



2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
& Hall of Fame

ARKANSAS  
**TRIO**  
PROGRAMS

*Preparing Low-Income, First Generation  
College Students and Veterans to  
Enter & Succeed in Higher Education*

ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF  
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[WWW.AASAP.WILDAPRICOT.ORG](http://WWW.AASAP.WILDAPRICOT.ORG)



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## ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Pam Freer**, AASAP President  
Director, Educational Talent Search  
North Arkansas College  
[president@arkansastrio.org](mailto:president@arkansastrio.org)

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March 1, 2024

Dear Friends of TRIO,

On behalf of the Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs, I want to thank you for your continued support and the interest you have demonstrated in learning more about Arkansas TRIO programs. This book showcases the TRIO programs in Arkansas and the essential work they do to provide postsecondary access and success to Arkansas's low-income, first-generation, and disabled students and adults. We have also included the stories of some of our students recognized in this year's Arkansas TRIO Hall of Fame.

Established in the 1960s through President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, TRIO Programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social, economic, and cultural barriers to higher education in America.

Today, over 25,000 Arkansas students are enrolled in 82 programs at Arkansas institutions. These programs are making a difference in the future of military veterans, students with disabilities, low-income, and potential first-generation college students, as well as the families they represent.

Giving a helping hand to low-income students is both the right thing to do and in our national self-interest. Too many promising, even brilliant Arkansans grow up in low-income surroundings with little family wealth to help smooth their paths. Few low-income students achieve a college-degree, no matter how talented they are. By providing hands-on support services and individually focused intensive programming TRIO is helping create a pipeline of well-educated and highly skilled Arkansas citizens. You will notice just a few of these students in our TRIO Hall of Fame.

I welcome you to visit the TRIO programs in your district to see for yourself that TRIO truly makes a difference. The Arkansas TRIO community is grateful for your continued support of educational opportunities for current and future Arkansas students as we strive to ignite, inspire and empower!

Sincerely,

*Pam Freer*

Pam Freer  
AASAP President

# What is TRIO?

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. In 2023-2024, over 874,000 low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities — from sixth grade through college graduation — are served by over 3,453 programs nationally. TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention. TRIO programs provide direct support services for students, and relevant training for directors and staff.

The TRIO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social and cultural barriers to education in America. TRIO began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The Educational Opportunity Act of 1964 established an experimental program known as Upward Bound. Then, in 1965, the Higher Education Act created Talent Search. Finally, another program, Special Services for Disadvantaged Students (later known as Student Support Services), was launched in 1968. Together, this “trio” of federally-funded programs encouraged access to higher education for low-income students. By 1998, the TRIO programs had become a vital pipeline to opportunity, serving traditional students, displaced workers, and veterans. The original three programs had grown to nine, adding Educational Opportunity Centers and Veterans Upward Bound in 1972, Training Program for Federal TRIO programs in 1976, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program in 1986, and Upward Bound Math/Science in 1990.

## Why Are TRIO Programs Important?

1. The United States needs to boost both its academic and economic competitiveness globally. In order to foster and maintain a healthy economy as well as compete globally, the United States needs a strong, highly-educated, and competent workforce. To be on par with other nations, the country needs students, no matter their background, who are academically prepared and motivated to achieve success.
2. Low-income students are being left behind. Only 38% of low-income high school seniors go straight to college as compared to 81% of their peers in the highest income quartile. Then, once enrolled in college, low-income students earn bachelor's degrees at a rate that is less than half of that of their high-income peers — 21% as compared with 45%.
3. The growing achievement gap in our country is detrimental to our success as a nation. There is a tremendous gap in educational attainment between America's highest and lowest income students — despite similar talents and potential. While there are numerous talented and worthy low-income students, relatively few are represented in higher education, particularly at America's more selective four-year colleges and universities.

## Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)

Educational Opportunity Centers located throughout the country primarily serve displaced or underemployed workers from families. These Centers help individuals to choose a college and a suitable financial aid program.

## Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (MCN)

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program is designed to encourage low-income students and minority undergraduates to consider careers in college teaching as well as prepare for doctoral study. Students who participate in this program are provided with research opportunities and faculty mentors. This program was named in honor of the astronaut who died in the 1986 space-shuttle explosion.

