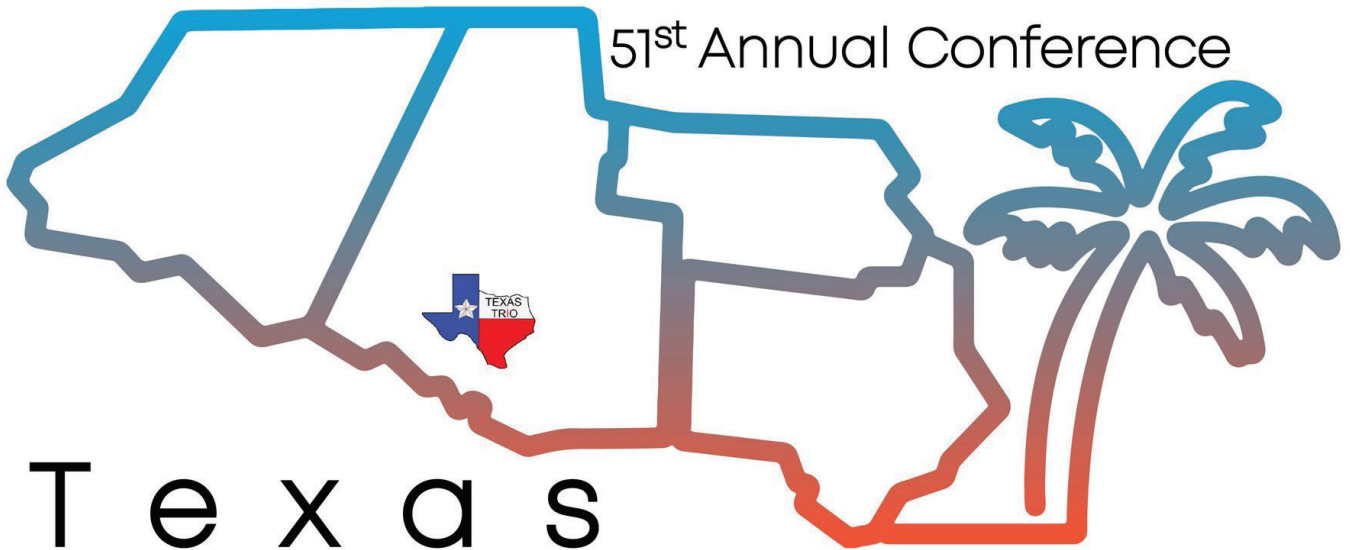


51st Annual Conference



T e x a s

TRIO

A s s o c i a t i o n

Reimagining the Future of TRIO

February 25 - 28, 2024

McAllen Convention Center
McAllen Texas

BOT

BLUMEN ONLINE FOR TRIO

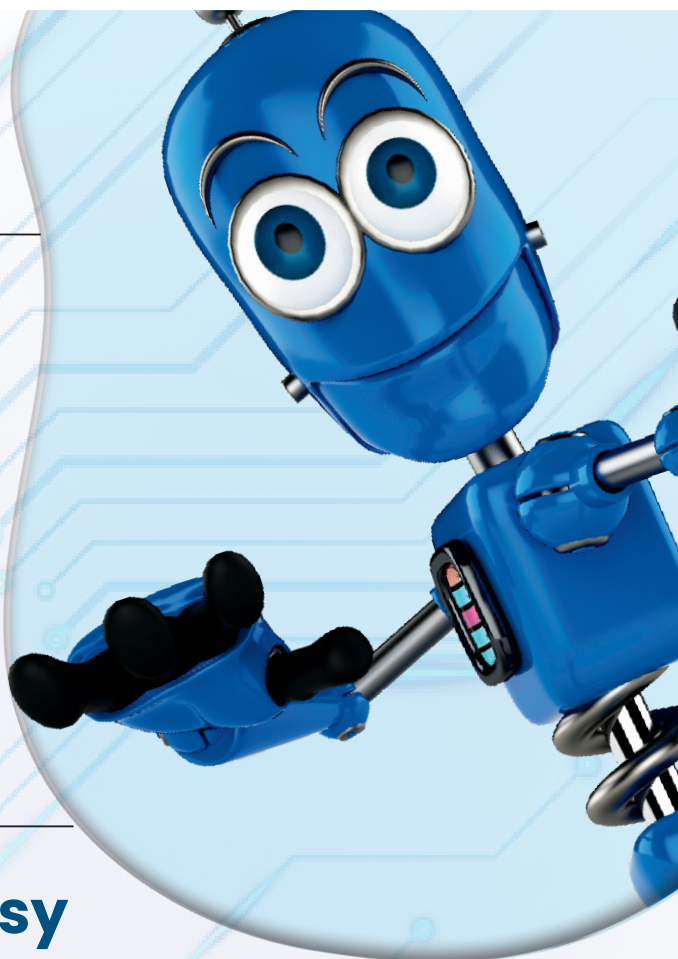
\$15,000 BEST SCHOLARSHIP

Bringing **E**ducation and **S**uccess **T**ogether

Giving back to the TRIO community since 1992.

Available to all TRIO Staff and Students.
Visit our website for more details on how to apply
for the BEST Scholarship.

www.compansol.com/scholarship



BOT Makes Your Job Easy

SERVING TRIO FOR 30 YEARS

BOT FORMS

Convert all your physical forms (application, survey etc.) into online BOT forms for prospective & existing students. Capture digital signatures; enable adding of new students with collected data. Request for multi-lingual forms.



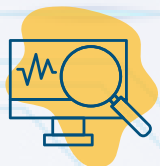
TWO-WAY BULK SMS

Send Bulk SMS & receive replies from students back in BOT. BOT allows to track delivery status of all sent messages. Text messages are sent via anonymous numbers so your personal phone number stays personal.



APR & PE POINTS

Use multiple error-checking tools for accurate and stress-free APR submission. PE Points can analyze your grant objectives at any time.



STUDENT CHECK-IN KIOSK (BOLT)

Let your students scan/swipe their ID cards for Auto Check-In/Check-Out for appointments, workshops, field trips etc.



#1

**DATABASE SOFTWARE
FOR TRIO**

Compansol
Computer Analysis & Solutions



Texas TRIO Association 2024 CONFERENCE

McAllen Convention Center, McAllen, TX
February 25-28, 2024

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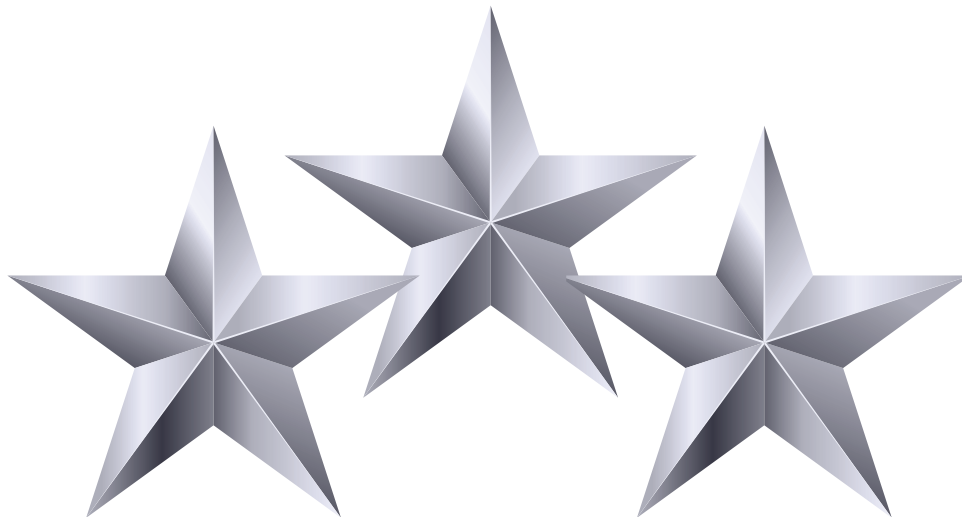
Texas TRIO Association

MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas TRIO Association (TX-TRIO) is the representative body for TRIO professionals from colleges, universities and agencies that host federally-funded TRIO educational opportunity programs in the state of Texas. TX-TRIO is dedicated to advocating for the TRIO movement by creating opportunities for TRIO professionals and participants with professional development and support.

The mission is accomplished through the following: implementing educational training and outreach initiatives, developing state resources, empowering state leadership and involvement in political issues that impact TRIO programs, providing scholarship opportunities, optimizing opportunities to reinforce and increase proficiency in technology, and increasing effective communication and brand recognition that furthers public awareness of the needs of disadvantaged students enrolled in or aspiring to post-secondary education.

