TRIO - A History

"I shall never forget the faces of the boys and the girls..., and I remember even yet the pain of realizing and knowing then that college was closed to practically every one of those children because they were too poor. And I think it was then that I made up my mind that this Nation could never rest while the door to knowledge remained closed to any American." - President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

Have you ever wondered about TRIO—its origin and its history? Did you know that TRIO and other educational opportunity programs (i.e., Head Start) have been controversial since they began? To understand how TRIO programs came into existence, it is important to understand the context in which these programs were "born."

The 1950s were a time of prosperity for most of the United States. Notably, however, there were groups of people who were not thriving, especially the very young, the very old, and people of color. Lyndon Johnson, then a senator from Texas, saw the prosperity around him, and determined that the time was right for dramatic social change. Johnson became an unstoppable advocate for civil rights. Many historians still consider Johnson the most effective Senate majority leader in history, because he was skilled at persuasion and he was able to push through more legislation than any other Senator before or since. For example, Johnson was responsible for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights legislation passed by the Senate in over 60 years.

Lyndon Johnson became the president in 1964 following John F. Kennedy’s 1963 assassination. As part of LBJ’s political platform, he decided to declare a “War on Poverty.” Making poverty a national concern set in motion a series of bills and acts, creating programs such as Head Start, food stamps, work study, Medicare and Medicaid, which still exist today. Next, Johnson helped push through the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Legend has it that, as he put down his pen, Johnson told an aide, "We have lost the South for a generation." He was anticipating a coming racist backlash from Southern whites against Johnson’s Democratic Party.

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One of the first pieces of government legislation designed to fight poverty was the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and in this statute, TRiO was started with the proposal of the Upward Bound program. Along with Upward Bound, the Economic Opportunity Act also passed the preschool program, Head Start. Both programs became immediately controversial, because there were Senators and Congress members who believed the programs were illegally promoting civil and voting rights. Educational program leaders were accused of inciting racial agitation or participating in civil rights protests. In order to reinstate funding for Head Start, several busses of five-year old children went to Washington, D.C. to plead for services.

Johnson’s lifelong belief that education was the cure for ignorance and poverty, as well as being an essential component of the American Dream, led him to pass legislation to enhance education. Johnson’s major postsecondary educational program was the "Higher Education Act of 1965" which focused on funding for lower income students, including grants, work-study money, and government loans. TRiO’s Talent Search, the second educational outreach program, was created as part of the Higher Education Act. Johnson also pushed for passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 which designated large amounts of federal money to go to public schools.

In 1968, Student Support Services, which was originally known as Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, was authorized by the Higher Education Amendments and became the third in a series of educational opportunity programs. By 1969, the original three educational opportunity programs, Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Support Services, had been created and coined “TRiO”.

Over the years, the TRiO Programs have been expanded and improved to provide a wider range of services and to reach more students who need assistance. There were several threats to TRiO existence, including complete cuts to the programs proposed during the Reagan administration and later, during the second Bush administration. Nonetheless, TRiO continued to grow and develop, adding new programs throughout the 1970s and 1980s, such as the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program created in 1986. Thus, looking back, it’s easy to forget that it took 22 years, from 1964 to 1986, to construct the current array of TRiO programs.

One of the key changes to TRiO came in 1980 when the programs expanded to serve first generation college students. Adding first generation students was important because it moved the programs in a more inclusive direction toward looking at the origin and the impact of non-financial barriers to access and success in postsecondary education. And politically, it enabled the TRiO program to build a broader coalition in Congress, a coalition not just of poor people, but a coalition of all of those who had not had opportunities, or whose constituents had not had opportunities for postsecondary education.

Since the 1980s, TRiO programs have come a long way in terms of the political respect that they have, in terms of the political stature they have, and fundamentally, in terms of the political power they have. The TRiO programs are on the Washington scene and are not a constituency to be trifled with. They are a source of political power on behalf of their agenda and their programs. This is a tremendous record of success and a proud achievement.

