



New Mexico TRIO Evolves

by Christopher Luna, UNM-Upward Bound

The story of TRIO in New Mexico began in conjunction with a nationwide deployment of pilot programs in 1965. The Upward Bound Program at New Mexico Highlands University was one of the 18 original pilot programs funded in 1965 under Lyndon B. Johnson as an initiative of the Higher Education Act. In 1971, NM Highlands University was granted a second TRIO Program called Student Support Services. Within 10 years of the TRIO Pilot, programs were granted to institutions all over the state. Today there are over 30 TRIO programs spanning New Mexico's vast landscape and diverse populations. New Mexico TRIO programs serve 9,715 students with a funding source of over 8.6 million dollars. The network of NM TRIO programs includes 31 programs: SSS (11), UB Classic (9), Talent Search (4), EOC (3), UBMS (2), UB Veterans (1), and McNair (1).

Bringing TRIO to New Mexico came with the hard work and dedication of several key individuals. These four gentlemen are widely regarded as the original champions responsible for bringing TRIO to NM and establishing our position on the national stage. Pete Domenici was a successful politician who helped to bring TRIO to New Mexico during its inception and still does so in the modern era by continuing to secure funding for programs, most recently, he helped to bring additional TRIO Programs to Eastern New Mexico University. Domenici served as State Chair for the Finance Committee and understood the positive impact that TRIO Programs would have in New Mexico. Alfredo "Chemo" Gallegos and Carlos Lovato are considered by Pete Domenici and Dr. Arnold Mitchem (Founder-Council for

Opportunity in Education "COE") to be the forefathers of TRIO in New Mexico. These two NM TRIO Champions earned the respect of their political colleagues by relentlessly advocating for New Mexico and its TRIO programs Alfredo, and Carlos served on several executive boards for SWASAP and the COE. Alfredo "Chemo" Gallegos was SWASAP President in 1975. Javier Alcantar was instrumental in strengthening ties between West Texas and New Mexico that promoted the NMWT/ASAP title. It was during the mid-1970's that New Mexico joined with West Texas schools such as El Paso Community College and the University of Texas El Paso to form what was once NMWT/ASAP. TRIO New Mexico emerged from NMWT/ASAP in 2013-2014 in an effort to reengage our TRIO programs and revitalize membership involvement.

The split from our West Texas moniker was a natural evolution in the absence of Texas membership over several years' time. TRIO New Mexico, with a redefined name and cohort of dedicated programs is building off of the momentum gained by a great turnout in of over 60 members in Las Cruces for the 2014 State Conference. TRIO New Mexico has the potential to evolve even further, and it will take the same spirit seen in Chemo, Javier, and Carlos who stood for the progress of TRIO.

Please join us for TRIO Day in Santa Fe on Friday, February 27, 2015 and at the 2015 TRIO New Mexico State Conference in Albuquerque April 7th-9th, 2015.

TRIO Alumni Testimonials

John Bridges

I have been a student at CNM for almost two years. I really enjoy going to school here and feel that I am receiving a quality education from CNM. The folks at TRIO have been GREAT!!! I am proud to be a TRIO student and I am very thankful for all the help they provide. The tutors have given me a distinct advantage with my goal of being a successful student. I meet with them on a weekly basis and am grateful for all the guidance and support they have given me. I will continue to see them in the future and there is no doubt that they have contributed greatly to my collegiate career. I work as a work-study and recommend both CNM and TRIO strongly on the campus tours I give to prospective students. Thanks for giving me the honor to speak out on my experiences here at CNM and TRIO.

Past CNM employee, deceased 2013.

Stephanie Lee

When I started at CNM Community College, I was very uncomfortable. I tried a few times to go onto furthering my education before without success in completing any of it, I had been out of school for quite a while, and wondered if my brain muscle was still wired for learning. How would I get through the things that outside life was going to toss my direction while the inside life of school was taking place?