UPWARD BOUND
TALENT SEARCH
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS
RONALD MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
UPWARD BOUND MATH/SCIENCE
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND



RECOGNIZING OUR

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Valton Stinson
President
Director
TRIO Student Support Services
Del Mar College
Phone: (361) 698-2400
Email: vstinson@delmar.edu



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President- Elect
Director
TRIO Upward Bound
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Phone: (956) 665-2598
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Immediate Past-President
Coordinator
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Math & Science
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Jasper Ross
South Zone Representative
Academic Advisor
TRIO Talent Search
Texas Southern University
Phone: (713) 313-7274
Email: jasper.ross@tsu.edu

Welcome!

FROM TEXAS TRIO PRESIDENT VALTON STINSON

Esteemed Texas TRIO Colleagues and Friends,

I am privileged to convey warm greetings on behalf of the Texas TRIO Association. We are delighted to host the 51st annual conference in McAllen, Texas, commemorating our distinguished service of 51 years and notable contributions throughout the state. The conference theme, “Reimagining The Future Of TRIO,” calls for excellence and innovation.

Our conversations and ideas have immense potential to inspire and broaden our understanding of TRIO’s mission and impact. Sharing our experiences and knowledge can encourage and expand their understanding of TRIO’s goals. We will continue collaborating towards meaningful progress and make this conference successful.

You will enjoy your time at our 51st Annual Conference. Our Conference Committee has invested countless hours in preparing a significant professional development and networking opportunity. One highlight of the Texas TRIO conference is the continued growth of professionals and TRIO’s impact on Texas and the attendees. However, we must continue to ensure that the population we serve by striving to see them achieve their goals, leading to success and gaining life-changing opportunities.

Lastly, I would like to thank Immediate Past President Zapata and his team for their hard work, dedication, and heartfelt commitment to ensuring that the conference in McAllen will be one to be remembered. As your President this past year, I have been honored and privileged to serve in this capacity. I look forward to witnessing Texas TRIO’s growth, advocacy, and leadership, always leaving its mark on TRIO and continuing success.

Sincerely,

Valton Stinson

Valton “Val” Stinson
Texas TRIO President



Welcome!

FROM PAST TEXAS TRIO PRESIDENT FIDEL ZAPATA

Greetings Texas TRIO Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Texas TRIO Association, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome you to the Rio Grande Valley, and specifically McAllen, Texas for our 51st Annual Conference.

Last year, we celebrated fifty years; fifty years of accomplishments, achievements, and how we left our mark on the TRIO community. As we begin the next fifty years with our fifty-first conference, I dare say that we cannot, as a community, rely on the 'same ole things that got us here.' We must adapt, evolve, and meet our students where they are at. To that end, we have chosen the theme this year, "Reimagining the Future of TRIO," because while we must continue to endure, persist, and survive in these uncertain times, we must also look forward and evolve to meet the challenges of the road ahead. Issues such as staff turnover, stagnant or declining enrollments, and difficulties recruiting participants are ever-present and force us to re-think and reimagine new strategies to better reach our students.

To build upon our successes, we must look at what we have accomplished. This fiscal year, TRIO programs in Texas surpassed 300, totaling 302, setting a record, and serving over 76,500 students annually.

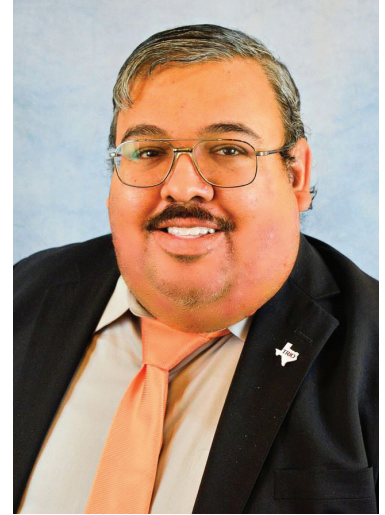
Texas has the most Educational Opportunity Programs of any state and is tied with California for the most Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Programs. Lastly, Texas is one of only two states in the nation that has two postsecondary institutions with all student-serving TRIO programs: Texas A&M University – Kingsville and The University of Texas at Arlington. Our work must continue to ensure that every student can reach their goal of a higher education and a better future, for themselves, their families, and their communities.

I hope that you enjoy yourselves at our 51st Annual Conference. Our Conference Committee has spent countless hours preparing quality professional development and networking for our attendees. One of the highlights of attending a TRIO conference is learning from each other, listening to updates from our friends at SWASAP and the Council for Opportunity in Education, and of course, hearing the great and compelling stories of our distinguished TRIO Achievers.

Lastly, I want to thank President-Elect Lopez-Vaquera and her TRIO colleagues at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for their hard work, commitment, and shared vision to host a great conference here in McAllen and the RGV. This being my hometown area, I know that the hospitality, the food, and the comfort will be on full display. As I conclude my time on the Texas TRIO Executive Board, I know that the association is well on its way towards meeting new heights and building upon the foundation established over the last fifty-one years.



Fidel Zapata, M.Ed.
Texas TRIO Immediate Past-President Chair, 51st Annual Conference Committee



Welcome!

FROM SWASAP PRESIDENT DONTA MILLS

Dear Texas TRIO,

I am pleased to welcome you to the TRIO Texas conference, which focuses on “Reimagining the Future of TRIO.” This event is significant as it brings together the TRIO community to explore, innovate, and collaborate on redefining TRIO programs and services. TRIO is well known for its legacy of promoting academic success, equity, and access, and it plays a crucial role in shaping the future of education and opportunities.

At this conference, you will have the opportunity to engage in dynamic discussions, thought-provoking sessions, and networking opportunities to reimagine the possibilities within the TRIO framework. We will address emerging challenges, embrace new technologies and methodologies, and chart a course towards an inclusive, transformative, and empowering future for all.

As we gather, let us seize this opportunity to connect, collaborate, and catalyze change. By harnessing our community’s collective wisdom and energy, we can propel the TRIO movement forward and create a brighter, more equitable future for generations to come.

Once again, welcome to the 2024 TRIO Texas conference. Together, let us dare to dream, dare to innovate, and dare to reimagine the future of TRIO.

Sincerely,

Donta Mills

Donta Mills, MBA
SWASAP President 2024-2025



Welcome!

FROM COE PRESIDENT KIMBERLY JONES

Dear TRIO colleagues,

As the President of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), I am pleased to offer my hearty congratulations on the eve of your 51st annual conference. I commend the Texas TRIO Association for its commitment to furthering the mission of educational access and success.

Since 1981, COE has been at the forefront of expanding college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. This work would not be possible without the steadfast dedication and support of organizations such as the Texas TRIO Association. Last year, more than 76,000 students across Texas received support from the committed educators working in the state's 299 TRIO programs. The dedication of Texas TRIO professionals and advocates fuels the path for our least represented students to prepare for, pursue, and attain higher education.



This week will provide invaluable opportunities for networking, professional development, and the exchange of best practices among college access and success professionals. By convening educators, administrators, and advocates, this conference plays a crucial role in advancing our collective mission of educational access and success for all students, particularly those from underserved communities.

I applaud the Texas TRIO Association for its tireless efforts in organizing this event and creating a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation. As President of COE, I am honored to offer my full support and encouragement to all participants, speakers, and organizers involved in the upcoming conference.

Best wishes for a productive and inspiring event!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kimberly Jones, JD, CAE
President