Metropolitan State University applied for and received a Student Support Services program grant in 2002 under the leadership of Vice President for Student Affairs, Esther Perález. The first director was Pauline Danforth who worked with Eve Nichols, the first TRiO counselor. Pauline has moved on and is currently an academic advisor in College of Arts and Sciences here at Metropolitan State University. Malee Xiong is the current director of TRiO. Eve Nichols is now the Coordinator of Disability Services here and Deborah Foster has accepted the position as our new TRiO counselor.
After a lot of work and planning by students and staff in Student Affairs, a gathering was held on May 22, 2007 to say a fond farewell to Dr. Esther Perález.

Dr. Perález, Vice President of Student Affairs, left to take a position as Vice President for Student Affairs at City College of New York.

A potluck luncheon, with a wide variety of great food, was held in Library room 301. Everyone present had a chance to sign a book of memories, listen to faculty, staff and students share their thoughts and thanks, and watch as Dr. Esther Perález opened her gifts which were presented to her after the potluck.

TRiO staff and mentors attended the above event, however, our gift to Dr. Esther Perález was more on a personal level. Dr. Esther Perález arrived at the TRiO Room FH 221 to receive the gift from TRiO. We presented her a scrapbook of fond TRiO memories to Dr. Esther Perález on May 24, 2007.

Dr. Esther Perález will be missed by many including students past and present, with whom Dr. Esther Perález took every opportunity to get to know on first name basis.

**Getting to Know Acronyms used around the university community.**

**Bachelors (baccalaureate) Degree:** Awarded after completing a program of study, usually designed to be completed in four academic years, but may take longer. Granted upon completion of a specific program; usually requires four years of full-time study and 126–132 credits. Metropolitan State University offers a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A), Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.), and Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.). A Bachelor of Arts is the traditional liberal arts degree that exposes you to a wide variety of disciplines—literature, history, social sciences, and laboratory sciences—before requiring you to specialize by selecting a major. Studying for a B.A. degree doesn’t mean you’re stuck majoring in the humanities. You can get your B.A. in laboratory sciences like physics, chemistry, and biology. The "Arts" refers to the fact that you have studied a broad range of disciplines, not only the subject that you studied. The Bachelor of Science degree, on the other hand, leaves little room for courses outside your major. You usually select your major before entering the program or, in some cases, after your first year. As with the B.A. degree, the name of the B.S. degree refers to how much time you focused on your major area of study, not it’s content. This means you can get your B.S. in disciplines such as journalism, economics, linguistics, and international relations.

**POSITIVE AFFIRMATION**

**Affirmations for success:**

- It is easy and simple to achieve success.
- Success loves me and always seeks me.
- Success is flowing now into my life.
- The power of the Universe is helping me to achieve my goals.
- Every time I inhale, I fill myself with the energy of prosperity.
Have you got on the Firefox bandwagon yet? If not, you should. But wait, what is Firefox again, you asked? Firefox is an alternative internet browser to Microsoft’s Internet Explorer. Wait! What is an internet browser? For those of you who are not familiar with internet browsers, it’s what you used to surf the internet. Many people just click on the BIG BLUE “E” when they want to go online. That “E” is Microsoft’s internet browser.

Firefox is a new browser that competes with Internet Explorer. In this article, I am going to introduce Firefox to you and hope you will consider giving it a try. There are many features in Firefox, but I will only list the more common ones that users favored.

Extensions allows the users to customize their browsers to fit their usage. You can add extensions to block even more ads and pop-ups than the regular pop-up blockers.

Bookmarking is easy. Just put your mouse over the website’s icon and drag it to your toolbar to save the website.

Tab browsing lets the user open up multiple pages of internet within one window. You can have 10 news article opened up in one window without cluttering the taskbar.

Security in Mozilla’s Firefox is also very strong. You are less likely to get infected with adwares and spywares if you are using Firefox.

**Portable-Friendly**

Just google “portable firefox” and you will be directed to a website specialized in portable applications. Portable applications (software) are programs that has been modified to work straight out of your USB stick. You can download “portable firefox” and put it in your USB drive. Wherever you go, your internet browser follows. You can have your favorites right in your pocket and use it at any computer at any time.

Besides firefox, portableapps.com also have other useful software such as portable word processor, media player, chat software, etc. I will go into more details about these portable applications in our coming up newsletter. I hope this article has been helpful.