My first term on campus I was lost. I was lost as to whom to go to for help when I needed it and what classes I should start with. It had been suggested by another student that I might want to find out what TRIO was, I did.

TRIO has helped me achieve my dream. They offered information pleasantly while on my hunt...I was no bother to them. They offer workshops meaningful to a student's life, a facility with computers and staff on campus at a less hectic and easy to access area, and consistent and constant availability of staff for advising and tutoring in a welcoming open space.

They physically, mentally, and emotionally assisted the dream strength of my graduation goal by actively working to help bring my mind to a healthier learning position.

It was not only probable but possible and provable to believe that the education dream is achievable. They empowered my strengths with encouragement and minimized my weaknesses by helping me see that even with weaknesses I have learned much.

Amanda Rubio

I have been attending CNM for a full two years now and I'm loving it! I am a full time student completing the Liberal Arts Degree and the Paramedic Certificate. My grades were good and I was getting by but when I started the Chemistry 121 course it was difficult. Then I remembered that TRIO offered tutoring services for their students. I then decided to try it out. I met with Isaiah, the Chemistry/Biology tutor. It was one of the best decisions I've made. Isaiah helped me so much. He doesn't just help you figure out the problem but he explains things to you until you understand why you are doing what you are doing. I passed chemistry 121 successfully. By the midterm I was failing. With Isaiah's tutoring, I went from a "D" to an "A." I highly recommend the tutoring services at TRIO to everybody.

Current CNM employee.

TRIO DAY

TRIO programs across the state will gather to celebrate the many accomplishments and success stories of the students we serve.

The event will feature a student development workshop, a TRIO Rally at the Rotunda, and a banquet to recognize important TRIO voices in our community.

Please join us on February 27th for fellowship, cultural experiences, and a new perspective on TRIO!

TRIO Works!

TRIO NM Student Success Stories

Jessica Chrisman

is a senior at New Mexico State University, pursuing a Bachelor of Business Arts in Marketing. She maintains a full-time work schedule to support herself. At an early age she was committed to being the first in her family to pursue and achieve a college degree.



In her spare time she volunteers for Marathon Kids and educates them on the importance of exercise and fitness. In addition, Jessica supports fundraising efforts to support terminally-ill children through fashion shows and marketing campaigns.

Jessica is a recipient of the Student Access scholarship.

Ricardo Serrano

is a student at New Mexico State University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Business. After receiving his Bachelor of Business Arts degree he plans on pursuing a Master's in Business, with the ultimate goal of attaining a Juris Doctorate. Ricardo was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and currently resides in Chaparral, New Mexico where he is involved with the local fire department and seasonal food drives. Ricardo has also served as a governing council member for a charter school and is always looking for ways to give back to his community. Ricardo is looking forward to expanding his horizons as he studies abroad during the spring of 2015.



Ricardo is a recipient of the SWASAP scholarship.

Gabriel Reyes

is an alumnus of the University of New Mexico's TRIO Upward Bound Program. Gabriel graduated from Valley High School in 2014 and now attends Brown University. He is a Gates Millennium Scholar as well as a QuestBridge Scholar. Gabe is also the recipient of numerous scholarships including the 2014

Shaun Aki

is a non-traditional New Mexico State University transfer student from Orlando, Florida.

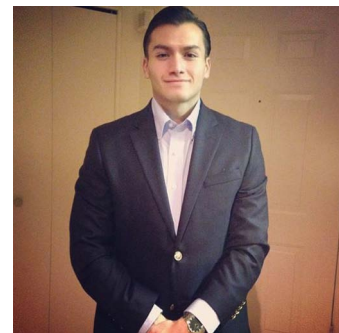


He was encouraged to make the 1500 mile journey to NMSU by his home-health care professional. He is currently an English major, exploring the possibilities of the Creative Media Institute with an emphasis on Film. Shaun's future plans include working in the film and TV industry as a screenwriter, copyeditor, script editor, score composer, picture editor, etc. He is also interested in advertising, film trailers, and video games. As Shaun states, "The possibilities are numerous!"