## Student Support Services (SSS)

Student Support Services projects work to enable low-income students to stay in college until they earn their baccalaureate degrees. Participants, who include disabled college students, receive tutoring, counseling and remedial instruction.

## Talent Search (TS)

Talent Search projects serve young people in grades six through 12. In addition to counseling, participants receive information about college admissions requirements, scholarships and various student financial aid programs. This early intervention program helps youth from low-income families to better understand their educational opportunities and options.

## Upward Bound (UB)

Upward Bound (UB) is an intensive intervention program that prepares students for higher education through various enrichment courses. Campus-based UB programs provide students instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, science, and foreign language during the school year and the summer. UB also provides intensive mentoring and support for students as they prepare for college entrance exams and tackle admission applications, financial aid, and scholarship forms.

## Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS)

Using a similar model to Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science provides students with a rigorous math and science curriculum in high school to encourage and enable them to successfully major in critically important science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines in college.

## Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)

The Veterans Upward Bound program provides intensive basic skills development and short-term remedial courses for military veterans to help them successfully transition to postsecondary education. Veterans learn how to secure support from available resources such as the Veterans Administration, veterans associations, and various state and local agencies that serve veterans.

# PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

## MCN

McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement (MCN) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Harding University	27	\$285,982
Henderson State University	25	\$272,364
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	26	\$252,763
<b>Total No. of Projects: 3</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>\$811,109</b>

## SSS

Student Support Services (SSS) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Northeastern College	175	\$348,515
Arkansas State University	175	\$329,004
Arkansas State University Mid-South	180	\$348,489
Arkansas State University - Beebe	160	\$306,514
Arkansas State University - Heber Springs	140	\$272,364
Arkansas State University Three Rivers	200	\$318,277
Arkansas Tech University	140	\$272,364
Arkansas Tech University (TeacherPrep)	140	\$272,364
Arkansas Tech University - Ozark	140	\$272,364
East Arkansas Community College	200	\$375,776
Henderson State University	308	\$434,226
Henderson State University (Disability)	100	\$306,510
John Brown University	165	\$286,109
National Park College	225	\$436,821
North Arkansas College	200	\$392,538
Ozarka College	215	\$344,691
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas	257	\$389,593
Southeast Arkansas College	160	\$286,109
Southern Arkansas University	250	\$412,294
University of Arkansas Community College At Batesville	144	\$272,364
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	325	\$430,569
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (STEM)	120	\$272,364
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	140	\$272,364
University of Arkansas Hope - Texarkana	200	\$348,515
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	260	\$444,647
University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff	308	\$511,480
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College	180	\$286,109
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	220	\$393,952
University of the Ozarks	180	\$332,864
<b>Total No. of Projects: 29</b>	<b>5607</b>	<b>\$9,907,150</b>

## EOC

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Northeastern College	1097	\$406,793
Arkansas State University Mid-South	1000	\$284,745
Henderson State University	1000	\$284,745
North Arkansas College	1000	\$325,656
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	850	\$241,332
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1000	\$283,920
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1000	\$324,877
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	1362	\$505,798
<b>Total No. of Projects: 8</b>	<b>8309</b>	<b>\$2,657,866</b>



# UB

Upward Bound (UB) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Baptist College	60	\$309,505
Arkansas State University - Beebe	56	\$309,505
Arkansas State University - Beebe	75	\$417,831
Arkansas Tech University	57	\$309,505
Harding University	65	\$356,402
Henderson State University	60	\$309,505
Lyon College	87	\$483,422
National Park College	60	\$309,505
Ouachita Baptist University	88	\$489,263
South Arkansas Community College	63	\$324,979
Southern Arkansas University	60	\$309,505
Southern Arkansas University	120	\$665,425
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	84	\$452,707
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	58	\$309,505
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	62	\$322,379
University of Arkansas Hope - Texarkana	60	\$302,292
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	60	\$299,038
University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff	76	\$405,953
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	77	\$420,160
University of Central Arkansas	58	\$309,505
<b>Total No. of Projects: 20</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>\$7,415,891</b>

# UBMS

Upward Bound/Math Science (UBMS) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Tech University	57	\$309,505
Lyon College	66	\$363,886
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	58	\$309,505
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	62	\$322,379
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	60	\$309,505
<b>Total No. of Projects: 5</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>\$1,614,780</b>