Texas TRIO Association

50 YEARS OF PAST PRESIDENTS

2022-2023:	Fidel Zapata	The University of Texas Arlington
2021-2022:	D'Angelo Sands	Abilene Christian University
2020-2021:	Ray Cordero	Texas State University
2019-2020:	Nancy Zamora	North Central Texas College
2018-2019:	Alfred Bacon	The Parris Foundation
2017-2018:	Tony Hall	DCCCD - Mountain View College
2016-2017:	Priselda Perez	Galveston College
2015-2016:	Bradley Gifford	Tyler Junior College
2014-2015:	Randy Scott	Abilene Christian University
2013-2014:	Karen Dean	University of North Texas
2012:	Carol Hicks	The University of Texas at El Paso
2011-2012:	Martin Lopez	West Texas A&M University
2010-2011:	Keylan Morgan	Texas State University
2009-2010:	Karen Wilkerson	Abilene Christian University
2008-2009:	Jeff Kahlden	Weatherford College
2007-2008:	Darnisha Reed	Texas A&M University - Commerce
2006-2007:	April Malone-Day	Lone Star College
2005-2006:	Esmeralda Nandin	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
2004-2005:	Doug Elrod	University of North Texas
2003-2004:	Ne'Shaun Robinson-James	Southern Methodist University
2002-2003:	Rita Cortez	The University of Texas at San Antonio
2001-2002:	Sandra Braham	The University of Texas at El Paso
2000-2001:	Brenda Faulkner	Tarleton State University
1999-2000:	Audrey Hawkins	Trinity Valley Community College
1998-1999:	Mary Gonzalez	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
1997-1998:	Juan Vasquez	Southwest Texas State University
1996-1997:	Dr. Patsy White	McLennan Community College
1995-1996:	Mary Berry	Jarvis Christian College
1994-1995:	Loyce Sinegal	Lamar University
1993-1994:	Roger Scott	West Texas A&M University
1992-1993:	Kathy Rawlings Taylor	University of North Texas
1991-1992:	Ronnie Brooks	East Texas State University
1990-1991:	Eddie Anaya	LEARN, Inc.
1989-1990:	Dr. Will Niklas	University of North Texas
1988-1989:	Ronnie Brooks	East Texas State University
1987-1988:	Eleanor Taylor	McLennan Community College
1986-1987:	B. B. Robinson	Bishop College
1984-1986:	Jacqueline Edwards	St. Mary's University
1983-1984:	Judy Ritts	University of Houston
1982-1983:	S. A. Anderson	East Texas Educational Opportunity
1981-1982:	Marshenell Ervin	Texas College
1980-1981:	Ernest People	Paul Quinn College
1979-1980:	Nick Cardenas	Bee County College
1978-1979:	Maude Royal	Houston Community College
1977-1978:	Manuel Flores	San Antonio Union Junior College
1976-1977:	Tommy Edwards	Southern Methodist University
1975-1976:	Oscar Hernandez	Project STAY, Inc.
1974-1975:	Alvin Wardlaw	Texas Southern University
1973-1974:	Jean Manning	Paul Quinn College

2024 Texas TRIO Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

30 Years

Cassandra Booker-Narcisse

20 Years

Jennifer Luken-Sutton

Debra Sanders

15 Years

Omar Iracheta

Norma Miranda

Jennifer Soto

10 Years

Erica Alvarez

Sintique Beasley

Charles Dent

Carla Dominguez

Monica Gonzalez

Johanne Hernandez

Cynthia Jarvis

Rick Moreno

Pamela Neuman

April Ramirez

D'Angelo Sands

Alejandro Segura

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE!

5 Years

Leah Badillo

Diego Cura Urrutia

Anthony Johnson II

Mark Kirby

Kristina Longoria

Melissa Menchaca

Linda Scheiler

Cindy Silva



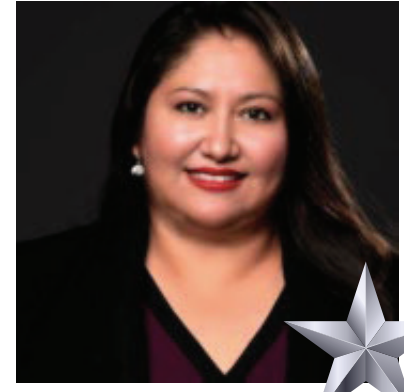
2024 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Fidel Zapata
Conference Chair



Petra Lopez-Vaquera
On-Site Coordinator/Chair



R. Irasema Valencia
Conference Coordinator

At-Large	Valton Stinson (President)
Entertainment & Hospitality	Esmeralda Nandin (Co-Chair), Guadalupe Salas (Co-Chair), Eddie Armendariz, Juan Garcia, Cindy Silva
Exhibitors/Sponsors/Ads	Dr. Jennifer Luken Sutton (Co-Chair), Priselda Perez (Co-Chair), Courtney Mai, Gabriela Zepeda
Fundraising	Brittany Barnett (Chair), Pamela Bentley, Brenton Flowers, Johanne Hernandez, Hannia Martinez, Dustin Nix
Moderators/Evaluations	Dr. Richard Raleigh (Chair), Shanequa Baines, Donna Biscoe, Enrique Delgado, Luis Garcia
Newcomers	Brad Gifford (Chair)
On-Site Committee	Petra Lopez-Vaquera (Chair), Michelle Alaniz, Eddie Armendariz, Evangelina Blanco, Angela Cantu, Anadelia Garcia, Juan C. Garcia, Johanne Hernandez, Julissa Munoz-Bazan, Valeria Quintanilla, Victor Quintanilla, Karla Romero, Jessica Salas, Cindy Silva, Jennifer Soto
Proposals & Workshops	Lisa Gallegos (Co-Chair), Fabiola Rodriguez (Co-Chair)
Registration	Kimberly Crockett (Co-Chair), Gabriela Zepeda (Co-Chair)
Service Awards	Lisa Gallegos (Chair), Deanna Ashley-Lemon
TRIO Achievers	Sophie McTyre (Chair), Agnieszka Beavers, Aqsa Cheema
VIP Team	Lisa Thompson (Chair), Robin Ranzy, LaKeitha Yarborough
Nominations & Elections	Alfred Bacon (Chair)
Conference Program	Priselda Perez (Co-Chair), Gabriela Zepeda (Co-Chair), Sandi Smith