Shaun is a recipient of the SWASAP scholarship.

Julio Garcia

is a TRIO Student Support Services Alumni who is of a first generation, low- income background. He was raised by a teen mom and thrives on his self-motivation and strong academic background.



He attended New Mexico Highlands University from Fall 2009 to Spring 2013, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a Pre Law emphasis and minor in Professional Writing. During his time at NMHU he participated in many internships working with City and State government. Additionally, he tutored for the SSS office at NMHU. Currently he is working on getting accepted in University of New Mexico School of Law and participates in body building competitions as well, recently placing third place in an Albuquerque competition.

SWASAP Scholarship, the Josie Torralba Scholarship, the James Ledwith Memorial Scholarship, and the I'm First Scholarship.

Gabe is the son of two immigrant parents and has three

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siblings. He is also the first in his family to attend college and says that it was difficult for him to come from a family where attending a university was unknown territory.

Gabe is grateful that he had support from friends and teachers to help him along the way. He also felt the support of the Upward Bound staff who wrote letters of recommendation, gave him advising, and most importantly mentoring. He said that one of his favorite memories with Upward Bound was when he had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. as part of a summer cultural event. He expressed that through this experience, he was able to appreciate all that New Mexico has to offer, but realized that through experiencing different cultures and

ways of thinking we can promote our society as a whole.

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Gabe will have the opportunity to continue his pursuit of education to the doctoral level, cost free. He plans on studying psychology and philosophy, with the hopes of becoming a J.D. He also wishes to pursue a Ph.D.



in Cognitive Neuroscience. He hopes to come back to NM to further the state and his community.

The University of New Mexico's Educational Opportunity Center

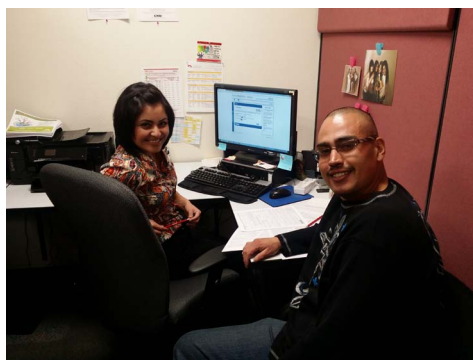
Since its foundation at the University of New Mexico in 2002, the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) has been committed in supporting young and adult prospective students seeking a post-secondary education.

EOC supports a variety of potential college student groups including: high school seniors who are transitioning into college; individuals without a high school education interested in obtaining a GED diploma as the first step to prepare for college enrollment; and individuals who either want to enroll for the first time or re-enroll in college. The purpose of EOC is to eliminate barriers that might keep individuals from advancing in their education. Thus, through mentoring and advisement sessions, the advisors accompany the participants through their educational endeavors.

Rosemary Serrano, for instance, stopped attending UNM in 2006 due to personal problems. In 2012 Serrano decided to return to college and made the appropriate payment arrangements to take her student loans out of default, so that she could reenroll in college and perhaps receive financial aid. "On one of my loans, I had to make six consecutive payments, so I could receive financial aid," said Serrano.

In November 2014, Serrano sought advisement at the UNM-EOC program and spoke with Sergio Leañós, EOC's Educational Outreach Specialist, who assisted her in reapplying to UNM and financial aid and provided additional scholarship information.

"I really appreciated the effort and time Sergio gave me when I wanted to return back to school for the spring of 2015," said Serrano. "He was very proficient and gave me a lot of helpful websites for scholarships and grants."



Jenny Quiñones helping Ricardo to fill out the FAFSA

Serrano has been readmitted to UNM for the spring 2015 semester and hopes to graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts in Spanish.