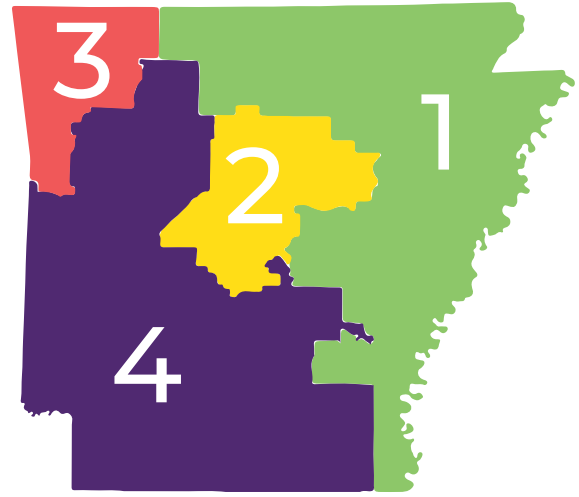
# VUB

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Tech University	125	\$309,505
Henderson State University	125	\$309,505
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	132	\$351,109
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College	130	\$309,505
<b>Total No. of Projects: 4</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>\$1,279,624</b>

# TS

Talent Search (TS) Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
Arkansas Northeastern College	1068	\$616,172
Henderson State University	500	\$288,467
National Park College	583	\$336,357
North Arkansas College	1361	\$785,217
Ouachita Baptist University	860	\$496,169
Southern Arkansas University	503	\$290,202
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	932	\$537,708
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	507	\$292,508
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	507	\$292,508
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1068	\$615,893
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	500	\$288,470
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	500	\$288,469
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	680	\$392,320
<b>Total No. of Projects: 13</b>	<b>9569</b>	<b>\$5,520,460</b>

# TRIO by CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



District	Number of TRIO Programs	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)
1	15	7225	\$6,066,861
2	19	6215	\$6,202,631
3	13	3152	\$4,451,714
4	35	9172	\$12,548,674
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>25764</b>	<b>\$29,269,880</b>

## DISTRICT 1

District 1 TRIO Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)	TRIO Program
Arkansas Northeastern College	1097	\$406,793	EOC
Arkansas Northeastern College	175	\$348,515	SSS
Arkansas Northeastern College	1068	\$616,172	TS
Arkansas State University	175	\$329,004	SSS
Arkansas State University Mid-South	1000	\$284,745	EOC
Arkansas State University Mid-South	180	\$348,489	SSS
East Arkansas Community College	200	\$375,776	SSS
Lyon College	87	\$483,422	UB
Lyon College	66	\$363,886	UBMS
North Arkansas College	1000	\$325,656	EOC
North Arkansas College	200	\$392,538	SSS
North Arkansas College	1361	\$785,217	TS
Ozarka College	215	\$344,691	SSS
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas	257	\$389,593	SSS
University of Arkansas Community College At Batesville	144	\$272,364	SSS
<b>Total No. of Projects: 15</b>	<b>7225</b>	<b>\$6,066,861</b>	

## DISTRICT 2

District 2 TRIO Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)	TRIO Program
Arkansas Baptist College	60	\$309,505	UB
Arkansas State University - Beebe	160	\$306,514	SSS
Arkansas State University - Beebe	56	\$309,505	UB
Arkansas State University - Beebe	75	\$417,831	UB
Arkansas State University - Heber Springs	140	\$272,364	SSS
Harding University	27	\$285,982	MCN
Harding University	65	\$356,402	UB
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	850	\$241,332	EOC
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1000	\$283,920	EOC
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1000	\$324,877	EOC
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	26	\$252,763	MCN
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	260	\$444,647	SSS
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	1068	\$615,893	TS
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	500	\$288,470	TS
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	500	\$288,469	TS
University of Arkansas - Little Rock	60	\$299,038	UB
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College	180	\$286,109	SSS
University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College	130	\$309,505	VUB
University of Central Arkansas	58	\$209,505	UB
<b>Total No. of Projects: 19</b>	<b>6215</b>	<b>\$6,202,631</b>	