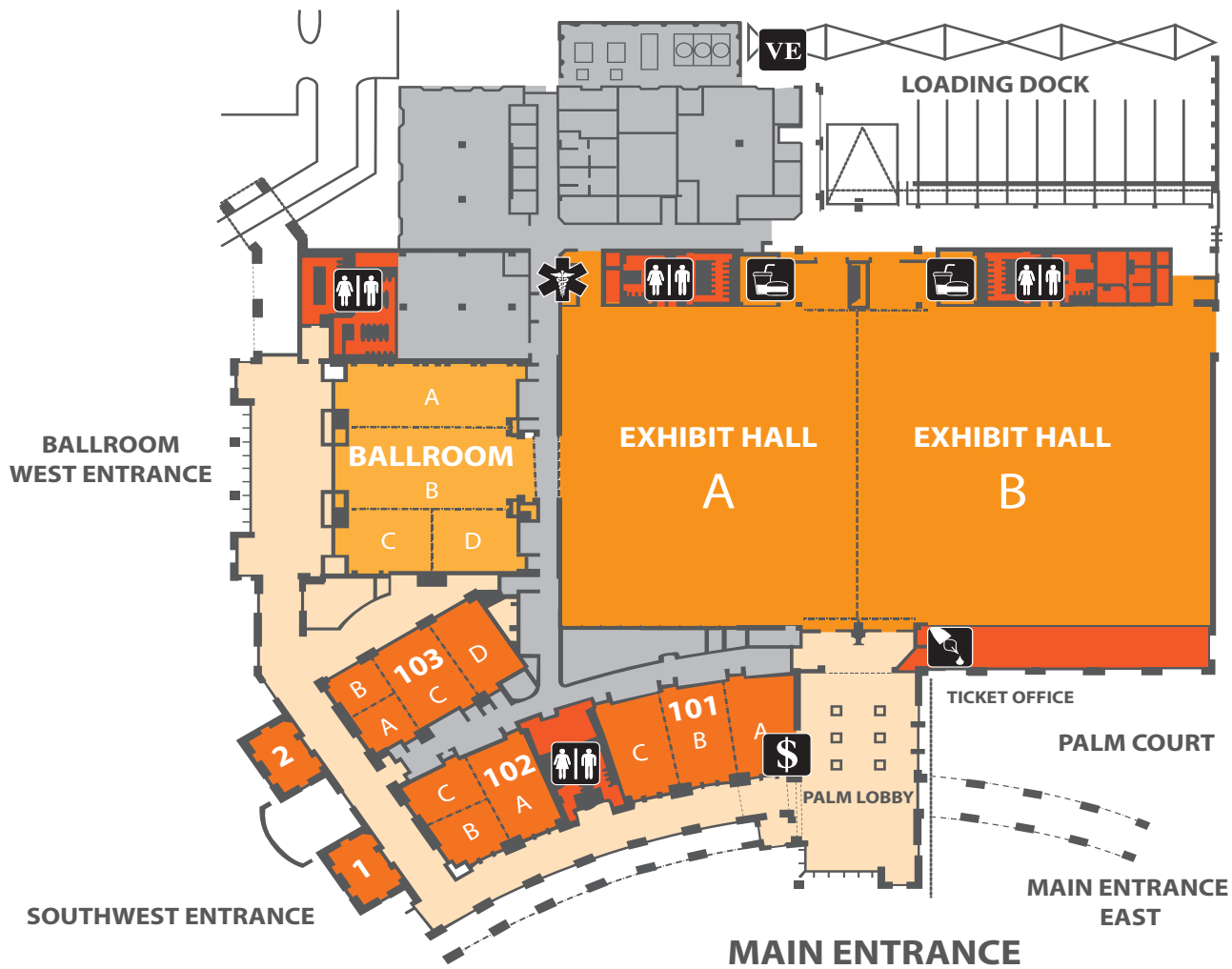
2024 Texas TRIO Conference

CONFERENCE VENUE MAP



ROOM CAPACITIES & MEASUREMENTS

FACILITY MAP

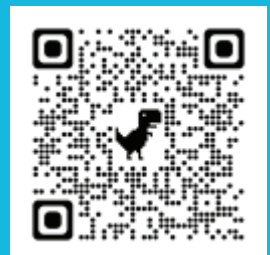


- VENDOR ENTRANCE
- ADMINISTRATION
- ATM
- RESTROOM
- CONCESSIONS
- FIRST AID



SCAN QR CODE

Conference Evaluation



TRIO ACHIEVER

Amy Cortina



Amy Cortina, a proud native of Edinburg, Texas, After earning her Bachelor's in Communication from Texas A&M International University in 2019, she continued her educational journey by pursuing a Master's in Higher Education-Administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Currently, Amy serves as an Implementation Coordinator at the National Student Clearinghouse, where her expertise provides support to educational institutions nationwide. With over five years of service at TAMIU, her knowledge base includes student orientation, engagement, and financial aid services.

Outside of her professional commitments, Amy is a passionate entrepreneur, managing her own crafting small business . She cherishes moments spent with loved ones and takes pride in being a devoted pet parent to three adorable fur babies – Dobey, Daisy, and Brownie.

Her personal mantra is that one's circumstances should never limit their potential. She is a alumna of TAMIU TRIO SSS and UTRGV Upward Bound-Edinburg. She is currently contemplating her next academic endeavor, weighing the options between law school, or pursuing a Ph.D.

TRIO ACHIEVER

April Gonzalez



April Munoz Gonzalez is a professional in higher education with a ten-year commitment to student success.

As a graduate of her hometown institution, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, April holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration.

With a diverse background with the Division of Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs bridging roles such as Housing & Residence Life Coordinator, Student Organizations Program Coordinator, and Student Government Association Advisor, April currently spearheads efforts in recruitment, orientation programs, and campus visit services at UTRGV.

Actively involved in the Collegiate Information & Visitor Services Association, as well as the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel, April is dedicated to advancing standards of excellence in higher education information services. As an Upward Bound Alumni, April continuously promotes higher education, encourages student engagement, and works towards breaking barriers that impede students from investing in their education. April has kept a close relationship with the Upward Bound Edinburg program and its staff, as the program has been a strong contributor to her family's annual act of service, Blessings from Coco. April hopes to continue collaborations with the program and expand her support efforts.

TRIO ACHIEVER

Dianne Leyva



Ms. Leyva's roots trace back to Presidio, TX, a quaint border town that shaped her upbringing.

She joined the UTA UBMS program while a student at Presidio High School. She successfully completed the program in 2008.

Her academic journey led her to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa TX where she pursued a major in Business. Subsequently, she continued her education at the Texas A&M School of Law in Fort Worth, TX.

Today, Ms. Leyva has found her calling in immigration law. Motivated by her deep love for family and the evident need for immigration attorneys in the area, she returned to Odessa, TX. With seven years of dedicated service, she remains committed to the immigrant community in West Texas and its surroundings. She anticipates many more years of impactful work. Ms. Leyva finds her profession immensely rewarding, and takes pride in serving the immigrant community with genuine respect and empathy.

As part of her community outreach initiative, she collaborates with local schools and colleges, offering crucial information and guidance on the continually evolving immigration policies.

Ms. Leyva is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and holds a license to practice law in the State of Texas.

TRIO ACHIEVER

Jacqueline Muñiz



Jacqueline was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley where she graduated Donna High School as Salutatorian.

With support from Upward Bound Math and Science, Jackie attended the University of Texas at Austin where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Government. Jackie served as a Teach For America Rio Grande Valley corps member from 2013 to 2015. She was a history teacher for five years and served as an assistant principal for three years in Rio Grande Valley public schools. She earned her master's degree in Public School Building Leadership from Teachers College Columbia University. In 2021, she transitioned to pursue a Ph.D. in Education Policy from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

During her time in Washington, DC she has interned as a Policy Research Fellow in the National Association of State Boards of Education and at the Learning Policy Institute. Jackie is a Gates Millennium Scholar. She is also a proud first-generation college graduate and intends to focus her dissertation research around college readiness among first-generation students.

TRIO ACHIEVER

Elijah Serena



Elijah Serena (he/him/his) is a STEM Coordinator for St. Mary's University's Upward Bound program. At Texas State University, he earned his bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and his master's degree in student affairs in higher education (SAHE).

Elijah's first involvement with TRIO programs was as a student in San Antonio's Project Stay, Inc. As an undergraduate student, Elijah worked as a student worker for Texas State University's Upward Bound program, and as a graduate student, he interned with UTSA's Upward Bound program. Elijah was part of Texas TRIO's 2023 ELI cohort.

During his free time, Elijah loves to attend Spurs games with his partner, walk their dog, Daisy, compete in trivia competitions, and play games and Dungeons & Dragons with family and friends. Elijah hopes to eventually pursue a doctoral degree in higher education or educational leadership.

2024 Texas TRIO Conference

PLENARY PANEL GUESTS

OPENING PLENARY I

Welcoming Texas TRIO to the Next 50 Years

Our opening keynote speaker's take on the reimagined future of Texas TRIO.

Javier Villalobos
Mayor of McAllen



PLENARY III

COE & SWASAP Updates

An update of COE and SWASAP activities, initiatives, and advocacy efforts at the national and regional level.



Jennifer Rudolph
Associate Vice-President
of State Policy Council for
Opportunity in Education



Donta Mills
President
Southwest Association of
Student Assistance Programs

CLOSING PLENARY IV

Reimagining TRIO in the Schools: Where Do We Go From Here?

A discussion on reimagining TRIO in schools utilizing a forward-thinking approach that builds upon its existing strengths while addressing the evolving needs of students in today's educational landscape.

Luis Bocanegra
La Joya ISD



PLENARY II

How Does TRIO Continue to Work: Institutional Perspective

Facilitated by: Ray Cordero

A discussion from an institutional perspective on how TRIO programs continue to work and serve as an asset to provide academic, financial, and support services to underrepresented and disadvantaged students, helping them overcome barriers to success and achieve their educational and career goals.



Ray Cordero
Executive Director
for TRIO Programs
Texas State University



Cledia Hernandez
Vice Chancellor and
Chief External Relations
Officer
Texas State Technical
College System



Dr. Maggie Hinojosa
Senior Vice President
for Strategic
Enrollment and
Student Affairs
UTRGV



Dr. Robert Vela
President
Texas A&M University
Kingsville

PLENARY SPEAKER



JAVIER VILLALOBOS

Mayor of McAllen

Javier Villalobos is an American attorney and politician who is the current Mayor of McAllen, Texas. He won election in June 2021 and was sworn in on June 14, 2021.

Villalobos received a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Villalobos spent 26 years as an attorney in the areas of Criminal, Family, and Government/Administrative law. He served as chairman of the Hidalgo County GOP, provided legal advice to local governments and mounted an unsuccessful campaign for McAllen City Commission in 2015. He served as a City Commissioner for District 1 from 2018-2021 prior to being elected Mayor of McAllen. He ran for the Texas House of Representatives for House District 41 in 2008. In 2018, he was appointed by Governor of Texas Greg Abbott to the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board for a term set to expire February 1, 2023.

PLENARY SPEAKER

CLEDIA HERNANDEZ

Vice Chancellor and Chief External Relations Officer
Texas State Technical College System



Cledia Hernandez Bio: Propelled by a deep passion for helping others access their fullest potential, Cledia Hernandez’s professional commitment to workforce development and training is both well-known and distinguished. She currently serves as Vice Chancellor and Chief External Relations Officer for the Texas State Technical College system, focusing on driving economic development by strengthening workforce development. Prior to this, she served as Associate Vice Chancellor for External Relations & Workforce Development and as Provost of the TSTC Harlingen campus for five years.

A native of the lower Rio Grande Valley and with more than two decades of experience in higher education, Cledia is dedicated to helping others through the power of education; she possesses an astute understanding of economic development through technical workforce development and border economics and works diligently to advance the leaders of tomorrow. As part of her commitment to serving her community, Cledia serves as a member of the following boards: Workforce Solutions Cameron and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Corporation. Previously, she has served as chair of the Economic Development and Community Outreach Committee, Board member of the RGV Partnership, and as a committee member of the Texas Administrators for Continuing Education Association, among other educational and community organizations.

