

EOC Newsletter

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FREE Services Include:

- Academic Advising
- Career Counseling
- College Admission Application Completion
- FAFSA Completion
- Financial Literacy Information
- Guidance on Scholarship Searches
- Defaulted Student Loan Counseling



“The TRIO Experience” by Dennis Weaver

Way back in 1966, between my sophomore and junior year in high school, I was fortunate enough to participate in the first federally funded TRIO program, Upward Bound. This program, sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity, was designed to enable students with academic potential to get more out of high school, and also help them to prepare for college.

I was one of 50 area high school students who spent eight weeks of their summer at the campus of the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) participating in the program. We actually lived in the freshman dormitory for the length of the program, quite an experience for

a sheltered 16 year old. During the summer, we took part in academic studies as well as social, sporting and cultural events. It was a whirlwind summer that stimulated me academically, as well as giving me the hope that I could actually be the first in my family to attend college.

At the end of the summer, I was honored to be selected to represent the youth of Missouri, who participated in Upward Bound, to go to Washington, D. C. for a meeting with other participants from all over the country. This two day visit included a meeting with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, as well as a tour of the capital city. This was a tremendous experience that included my first ever airplane flight!

I participated in Upward Bound throughout the rest of high school. Their continued support and assistance was invaluable. After graduating high school, with Upward Bound's aid, I was able to attend, and eventually graduate from UMKC, under full academic scholarship. I am truly convinced that without this grand TRIO program, my dream of becoming a first generation college student would never have come to fruition.

Now, as a recent retiree, I can reflect back on my time with Upward Bound and know that without it I would have never been a college graduate with a long successful working career. I sincerely hope that there will always be a TRIO program like this to help the youth of our community.

The History of TRIO

In 1965, Congress began creating a series of programs to help Americans overcome class and social barriers to higher education. These services geared towards low-income and first generation students were called Special Programs for Students from Disadvantaged Backgrounds. Today they are called the Federal TRIO programs. “TRIO” derived from the first three programs established.

Upward Bound - 1964: Prepares high school students for success in postsecondary education.

Talent Search - 1965: Assists individuals ages 11-27 with applying for financial aid and college admission.

Student Support Services - 1968: Helps low-income first generation college students graduate from college.

Veterans Upward Bound - 1972: Provides support services to enable veterans to transition into college.

Educational Opportunity Centers - 1972: Helps adults gain admission and financial aid to college.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program - 1986: Prepares students for doctoral study.

Upward Bound Math/Science - 1990: Prepares high school students for college math and science programs.



EOC Staff:

Jan Rosenblum, Counselor

Janet Weaver, Counselor

Ozzie Greene, Advisor

Camry Ivory, Advisor

Rufina Nelson, Financial
Aid Assistant

Diane Thornton, Clerk

"TRIO Works!"

Director's Corner

It has been a year of much change for the Kansas City EOC. Jan Rosenblum, EOC counselor for 24 years, retired in June. However, he has returned on a part-time basis. The program was lucky enough to get another retired counselor, Janet Weaver, on a part-time basis. She has 31 years of counseling experience and will be a wonderful addition to our talented EOC staff.

Changes to satisfactory academic

(SAP) progress guidelines have presented more challenges for our EOC participants receiving financial aid and maintaining their eligibility. It has also created challenges for EOC staff as they try to help EOC participants understand and in some cases regain SAP.

EOC staff continue to work diligently at staying up-to-date with Federal financial aid

regulations and the availability of

other educational funding sources.

I and the EOC staff are proud of our EOC participants' many accomplishments and successes! We look forward to serving many more individuals in the upcoming year.