EOC offers its services on site either in

homeless shelters, GED programs, high schools or at other community partnerships throughout the Valencia, Torrance and Bernalillo counties. Since the beginning of the 2014-2015 grant, EOC advisors have spent significant time at high schools helping seniors submit college admissions applications, as an effort to help them meet the early admissions deadlines.

In Valencia County, EOC advisors have been assisting the seniors at Belen High School (BHS) in submitting college admissions and scholarship applications. "Our students, in particular our seniors, have benefited tremendously from the EOC-TRIO services," said Joanne Silva, Assistant Principle at BHS. "The UNM-TRIO Team is at our site regularly and have built strong bonds with our students."

In their efforts to reach out to as many seniors as possible, Marcial Martínez, EOC Director, and Jenny Quiñones-Mba, EOC's Educational Outreach Specialist, began to establish partnerships with high schools throughout the target counties, providing public presentations at these various high schools not only to provide educational resources to students but also to inform parents about educational opportunities.

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“Marcial and Jenny made a commitment to work with BHS students and have since provided all of the services that students need in order to prepare for post-secondary education,” said Silva.

“Not only do they work with students, but they are more than ready to work with parents.”

South Valley Academy is another one of the high schools in the Albuquerque area in which EOC has been offering financial aid and college admissions workshops and helping seniors submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and applying to the college of their choice.

“Your assistance with our FAFSA Workshops were very beneficial here on campus and your willingness to continue assisting students beyond the FAFSA Workshop dates,” said Sandra Aaron, Director of College Transition at South Valley Academy High School.

“While your willingness to travel to schools and assist students on the high school campus is a huge benefit,” added Aaron, “you were able to establish rapport with a few SVA students and they felt comfortable enough to seek out your help on the UNM campus.”

In addition to assisting high school seniors, EOC has assumed a progressive

role as educational advocates. EOC staff has reached out to the most marginalized and most non-traditional potential college students such as low-income adults, former inmates and homeless individuals, who although might have other priorities in their respective lives, make every effort to further their education.

“One of my greatest satisfactions as director of EOC is to see our participants either obtain a GED or high school diploma, enroll in college and received funding to pay for college,” said Martínez. “In particular, it is very gratifying to see those participants who we assisted at homeless shelters, halfway houses, veteran centers and GED programs actually attending college and receiving financial aid.”

For Ricardo Castillo, the EOC program became an important educational resource that helped him re-enroll in college after a couple of years that he was out of school after completing an Associate’s Degree at Central New Mexico Community College. Castillo enrolled at UNM in the fall 2014 semester; he is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

“If it was not for EOC, I would have probably not enrolled at UNM,” said Castillo. “EOC influenced my life to be more successful academically.”

According to Castillo, Jenny Quinonez-

Mba connected him to additional resources at UNM, assisted him in finding a work-study job at UNM, and informed him about a job posting at UNM’s El Centro de la Raza, where he is currently working as a student employee.

“Jenny has been a great resource in helping me find more options in my academics,” added Castillo, “She goes out of her way to help me find additional educational resources at UNM.”

For Quiñonez-Mba, working with non-traditional and at-risk youth and adults has also been a flattering experience. “I truly enjoy engaging with underprivileged communities and working with community organizations that assists populations similar to those served by TRIO programs,” said Quiñonez-Mba. “I am grateful to have the opportunity to engage and inspire youth and adults pursue a secondary and college education.”

In its efforts to provide the best possible educational opportunities to its participants, EOC staff maintains active partnerships with a wide range of organizations in order to encourage a diverse participant population, with different educational needs, to pursue a postsecondary education. Whether onsite or at the EOC main office, EOC staff is committed to offer assistance to those individuals interested in furthering their education.