A lifelong learner, Cledia holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from UTB/TSC and a Master of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Northcentral University. She is also pursuing her PhD in Higher Education Administration from Liberty University. She has participated in various leadership classes, such as Leadership Harlingen, RGV Leadership, and the Governor’s Executive Development Program. But the job most near and dear to her heart is being a Mom to her two amazing children, whom she raises alongside her husband. Cledia knows how to work hard while always putting family first in all things and encouraging others to do the same. She loves serving her church family, cooking up a good meal for others, hunting, fishing, and will never turn down an invitation to karaoke night!

PLENARY SPEAKER



DR. MAGGIE HINOJOSA

Senior Vice President for
Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Hinojosa is the senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).

Dr. Hinojosa provides oversight and guidance to College Access and K-12 Partnerships, Degree Audit Systems & Support, Enrollment Systems & Analysis, Financial Aid, Military and Veterans Success Center, P-16 Outreach & Testing Services, SESA Division Operations, Scholarships and Enrollment Communication, Strategic Analysis and Institutional Reporting, Student Affairs (Chess, Dean of Students, Residence Life, Spirit Program, SA Communication and Assessment, Student Accessibility Services, Student Activities, Student Involvement, Student Media, Student Rights and Responsibilities Student Union, University Recreation), Student Service Centers, Undergraduate/Graduate/International Admissions, Undergraduate/Graduate/International Recruitment and Outreach, and Office of the University Registrar.

She is a seasoned enrollment manager and student affairs professional with over 30 years of higher education experience and is dedicated to promoting access to excellence and student success. Through the Office of College Access and K-12 Partnerships, she provides support to 17 TRIO programs and is passionate about assisting low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities in achieving their educational goals.

She is actively involved in her profession, presenting at numerous conferences throughout the year. She is a current member of several state and national organizations, and is currently serving as a Trustee with the College Board.

Dr. Hinojosa earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&I University, a Master of Public Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Corpus Christi.

PLENARY SPEAKER



DR. ROBERT VELA

President

Texas A&M University Kingsville

Dr. Robert H. Vela Jr. began serving as the 22nd president of Texas A&M University-Kingsville on June 15, 2022. His career has been dedicated to promoting access and opportunity to higher education across the state.

Dr. Vela previously served as President of San Antonio College—one of the largest community colleges in the nation— from 2014-June 2022. Under his collaborative leadership, Dr. Vela developed a strategic plan that advanced the Alamo Community College District’s goal of transforming San Antonio College into the best community college in the nation. In 2021, the college earned the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence--the nation’s premier recognition of achievement and performance among America’s community colleges. He has also served in leadership roles at San Jacinto College and Coastal Bend College.

Dr. Vela launched his career in higher education at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 1997 and served in various roles at the university, including as Upward Bound Program Coordinator and Director of the Teacher Development Center. In 2021, Dr. Vela joined the Board of Directors of Excelencia in Education, an organization accelerating Latino student success in higher education to address the U.S. economy’s need for a highly educated workforce and civic leadership.

A nationally recognized leader in higher education, Dr. Vela has also served as the President of the National Community College Hispanic Council and on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors. In 2018, he received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce. He has taught courses in higher education administration and leadership and educational leadership and counseling throughout his 20 years in higher education. A native of Alice, TX, Dr. Vela earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M-Kingsville. In 2015, he received the Javelina Distinguished Alumni Award.

PLENARY SPEAKER

COE UPDATES & PLENARY III

JENNIFER RUDOLPH

Associate Vice President of State Policy
Council for Opportunity in Education



Jen has been working to help people navigate their paths through education, work, and life for over twenty years. A bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Human Development & Family Studies and a master's degree in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University has provided an educational foundation that enables her to assist people, projects and programs to reach their highest potential.

Jen has worked in many educational environments including college campuses, wilderness therapy programs, and non-profits. For ten years Jen led the Pre-College Opportunity Programs at Cornell University growing one federally funded TRIO Upward Bound grant into a portfolio of programming that included two federal and one state funded college access grant, two programming partnership grants and a dozen other outreach programs. In 2020 she joined the Council for Opportunity in Education, a DC based non-profit that works to increase access to higher education for low income, first generation and underrepresented students across the country. Here, she began as the Director of Pre-College and State Initiatives and now serves as the Associate Vice President of State Policy.

Jen lives outside of Ithaca NY with her three children, enjoys exploring natural places and appreciates rare unscheduled time.

PLENARY SPEAKER

SWASAP UPDATES & PLENARY III

DONTA MILLS

SWASAP President

Assistant Director TRIO Upward Bound
Baton Rouge Community College



Donta Mills was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He attended Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Business with a concentration in Technology and a minor in Management. After completing his undergraduate degree, he pursued a Master's in Business Administration at the University of Phoenix. Currently, Donta Mills is working on his Doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Donta has always been committed to serving students in need. He was thrilled to work with TRIO students (Upward Bound & ETS) at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), as he sees it as a direct reflection of the population of the students served by the TRIO programs. Inspired by this experience, he decided to join the TRIO community by accepting a position with the TRIO programs at SLU.

Throughout his 20 years of experience in TRIO, with 15 years as a professional and 4 years as a part-time employee, he relied on his leadership skills, adaptability, and willingness to get involved to succeed. These qualities helped him secure a position as Assistant Director of UB II at Baton Rouge Community College and become President of SWASP. With a passion for leadership and development, self-care, and advocacy, Donta continues to be a servant leader, helping everyone he encounters succeed personally and professionally.

PLENARY SPEAKER



LUIS BOCANEGRA

Academic Director, P-TECH/Ford NGL
Palmview High School, La Joya ISD

Luis Carlos Bocanegra, a dynamic educational leader, brings a wealth of expertise and a deep-rooted commitment to student success to his role as Director at Palmview Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH). With a keen understanding of the transformative power of education, Mr. Bocanegra's journey from a first-generation graduate to a doctoral candidate reflects his unwavering dedication to advancing educational equity and excellence. As a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Mr. Bocanegra's scholarly pursuits in curriculum and instruction underscore his passion for fostering innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Grounded in his lived experiences as a migrant worker and a product of the Rio Grande Valley, he recognizes the profound impact education can have in breaking cycles of poverty and empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

Throughout his tenure as an Elementary and Middle School Administrator, Mr. Bocanegra witnessed firsthand the complex interplay between students' social-emotional well-being and academic achievement. Guided by this insight, he approaches his role as Director with a holistic perspective, implementing strategies that not only nurture students' intellectual growth but also support their emotional resilience and well-being. Central to Mr. Bocanegra's mission is the cultivation of a future-ready workforce by providing students with meaningful work-based learning experiences and connecting them to post-secondary opportunities. By forging partnerships with industry leaders and higher education institutions, he ensures that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in high-demand fields.

Driven by a vision of educational excellence and equity, Mr. Bocanegra fosters a culture of continuous growth and achievement within his school community. Through his leadership, he inspires students to embrace a growth mindset, encouraging them to persist through challenges, achieve their goals, and ultimately succeed in both their academic and professional pursuits. In his unwavering commitment to maximizing educational opportunities for all students, Mr. Bocanegra embodies the transformative power of education and serves as a dedicated educational leader in the Rio Grande Valley community.