# DISTRICT 3

District 3 TRIO Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)	TRIO Program
John Brown University	165	\$286,109	SSS
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	325	\$430,569	SSS
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	84	\$452,707	UB
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	58	\$309,505	UB
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	58	\$309,505	UBMS
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	132	\$351,109	VUB
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	932	\$537,708	TS
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	507	\$292,508	TS
University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	507	\$292,508	TS
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	140	\$272,364	SSS
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	62	\$322,379	UB
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	62	\$322,379	UBMS
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (STEM)	120	\$272,364	SSS
<b>Total No. of Projects: 13</b>	<b>3152</b>	<b>\$4,451,714</b>	

# DISTRICT 4

District 4 TRIO Grantees	Number of Participants	FY 2023 Funding (2023-24 Project Yr)	TRIO Program
Arkansas State University Three Rivers	200	\$318,277	SSS
Arkansas Tech University	140	\$272,364	SSS
Arkansas Tech University	140	\$272,364	SSS
Arkansas Tech University	57	\$309,505	UB
Arkansas Tech University	57	\$309,505	UBMS
Arkansas Tech University	125	\$309,505	VUB
Arkansas Tech University (TeacherPrep)	140	\$272,364	SSS
Henderson State University	1000	\$284,745	EOC
Henderson State University	25	\$272,364	MCN
Henderson State University	308	\$434,226	SSS
Henderson State University	60	\$309,505	UB
Henderson State University	125	\$309,505	VUB
Henderson State University	500	\$288,467	TS
Henderson State University (Disability)	100	\$306,510	SSS
National Park College	225	\$436,821	SSS
National Park College	60	\$309,505	UB
National Park College	583	\$336,357	TS
Ouachita Baptist University	88	\$489,263	UB
Ouachita Baptist University	860	\$496,169	TS
South Arkansas Community College	63	\$324,979	UB
Southeast Arkansas College	160	\$286,109	SSS
Southern Arkansas University	250	\$412,294	SSS
Southern Arkansas University	60	\$309,505	UB
Southern Arkansas University	120	\$665,425	UB
Southern Arkansas University	503	\$290,202	TS
University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff	308	\$511,480	SSS
University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff	76	\$405,953	UB
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	1362	\$505,798	EOC
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	220	\$393,952	SSS
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	77	\$420,160	UB
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	60	\$309,505	UBMS
University of Arkansas - Rich Mountain	680	\$392,320	TS
University of Arkansas Hope - Texarkana	200	\$348,515	SSS
University of Arkansas Hope - Texarkana	60	\$302,292	UB
University of the Ozarks	180	\$332,864	SSS
<b>Total No. of Projects: 35</b>	<b>9172</b>	<b>\$12,548,674</b>	

# ARKANSAS TRIO ACHIEVER

## LESLIE YINGLING, PH.D.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success



**TS & UB  
ALUM**

University of Arkansas  
(Fayetteville AR)

Leslie Yingling (she/her) is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success at the University of Arkansas, where she aspires to increase representation, equity, ease of college completion, and a sense of community and belonging among minoritized students. Her path to college began with Talent Search and then Upward Bound, which helped her to become the only student in her high school class of 18 to attend a four-year university. She has worked with TRIO programs continuously since then. She studied political science, journalism, and psychology as an undergraduate, later earning a master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in public policy at the University of Arkansas. She believes that curiosity and learning nurture generosity and justice and that education has the power to remodel systems, change trajectories, and transform lives.

”  
**EDUCATION HAS  
THE POWER TO  
REMODEL  
SYSTEMS, CHANGE  
TRAJECTORIES,  
AND TRANSFORM  
LIVES.**  
”

# ARKANSAS TRIO HALL OF FAME 2024

# TOP 24

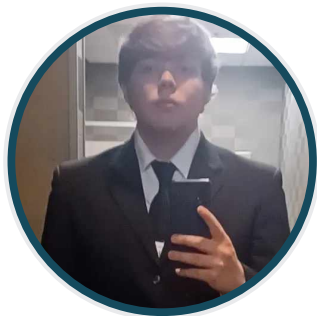
TRIO  
RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the 2024 Arkansas TRIO Hall of Fame recipients. The Arkansas TRIO Hall of Fame was created to recognize students within Arkansas TRIO Programs for their outstanding academic and civic accomplishments. Each year individual TRIO programs are asked to identify a student that embodies the spirit of TRIO and nominate that student for inclusion in the Hall of Fame. These students are recognized each February during Arkansas's TRIO Day festivities.

