story.”



Throughout my time at UVU, **TRIO SSS** has been the backbone of my education. **TRIO** has not only given me a place to call home but the opportunity to network and meet new friends. As a chicana, first-generation, low income student, I’ve been fortunate enough to have the opportunities to receive financial aid to help me pursue my associates and now my bachelor’s degree. Not only have they helped me financially, but academically as well, by providing me with free tutoring services which has gotten me out of some stressful classes.

As my final semester at UVU comes to an end, I’m still needing their support and it is very comforting knowing I have always turned to **TRIO SSS** for guidance throughout my college career. I will forever cherish the help and memories I’ve made in this program.



TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 3



Utah Valley University TRIO Upward Bound students graduate with their associate degrees at time of high school graduation (June 2022).



Utah Valley University TRIO college students attend a Clifton Strengths workshop.



Utah State University (Price Campus) TRIO Upward Bound students attend an on-site career exploration tour and workshop.



Utah State University (Price Campus) TRIO Upward Bound students at Pearl Harbor National Memorial.

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 4

Upward Bound (UB) has taught me a lot of things in my life. It has taught me to work hard and how to build and maintain relationships. It has taught me responsibility and to do things now so you don't have to later. UB has taught me to utilize my resources and to grow and learn in healthy ways. I was taught how to travel in safety. I was taught how to have fun, while still getting things done. Upward Bound has taught me how to prioritize my time and to take advantage of opportunities when they come. I have gained leadership skills that have helped me in my education as well as my daily life. I don't know where my life would be without Upward Bound. It has taught me to think critically and be able to apply what I have learned in every aspect of my life. I have learned skills needed in my everyday life. I've learned how to belong. I have learned to become comfortable doing something hard. Lastly, I am my best person because of Upward Bound. TRIO programs work!



I'm not afraid to say that beginning my academic journey here at Snow College was a bit daunting. Like the beginning of every new era there were uncertainties, doubts and feelings of inadequacies. Thanks to the **Student Support Services** program, my ability to navigate through the challenges of school became much easier.

This program has helped me develop greater communication skills, learn how to better manage my time, use resources that the school provides and ultimately be the best student I can be. The uncertainties and doubts that I had at the beginning of this journey have completely diminished. The people here in **Student Support Services** have shown me how to truly make the most of this academic opportunity and ultimately be a person of character.

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights

Utah's District 4



Snow College TRIO Student Support Services students celebrate National TRIO Day.



Snow College TRIO Upward Bound students attend a local career fair.



Snow College TRIO Upward Bound students on a tour of NASA's Kennedy Space Center near Orlando, Florida.

TRIO Snapshots & Spotlights



Senator Romney Meets with Utah TRIO Students During 2022 Student Leadership Conference in Washington

 **Senator Mitt Romney** 
@SenatorRomney

Opportunities to engage in meaningful and formative experiences will help prepare our youth to become impactful leaders. Enjoyed meeting with this group of high school students from San Juan County during their @COETalk leadership conference in Washington.



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For More Information on TRIO...

Helpful websites

Utah TRIO: <https://aspireonline.org/utah/>
ASPIRE: <https://aspireonline.org>
Council for Opportunity in Education: <https://coenet.org/>
U.S. Department of Education TRIO homepage:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

References

Number of participants per TRIO project and funding based on data from the U.S. Department of Education, compiled here:
[TRIO Programs by State and Congressional District - FY22](#)

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This booklet was created by TRIO professionals throughout the state of Utah.