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Saturday, February 24, 2024 (TRIO Shirt)

Time	Event	
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Service Project Preparation	Exhibit Hall B, 101, & 102A
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Service Project: College & Community Fair	Exhibit Hall B, 101, & 102A
6:00 PM	Board Meeting & Emerging Leaders Presentation	Boardroom 2
7:00 PM	Emerging Leaders Dinner (ELI & Executive Board Only)	Off-Site

Sunday, February 25, 2024 (Business Casual)

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration for Sunday Pre-Conference Events	Ballroom Lobby
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Pre-Conference Event: SSS Workshop	Boardroom 2
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Registration & Exhibitor/Sponsor/Vendor Set-Up	Ballroom Lobby
2:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Conference Registration Open	Ballroom Lobby
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	TRIO New Professionals Welcome Session	101
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Opening Plenary - Welcome	Ballroom
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	President's Reception	Ballroom

Monday, February 26, 2024 (Business Professional)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibits / Fundraising / COE Fairshare	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration for Conference (Continued)	Ballroom Lobby
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary II - Keynote Panel	Ballroom
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM	TX TRIO Business Luncheon (Lunch Provided)	Ballroom
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Plenary III - SWASAP & COE Updates	Ballroom
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Zone & Alliance Meetings	101A, 101BC, 102A, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	TRIO Achievers Banquet (Dinner Provided)	Ballroom

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 (Business Casual - Institutional Attire)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibits / Fundraising / COE Fairshare	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Past-Board Members Breakfast (Invitation Only)	102A
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
11:30 AM - 1:15 PM	Oscar Hernandez Service Awards Luncheon (Lunch Provided)	Ballroom
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Vendor Break & Walk Through	Ballroom Lobby
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Elections	Helpdesk - Boardroom 2
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions	101A, 101BC, 102BC, 103AB, 103CD
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	TRIO Alumni Reception	Off-Site @ Cambria Hotel
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Hospitality	Off-Site @ Cambria Hotel

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 (Casual / Travel Attire)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Plated Breakfast	Ballroom
9:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Plenary IV - Closing, Installation of Officers, Final Remarks	Ballroom
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Executive Board Transition Meeting	Boardroom 2



51ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Overview of SSS

Using Data to Prove Project Outcomes

COVID Effects and Program Delivery

Institution & Program Relations

Personnel Characteristics and Program Success

Program Evaluation

BEST PRACTICES TO EFFECTIVELY BUILD A STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

Lucy Jones
&
Mary Gonzalez
FACILITATOR

PreConference Workshop

**MCALLEN
MCALLEN CONVENTION CENTER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024
8:30AM - 12PM**



DR. MARY GONZALEZ

MLG Consulting

Dr. Mary L. Gonzalez recently retired as the Associate Vice President for Student Access at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK). Dr. Gonzalez oversaw TAMUK's Office of Student Access (OSA), which houses 11 projects funded through the U.S. Department of Education, including Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science, Educational Opportunity Center, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, Student Support Services (Regular and STEM), and Talent Search.

Under Dr. Gonzalez' stewardship, OSA added a Title V Teacher Prep project in 2017, and in 2015 added a GEAR UP Partnership providing services in the middle and high schools surrounding TAMUK's rural campus as well as schools in Corpus Christi.

Dr. Gonzalez possesses a wealth of experience and expertise with initiatives funded through federal, state, and institutional resources. In recent years, Dr. Gonzalez has received several awards for her contributions to higher education, including the Rural South Texas Educator Award, LULAC Innovative Leadership, the National Organization for Women (NOW) TAMUK Chapter's Person of the Year award, and the Texas A&M University-Kingsville President's Distinguished Excellence award.

Currently, Dr. Gonzalez stays connected with TRIO students through her work with the Family Centered Educational Agency, Inc. in Corpus Christi, Texas. In December, 2018, Dr. Gonzalez established MLG Consulting to assist program directors with evaluations, compliance, and program visits, focusing on overall effectiveness of grant funded programs.



LUCY JONES

TRIO Specialist

Lucy Jones is a nationally-known expert on U.S. Department of Education TRIO programs, including SSS, ETS, UB, UBMS, and EOC.

With twenty years' direct experience leading TRiO programs and over twelve years as a TRIO Consultant, she has also been active in the Council for Opportunity in Education, serving as COE's 2006 Board Chair and the recipient of COE's most prestigious award, the Walter O. Mason Award. She has worked closely with state and national leaders in the TRIO community as well as with Congressional staff and is widely sought out as a writer and evaluator of TRIO programs.

She has conducted workshops on evaluation models and techniques; assisted grantees in completing Annual Performance Reports; and conducted on-site program evaluations. For the last twelve years, Lucy has trained TRIO personnel and conducted COE webinars in federal regulations, EDGAR, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, and OMB Uniform Guidance.

Lucy has a M.S.E. from Henderson State University and certifications in Adult Education, English, and Special Education Supervision.



2024 Texas TRIO Conference

CONCURRENT SESSIONS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION I

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

The Room is Spinning! Navigating Change and Elevating TRIO at your Institution

Presenter: Ray Cordero

Location: 103AB

Target Audience: All

As the landscape of higher education continues to change, it is critical for TRIO programs to understand how to remain relevant and seen as mission critical at their institutions. This session will provide information on ways programs can continue to excel and advance, and be seen as viable players at the table, as change and transition continue to unfold.

Individual Academic Plans for a Successful College Future

Presenter: Janie Llanas & Norma Miranda

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: Pre-College

Academic Career Preparation Plan is a document implemented for every student in the program during the academic and summer components. In this session Coordinators meet with students and parents to discuss their status and services that will be offered throughout the year. The focus is on students' academic status and information such as GPA, high school courses, college exam, dual enrollment, AP, career interest inventory, community service, and financial literacy. The idea for this presentation is to provide resources that will assist in developing an individual plan for every student. This will assist in understanding and navigating the secondary process, which will create better opportunities for our program participants. Thus, creating solutions for a successful post-secondary enrollment and ultimately leading to graduation.

S.I.N.G. - Shine In Spite of Negativity and Grief: True Resilience for Leaders

Presenter: Dianna Nicole

Location: 101A

Target Audience: All

As the landscape of higher education continues to change, it is critical for TRIO programs to understand how to remain relevant and seen as mission critical at their institutions. This session will provide information on ways programs can continue to excel and advance, and be seen as viable players at the table, as change and transition continue to unfold.

Middle School Sets the Stage for TRIO Success

Presenter: David Waldherr

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: Pre-College

Too often we see academic growth in 11th grade, but because students are starting so many years below grade level TRIO graduates have permanent math and reading deficits. TRIO is the only program in the U.S. that has the power to focus on closing precise, essential skill gaps gradually over time. While schools are understandably pre-occupied with safety, emotional, family, gender and other world issues, TRIO has the power to change academic destiny. This highly engaging session illustrates the unique power of adaptive, supplemental, core skills scaffolding. Learn how very special TRIO programs have harnessed the power of middle school with immediate grade impact. Model, personalize and adopt the three tenets (Academic Prep, College Aspiration and College Entry) of TRIO academic success so your program has measurable impact for six consecutive years. Students above grade level in 11th grade can save the world.

The Secret to Building Unshakable Confidence

Presenter: Billie Smith

Location: 102BC

Target Audience: All

How could your life and the life of your students be different if you had unshakable confidence? The kind of confidence people feel when they're around you, without you saying a word. Join Billie Sue Smith and Paradigm Shift Leadership as we talk about some myths surrounding confident people, the secret to building true, authentic confidence, and how you can encourage your students to build it, too! This will be a fun, interactive session so come ready to play, discuss and learn!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION II

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

The Grad School Struggle Bus: Are You and Your Students on its Route?

Presenter: Dana Mordecai

Location: 103AB

Target Audience: All

Students and their advisors seeking careers that require advanced degrees, wanting to move up the career ladder, or a combination of the two, have different needs. Take a ride to hear how you can prepare your students or yourself for grad school now.

Engaging Students with Dungeons & Dragons

Presenter: Elijah Serena

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: Pre-College

In Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), players form an adventuring party who explore fantasy worlds together as they embark on epic quests and level up in experience. At its heart, D&D focuses on storytelling. This session will provide TRIO professionals with resources to create a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) classroom to equip their students to play D&D. Resources will help students understand gameplay and create their characters/worlds. Additionally, professionals will learn how to obtain free educational and promotional resources directly from Wizards of the Coast. Lastly, professionals will share best practices for incorporating D&D into their student engagement and recruitment efforts

Student Support Services –Retention, Persistence, Graduation and Transfer Objectives: How Can we Help Participants Succeed during Post-Secondary Education

Presenters: Brad Gifford

Location: 101A

Target Audience: SSS (Primarily for Junior/Community Projects) 4 year Institutions Welcome

The aim of this presentation is to discuss tactics for enhancing the retention, persistence, graduation, and transfer rates of SSS participants to four-year institutions. This presentation will furnish SSS staff members with useful ideas and strategies to effectively fulfill the objectives outlined in their grant proposals and develop initiatives to steer participants towards completing their degree plans.

Recruiting 101

Presenter: Deanna Ashley-Lemon & Jose Cavazos

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: Pre-College

Join our conversation as we talk about effective recruitment processes to target, engage, select, and intake students into your programs. Come hear how these processes have helped us run a successful program and retain students year after year.