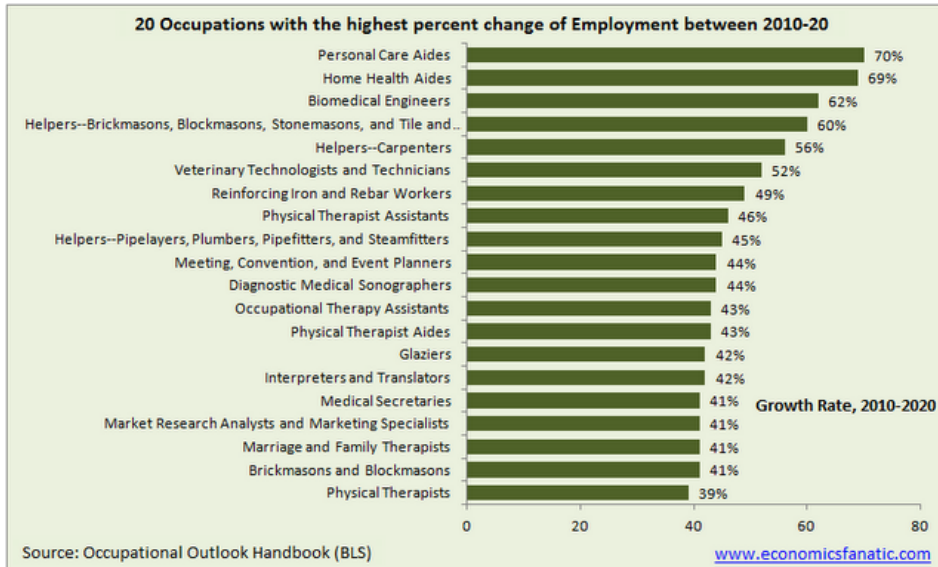
Sincerely,

Jennifer Walk

Project Outcomes for 2012-2013

- Served 2,432 individuals
- Of those, 2,056 (85%) were low-income potential first generation college students.
- Participants served between ages (19-27) - 680; 28 years and older - 973
- Participants that indicated a disability - 223
- Twenty-eight veterans or military-connected individuals were assisted.
- Individuals who indicated English was not their first language - 508.
- Participants who received assistance with completing college admission applications - 1,302.
- Participants who received assistance with completing financial aid applications - 1,561.
- 728 (54%) participants enrolled in a postsecondary program.
- Fifty-four participants were provided defaulted student loan counseling with a combined loan debt of \$979,512.53.
- Average payment arranged was \$42.62, with a total yearly payback of \$10,740.
- EOC staff disseminated information on postsecondary and financial aid opportunities at 65 various agencies, schools and organizations throughout the year.
- All assurances and objectives were met and or exceeded.

Fastest Growing Occupations (2010-2020) in the U.S.



Meet our New Part-Time Counselor - Janet Weaver



I'm very excited to join the terrific staff of the EOC

who help program participants plan for college and secure needed financial aid. This past June, I retired from MCC - Maple Woods after 26 years as the campus' Outreach Counselor. There, it

was my privilege to work with community agencies and educational programs to help their clients/students with getting started in college. I love helping students, so working part-time at the EOC is the perfect retirement opportunity for me!

As a first generation college student, I'm well aware of many of the challenges one faces when attempting to start their

educational experience. Having a federally funded TRIO program like the EOC available to assist the prospective student in this endeavor is truly beneficial to our community.

Closer to home, as you read on the front page of this newsletter, my husband also benefited from a TRIO program. I am truly pleased to work for such a tremendous community program!

“As a first generation college student, I'm well aware of the many challenges one faces”

New High School Equivalency Test

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has selected a new high school equivalency test.

Beginning January 2014, Missouri's new high school equivalency test will be the HiSET test developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The cost of the new test will be \$95, which includes a \$60 registration fee for the cost of the test and \$7 for each of the five test sections to cover the costs of administering the test. Because examinees do not have to complete the entire test at one time, they can take the test in sections.

The \$60 registration fee will allow individuals to test three times during a 12-month period. Examinees who do not pass the test the first time can retake the entire test or any of the test sections two more times within the 12-month period by paying an additional \$7-per-section fee.

www.hse.mo.gov



3100 Main Street, Suite 100
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816-604-4400



Educational Opportunity Center/Kansas City, MO

The Kansas City Educational Opportunity Center is a 100% federally-funded TRIO program (\$436,327) administered by the Metropolitan Community College. EOC has been serving target area residents since 1979 and is one of only three EOC programs in Missouri. Annually, over 2400 individuals receive services provided by the EOC; at least two-thirds of whom are low-income and potential first generation college students. The primary purpose of Educational Opportunity Centers is to increase the number of adults entering into a postsecondary education program by disseminating information on the educational and financial aid opportunities available. EOC counselors and academic advisors provide one-on-one services to EOC participants to assist them in achieving their educational and career goals. In addition, EOC staff conduct presentations on educational and financial aid opportunities available and on the services offered by the program to community agencies, organization, school, churches, etc. If you would like to schedule an individual appointment or setup a presentation please call us.

816-604-4400.

<http://www.mcckc.edu/services/eoc>

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc>



Scholarship Websites and Search Tips

General

collegescholarships.org
carsonscholars.org/scholarships
epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants
fastweb.com
fastaid.com
free-4u.com
scholarships.com
scholarshipexperts.com
scholarshiphunter.com
supercollege.com
superscholar.org/scholarships/25-popular-college-scholarships/
weeklyscholarshipalert.com
wiredscholar.com
scholarshipamerica.org/open_scholarships.php
scholarshipexperts.com/college-scholarships/index.htm
blog.saltmoney.org/tag/scholarships/
schoolsoup.com

Disabilities

afb.org
disabled-world.com/disability/education/scholarships/
disabilityscholarships.us/
disaboom.com/scholarships

Military/Veterans

aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do
mymilitaryeducation.org

- Start Early! Most scholarship deadlines are in March or April.
- BEWARE of scholarship scams! Watch out for phrases like: "This scholarship is guaranteed", "You can't get this information anywhere else", "We need your credit card or account information", "You've been selected/or are the finalist" for an award you have never applied for, "The scholarship requires a small fee or attend a seminar on how to get financial aid for a small fee". For more information or to report a scam: Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov.
- Note if the scholarship is renewable.
- Keep applying for scholarships. You will be in school more than one year.