Created through President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, TRIO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the serious social, economic, and cultural barriers to higher education in America.

Today, that important work continues in the 82 Arkansas TRIO Programs that provide services to more than 25,000 Arkansas students. These outstanding programs make attending college a reality for under-resourced students-including military veterans, students with disabilities, students from low-income families, and/or students who will be the first in their families to graduate from college.

The entire Arkansas TRIO community is proud of the 2024 Arkansas TRIO Hall of Fame recipients and looks forward to witnessing the ongoing contributions this group of Arkansas students will make in the future for their communities, their state, and the nation.



## SETHANIAL ANDERSON

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas

"I'm a first-generation college student, no one in my family has attended college. I wasn't a straight-A student either. TRIO set me up with connections that made me able to find the college that suited me. Thanks to Talent Search, I was able to find out that I have more paths that I could follow instead of working a dead-end job."



## NELDA CHAVEZ

Talent Search  
Ouachita Baptist University

"After joining Talent Search, I realized all the benefits the program had to offer like networking, tutoring, cultural enrichment activities, ACT Prep, college hops, and much, much more. This has helped me not to be so shy and to open up more to people. Also, I have taken on leadership positions in my school and community."



## GRANT CRIGER

Educational Opportunity Centers  
North Arkansas College

"Choosing to be a part of TRIO was driven by my unwavering passion to overcome educational challenges and pursue a career in Optometry. TRIO quickly became my compass, providing essential mentorship, resources, and a tight-knit community that reshaped my academic journey. Going beyond the confines of the classroom, TRIO's transformative impact extended to my personal growth and resilience, setting the stage for my journey into Optometry. The program not only supported my academic pursuits but also instilled in me the skills and confidence required to navigate the complexities of the Optometry field."



## FERNANDA DIAZ LOZANO

Upward Bound (+ TS)  
University of Arkansas Fort Smith

"TRIO allowed me to explore various career fields which ultimately led me to choose the medical field."



## JANIYA FELLOWS

Student Support Services (+ UB)  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

"TRIO has been crucial in helping me shape my goals for college and my career. The academic advice and mentorship I received have enhanced my overall educational experience by offering insightful advice on future job routes. The program's focus on holistic development has helped me achieve my long-term professional goals by boosting my confidence and feeling of purpose and improving my academic status."



## NATAN GOMEZ

Student Support Services  
Arkansas State University

"TRIO provided the resources, staff, and a network of friends that encouraged me to venture into leadership and stay in college."



## **KAROL HERNANDEZ**

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"TRIO has been instrumental in helping me apply to college without any cost by providing fee waivers. Moreover, their assistance has significantly enhanced my leadership skills."



## **HEAVENLY HOPPER**

Educational Opportunity Centers (+ TS/SSS)  
Arkansas Northeastern College

"The TRIO Educational Opportunity Center has made a significant impact on me. I could always count on the TRIO EOC faculty to provide the necessary resources that I needed to succeed. Additionally, this program has financially prepared me for incoming semesters by helping me file my FAFSA and providing information on other financial aid opportunities that would relieve college expenses. Having been a part of the TRIO program since middle school, including Talent Search and Student Support Services, I have always appreciated the continuous efforts towards helping students, like myself, get prepared and excel through college. I am an example of the financially and academically reaped benefits of this program and I am beyond grateful for how it has supported me throughout my collegiate experience."



## **DEVIN HUTCHINS**

Student Support Services  
Arkansas State University Three Rivers

"TRIO keeps me motivated and helps me with tutoring, workshops, and encouragement. But most of all, they believe in me and help me realize that I can do this!"



## **AMARI JOHNSON**

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"TRIO allowed me to tour and learn about colleges and universities. It has helped me with narrowing down my college decision. I'm very appreciative. TRIO has impacted my career goals by allowing me to explore colleges and universities. I have learned about multiple scholarship opportunities, different programs, and also different cultures."



**MADISON JONES**  
Talent Search  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

"TRIO has benefited me because I've met new people and I've learned a lot about colleges and different careers. I've learned how to apply for colleges and do my research on colleges from the TRIO program."