2024 Texas TRIO Conference

CONCURRENT SESSIONS SCHEDULE

The Game of Life:

Topics that are GUARANTEED to Maximize Student Participation & Engagement

Presenters: Yuval Trachtenberg

Location: 102BC

Target Audience: Pre-College

Student engagement rates in TRiO programs as well as in classrooms across the U.S. can be a struggle. Regardless of the reason(s), our students are missing out on services that will have a positive impact on their future. This session will show you how to achieve nearly 100% student engagement and ensure that students are prepared for success when it comes to the Game of Life! Attendees will learn how to motivate their students, master the correct study habits, conquer standardized tests, successfully navigate college, attain their dream job, and build generational wealth. Please join us for an engaging session!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION III

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

TRIO Prepares its Half of Students for College Graduation

Presenter: David Waldherr & Linda Walls

Location: 103AB

Target Audience: All

Texas and most other states now have first-year college remediation rates close to 50%. This interactive session addresses how TRIO program coordinators and staff can pro-actively help the half of undergrad students that require remediation courses in college to be ready to take and pass college level courses. It will illustrate how research-based practices can reduce or eliminate the need for costly remediation putting students further in debt for courses that don't count towards graduation.

You'll participate in a lively discussion on how amazing, real-life best practices compensate and close the gap of TRIO students in Texas (and other states) who have received fewer academic skills, and graduate post-secondary education at less than 50% the national average. Provide input and debate a facilitated proposal to solve disadvantaged student inequities which has necessitated an epidemic of remediation.

From Student to Staff: Cultivating the Next Generation of TRIO Professionals

Presenter: Melissa Menchaca & Jamie Saucedo

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: All

This session offers foundational information on mental health, as well as opportunities to practice mindfulness and supporting other students in an empathetic way. It is important to remember that as TRIO professionals, you are not a counselor or mental health professional. Nobody expects you to act as a counselor, and you cannot, and should not, diagnose mental illness, nor should you provide mental health care. However, you can be an important component of the caring community of people who can surround and support a student in need. This session will address your ability to care for students, yourself and your fellow TRIO teammates.

Slowing Down and Unpacking: How History Presents Itself in Your Own Stories

Presenter: Jose Aaron Hinojosa

Location: 101 A

Target Audience: All

This session will provide attendees with insight on the presenter's personal stories while briefly reviewing significant moments in history. Some of the personal and historical content will include farm working, LGBTQIA+, and immigrant stories. There will also be content relating to grief, mental health, homesickness, and loneliness. By the end of the session, the presenter hopes to share resources on how attendees can process, learn, and heal from their own lived experiences.

Show Me the Money!

How to Create Engaging Financial Literacy Workshops Students Never Forget

Presenter: Michael Pittman

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: All

The first 50 participants will receive a VISA gift card! In this workshop, we will explore how to create engaging financial literacy workshops! Through a series of interactive activities, Michael will uncover the strategies and tactics he has used to work with thousands of students from over 80 TRIO programs! The presentation will reveal how ANYONE can create a fun financial literacy program for students -- no experience required! Come ready to move, laugh, and have fun! This is a great workshop for all TRIO professionals and will leave you equipped to empower the next generation of students!

Blumen Software

Presenter: Gunjan Seth

Location: 102BC

Target Audience: All

If you don't have BOT (Blumen Online for TRIO) software; attend this session to see what all features you can benefit from, compared to your current database.

Some of exclusive BOT features covered in this session:

BOT FORM – Custom Multi-lingual Online fillable form for your student(s), option to upload supporting documents and digital signature; TWO-WAY TEXTING – Send personalized text messages to group of students + Replies are recorded back; TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION – As used by banking institutions, additional security layer for higher level of data safety and identity confirmation for reduced fraud and hack risks; MOBILE APP – Update student's information and enter contacts on your smartphones/devices (iPhone, iPad, Android Phone); WALLET – Go paperless! Upload all documents/files digitally of your students; BOLT – Let your students self-check-in by scanning ID cards for events/lab usage/workshops for automated logs; PE POINTS – Interactive Real-Time Tool to check objectives to ensure your Prior Experience Points; NSCH – Accurate alumni tracking with National Student Clearing House interface for APR updates; BATCH DATA PROCESSING – Save time & effort with multiple batch data wizards; GLOBAL FILTER SCREEN – Select your students in seconds using hundreds of pre-built filters; no need to build or recall saved lists/searches; SCRIPT – Custom Import Utility to import data from your Student Information System like Banner, PeopleSoft, Datatel, Accutrack, Colleague etc. in to BOT; APR – Multi-tier error checking tools, simulates same tests as done by Department of Education for Annual Performance Report; SOC-2 Compliant – Gold Standard Certificate for Data Security.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION IV

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

More than E.L.I.

Presenter: ELI Class of 2024

Location: 103AB

Target Audience: All

The TX TRIO Emerging Leaders Institute provides a means for Texas TRIO professionals to gain valuable knowledge, training, and professional development in the area of leadership, as well as creates opportunities for the membership to develop the skills necessary to assist in the operation of the Association. Come learn how you can be more than a leader at this interactive session with the ELI.

2024 Texas TRIO Conference

CONCURRENT SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Becoming HIP:

Strategies for leveling up your student engagement with High Impact Programming

Presenter: Carlos Ojeda Jr.

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: All

During this session, participants will learn how to develop high value, high impact, effective, and engaging programs for students. Participants will learn how to implement energizers, icebreakers, and activities that will result in greater interest and participation in your programs and events. Come to this session ready to learn activities through participation and leave with the knowledge to immediately implement HIP at your schools and/or programs.

Mindfulness and Self-Care:

Making an Effort to Learn About Ourselves and Engage in Better Habits

Presenters: Jose Aaron Hinojosa

Location: 101A

Target Audience: All

This session will explore what mindfulness is and how we can practice mindfulness in our daily lives. This session will also explore self-care and identify what works for us. The presenter will utilize a range of sources like books, podcasts, reports, studies, trends, and other examples. Attendees will participate in group sharing or processing activities and the presenter will share some ways to incorporate activities for your students and staff.

Color Beyond the Lines: Innovative Engagement Strategies

Presenters: Gianna Brown

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: All

Let's delve into the inner workings of student's mindsets and goals. Imagine how we can better serve these promising scholars when we understand the why behind their actions. We are then equipped to leverage this newfound knowledge to mold their mindsets and habits into ones proven to move them forward, to attaining their degrees, acquiring assets, and being the best version of themselves. Thereby, encouraging them to stretch beyond their comfort zones and achieve milestones to positively shift their entire family's trajectory.

Ignite Your Potential: Leadership Program for High School Boys

Presenter: Brenton Flowers

Location: 102BC

Target Audience: Pre-College

Embark on a transformative journey with the "Boys to Men Leadership Workshop," an empowering program designed exclusively for high school boys. This workshop discusses methods to engage and recruit high school boys for high school boys through interactive sessions, team-building activities, and mentorship. The boys will learn explore critical aspects of leadership, communication, and personal development.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION V

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

VUB Roundtable

Presenters: Lisa Thompson

Location: 103A

Target Audience: Veterans Upward Bound

Roundtable discussion of best practices for recruiting, providing services, and conducting follow up with participants, and coordinator efforts with other programs and organizations. Program regulations and the annual performance report will also be addressed.

Talent Search Roundtable

Presenters: Sophie McIntyre

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: Talent Search

Roundtable discussion of best practices for recruiting, providing services, and conducting follow up with participants, and coordinator efforts with other programs and organizations. Program regulations and the annual performance report will also be addressed.

SSS Roundtable

Presenters: Brittany Barnett

Location: 101A

Target Audience: Student Support Services

Roundtable discussion of best practices for recruiting, providing services, and conducting follow up with participants, and coordinator efforts with other programs and organizations. Program regulations and the annual performance report will also be addressed.

EOC Roundtable

Presenter: Brad Gifford

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: Educational Opportunity Center

Roundtable discussion of best practices for recruiting, providing services, and conducting follow up with participants, and coordinator efforts with other programs and organizations. Program regulations and the annual performance report will also be addressed.

UB & UBMS Roundtable

Presenters: Lisa Gallegos & Faby Rodriguez

Location: 102BC

Target Audience: Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math & Science

Roundtable discussion of best practices for recruiting, providing services, and conducting follow up with participants, and coordinator efforts with other programs and organizations. Program regulations and the annual performance report will also be addressed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CONCURRENT SESSION VI

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Collaboration: Texas TRIO College Signing Day

Presenter: Petra Lopez-Vaquera, Johanne Hernandez, Jessica Salas and Cindy Silva

Location: 103AB

Target Audience: Pre-College

The session will consist of various strategies in organizing and Coordinating a College Signing Day Event while collaborating with other TRIO programs to showcase your graduating seniors College of their choice. Work with your target schools, college Representatives and your University to put on a huge unforgettable event for your seniors and parents and underclassmen.