Amy Hawkins wins UNM most prestigious staff award

by Sergio Leñeros, UNM-EOC

Gerald W. May Award is one of the most prestigious awards for University of New Mexico Staff. The award recognizes full-time staff who have gone above and beyond their duties; those who represent the University’s culture of excellence. The award ceremony was held on December 11, 2014. Amy Hawkins, from the UNM Educational Opportunity Center (EOC-TRIO), was among the recipients of this



From left, Regent Hosmer, Amy Hawkins, Rosemary Melendrez, David Phillips, Daniel Mulligan, and President Frank.

prestigious award.

“I am humbled and deeply honored to be associated with the other three recipients of the 2014 Gerald May Award,” said Hawkins. “I am sincerely grateful for the recognition from UNM.”

Hawkins has provided administrative

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support to the EOC director and advisors for almost two years. Her work has made it possible for EOC to continue moving forward working in underrepresented communities and assisting people in achieving their educational goals. She has been instrumental in assisting advisors in anything from timesheets to specific questions regarding university policies. "In New Mexico, there is a great need

to encourage and assist individuals who want to enter or continue postsecondary education," added Hawkins.

"It is gratifying to know the work I do for EOC facilitates the progression of public education, and it is rejuvenating to work with others that are dedicated to serving public needs."

Hawkins loves the academic atmosphere of working at UNM and the many opportunities to grow personally while helping others. She enjoys gardening, bicycling, outdoors, and riding horses. In her hometown of Las Cruces, Hawkins has won first place awards in English Style Hunter/Jumping Horse Riding Competitions.

TRIO POEM

by Georgia Kincaid, TRIO Alumni

I came full of fears
You opened doors for me, I had hard times & you were there
TRIO means three, TVI (CNM), you and me
Now my fears are mostly gone, You taught me to see the dawn
Taught me how to relax, to set goals and know the facts
I thank you with all my heart
Because you gave me a new start.

New Mexico Educational Opportunity Center

A free educational outreach program designed to provide assistance to eligible adults pursuing their college and career goals.

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a federally funded program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act. The NMEOC provides a wide range of support and academic counseling extending to postsecondary educational and workforce opportunities to adults, who are low-income and first generation, college bound.

EOC provides:

- Information about available grants, loans and scholarships.
- Information about technical/vocational schools, colleges and universities.
- Educational, financial, job outlook and career advisement.
- Assistance with forms (admissions) and completing the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Information about and referrals to GED programs.

NMMC EOC's offices are located at:

- Northern New Mexico College, Main Office (505) 747-2200
- Bernalillo EOC Office (505) 867-5195
- Taos EOC Office (575) 758-1456

Outreach Sites:

- Santa Fe Community College (505) 428-1364
- Las Vegas EOC Office, New Mexico Highlands University (505)747-2200
- Luna Community College Administration Building, Rm 109 (505) 454-2500 X 1024

We provide service to 11 counties in North Central New Mexico, call or drop by.

Central New Mexico Community College TRIO Student Support Services

TRIO SSS at CNM began in October 2001. Over the years, the CNM TRIO SSS program has improved and has had to make some changes.

The TRIO SSS program at Central New Mexico Community College began in October 2001. Over the years, the CNM TRIO SSS program has improved and has had to make some changes.

2001- 2005: Began the TRIO graduation banquet tradition and added an English tutor in addition to math tutoring.

Fall 2004: Created the TAG (TRIO Achievers Group) student club, for student leadership and community service opportunities.

Fall 2005: Added biology and chemistry tutorial services

October 2012: 10 years+ TRIO Alumni and celebration event at CNM

September 2013: Due to federal sequestration, restructured tutorial services. Let go of three part-time tutors and added one part-time tutor coordinator who tutors in math, English and coordinates academic support resources.

February 2015: TRIO SSS grant competition for 5-year grant cycle to continue TRIO SSS at main campus and writing for a new program for the Joseph M. Montoya campus.

TRIO New Mexico Program Directory

Educational Opportunity Center

Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell

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Northern New Mexico College

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Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell

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Ronald McNair Post-baccalaurate

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