**KOLBY LOCKARD**  
Upward Bound  
Arkansas State University - Beebe

"TRIO has helped me not only with my schoolwork but the transition into college. I feel ready to further my education. TRIO has made me feel prepared and made me feel like I can do what I set my mind to. It's made me realize that I can go to college instead of having to work immediately."



**ZOE MATHES**  
Student Support Services  
East Arkansas Community College

"TRIO has provided me with the opportunity to explore transfer possibilities after my associate degree. Through transfer assistance, I was able to decide on a major before graduating with my associate's degree. Participating in TRIO workshops equipped me with essential skills for college success. In TRIO, I have been able to form lasting connections that benefit my academic and personal journey."



**SARAH MUNSON**  
Student Support Services  
U of A Community College - Batesville

"I joined TRIO to receive one-on-one tutoring, but TRIO gave me so much more than just tutoring. TRIO empowered me to achieve my goals in and outside the classroom."





## MARIAH MURRELL-HERRING

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"I joined TRIO because once I heard how it would benefit me and help better myself I joined because I'm always trying to better myself. TRIO has benefited me because it has helped me build my social skills, and it also helped me better my relationship with myself and my peers!"



## REAGAN NELSON

Educational Opportunity Centers  
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"Joining TRIO has made figuring out my career easier and less stressful."



## KADAN NEWSON

Talent Search  
Arkansas Northeastern College

"I joined TRIO with gratitude for the unwavering support I received during a challenging time of my life, including my diagnosis of type 1 diabetes. TRIO cared for me beyond academics, making it a pivotal part of my college journey. Moreover, TRIO's assistance in financial matters, covering ACT costs and guiding us through the FAFSA, has made college affordability a reality. The value of Talent Search at TRIO ANC is not just a slogan - it's a commitment to our success. I will forever cherish the impact TRIO Talent Search has had on my life."



## TYLER PATTERSON

Upward Bound  
University of Central Arkansas

"TRIO has benefited me in incredible ways. I would not be where I am without the study sessions, enriching field trips, and all-around support provided to me by the administrators. TRIO has offered me numerous amounts of support and aid in helping me navigate through high school. TRIO has impacted my goals by pushing me to be motivated and supporting me."



## ZULETTE ROMERO

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas

"As a first-generation student, navigating through the complexities of the college admissions process was difficult; however, with the invaluable guidance of TRIO, I was able to surmount those obstacles and succeed in my academic journey."



## GABRIELLE RUSSELL

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas

"TRIO has benefited me more than I could have ever imagined when I signed up in 7th grade. It has given me the chance to travel and grow as a person. Honestly it's crazy to think how much money TRIO has put towards just me alone. Thank you TRIO!"



## KEVIN SANDERS

Talent Search  
North Arkansas College

"TRIO has benefited me in many ways towards my future. Providing excellent resources to ensure a successful future and career. TRIO has helped me stay disciplined and determined to become my most successful self."



## KENYON WINSTON

Upward Bound  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

"TRIO Upward Bound has allowed me to experience college before admission. Upward Bound is a great program to help gain more knowledge, boost ACT scores, develop leadership skills and develop long-lasting friendships with new people. I want to thank Upward Bound for giving me a great and memorable experience while attending the program and giving me great skills I can use in college."



### JARED WOOD

Student Support Services + UB  
Arkansas State University - Beebe

"TRIO has helped me get good grades thanks to the tutoring. TRIO has helped me make friends to assist me in getting out of my shell and has taught me how to be a better college student. TRIO has assisted me with advising, scholarships, transfer advice, and how to network."



### EMBRY YOUNG

Talent Search  
University of Arkansas Little Rock

"I was motivated to join TRIO by my two older sisters. I saw how much it helped them learn about college and different opportunities, and I wanted to be a part of that!"

## 2024 TRIO DAY DIGITAL ART CONTEST WINNER



### ANTONETTE CARTER

East Arkansas Community College  
Sophomore

Mrs. Antonette Carter attends East Arkansas Community College while working at ABC Preschool at Lincoln in Forrest City, AR. She is the mother of three and recently became a NASA Partner Eclipse Ambassador by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. She enjoys astrophotography, knitting/crocheting, reading, and graphic designing.





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