2024 Texas TRIO Conference

CONCURRENT SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Mastering the ABC's of Student-Centered Leadership: 11 Essential Principles for New TRIO Professionals

Presenter: James Epps Jr.

Location: 103CD

Target Audience: All

In this dynamic session, aspiring TRIO professionals will embark on a transformative journey of leadership development. Through engaging discussions and real-world examples, participants will explore the core principles of student-centered leadership that are paramount for fostering an inclusive and thriving learning environment. From building meaningful relationships and effective communication to setting high expectations and promoting adaptability, this session will equip attendees with the knowledge and practical skills needed to excel in their roles.

Participants will not only grasp the significance of these principles but also learn how to apply them effectively in their daily interactions with students. By the end of this session, participants will be empowered to lead with empathy, cultivate a positive atmosphere, and inspire student success.

Journey to Learning: Designing Dynamic Student Adventures for Interactive Learning and Student Success. (Education Eduventures)

Presenters: Johnny Garcia, Jennifer Soto, & Evangelina Blanco

Location: 101A

Target Audience: Pre-College

Join us for an interactive workshop where we'll explore how to design impactful student excursions, events, and field trips for your program participants. Learn how to infuse your experiences with engagement, interactivity, and innovation while staying aligned with curriculum and grant objectives.

Fostering Leadership and Effectiveness in TRIO Programs

Presenter: Brad Gifford, Tori Nelson, & Priselda Perez

Location: 101BC

Target Audience: All

In the dynamic landscape of TRIO programs, fostering leadership and effectiveness is paramount for achieving success and ensuring impactful outcomes. This quick overview delves into key strategies encompassing leading effective programs, serving on boards, engaging in committees, and training future leaders, with a focus on integrating strengths both within and outside of TRIO.

Thriving Relationships with Partner Target School Districts

Presenter: Christi Barnes

Location: 102BC

Maintaining momentum with student services can be difficult with a high turnover of administration and counselors (especially in rural districts). Reestablishing a knowledge of TRIO and reporting to new staff can be exhausting. In this session, attendees will learn tips for connecting with target school(s) personnel to maintain success in each unique partnership. Elevating your program partnership will enhance student services, thrive through recruitment, and build networking in the communities we serve!



REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF TRIO

51ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TEXAS TRIO ASSOCIATION

2024 COLLEGE & COMMUNITY FAIR



24TH

FEBRUARY

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MCALLEN CONVENTION CENTER

700 CONVENTION CENTER BLVD, MCALLEN, TX 78501

Contact (956) 655-2598 for more information

COMMUNITY WELCOME

- COLLEGE FAIR
- PERFECT FOR STUDENTS
- ENGAGE WITH COLLEGE RECRUITERS
- COMMUNITY FAIR
- HEALTH SERVICE AWARENESS



Texas TRIO Association

Reimagining the Future of TRIO

Texas TRIO 51st Annual Conference Fundraising Needs



We are seeking completed baskets but will accept items to create baskets.

In the past, we have received baskets with:

- College Swag items
- Wine & Wine glasses
- Movie Night items
- Spa or Pamper items
- Lottery tickets and snacks

For questions contact:
 Brittany Barnett
 bbarnett@tamut.edu

To register scan the QR code.



REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF TRIO



DONATE \$100

FAIR SHARE RAFFLE

February 26 & 27

ENTER TO WIN A GIFT CARD TREE


MCALLEN CONVENTION CENTER
 700 Convention Center Blvd, McAllen, TX 78501



COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION

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COE offers flexible payment options, including the possibility of setting up a payment plan to accommodate your needs



Texas TRIO Association

Reimagining the Future of TRIO

Nominations and Elections 2024

Current Nominations Received

President Elect
 Brittany Barnett
 Jose Cavazos

Treasurer
 Kimberly Crockett

North Zone Representative
 Dustin West

Be a part of reimagining the future of TRIO and pursue leadership opportunities!

Nominations are still open!!!

Submit a Google Form at <https://forms.gle/jmyWQH5BoA3TzH6m8> along with a letter of support from your host institution and resume to abacon@parrisfoundation.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Alfred Bacon, Nominations and Elections Chair at abacon@parrisfoundation.org

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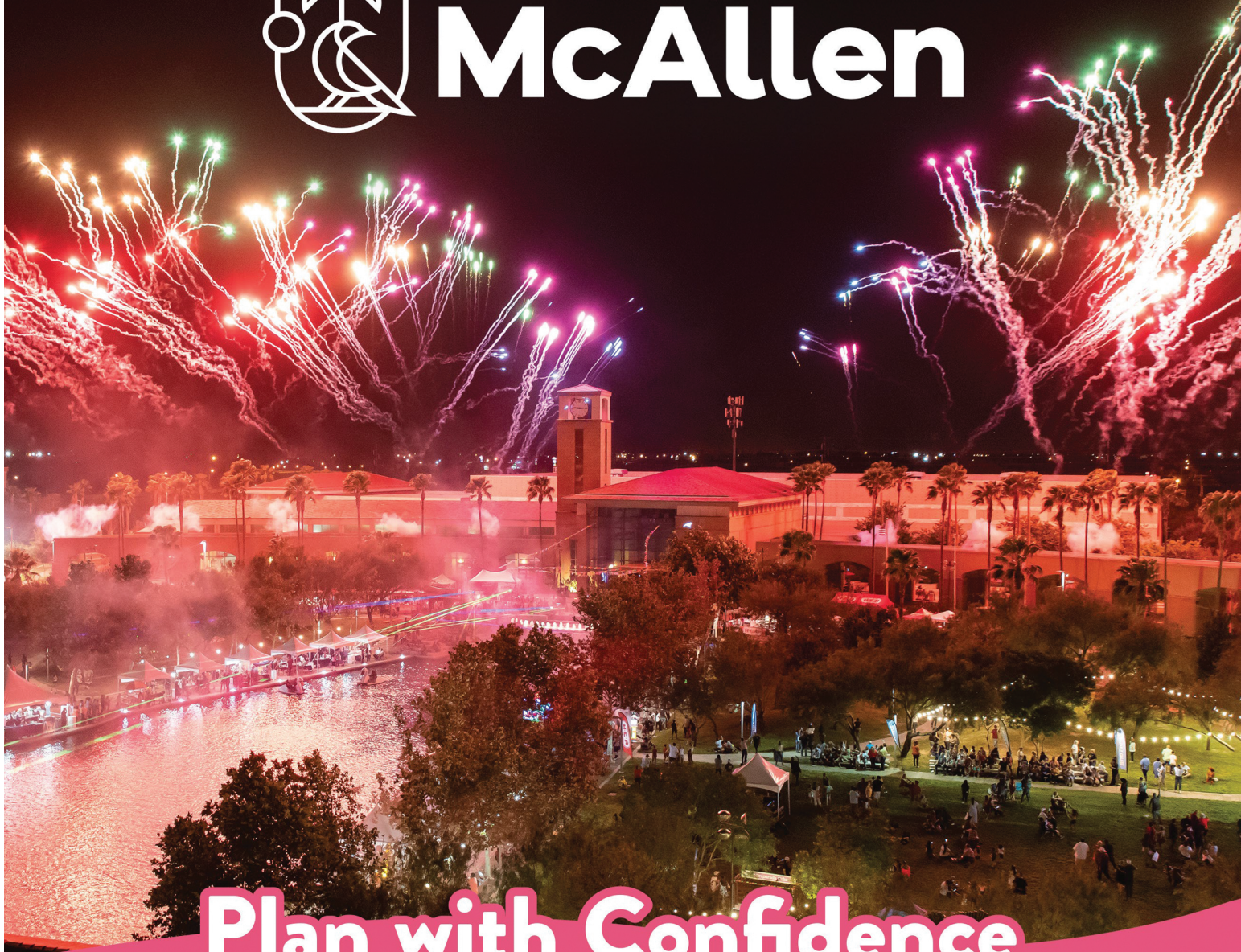
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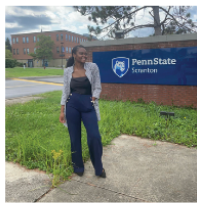
Originally from Cameroon, Daniela Ngounou is a financial literacy and corporate leadership speaker, Coach, author, and content creator whose mission is to equip and empower young professionals with success skills. With over 2 million views on her YouTube channel, she creates content that teaches students and professionals to foster amazing results by walking them through practical next steps.

Daniela engages her audience while speaking and encourages them to act fast for huge results. Daniela is an official community member of the Girl Scouts Organization and founder of "Professionals on Fire", a worldwide network of young adults on fire for God who want to make an impact in their world.

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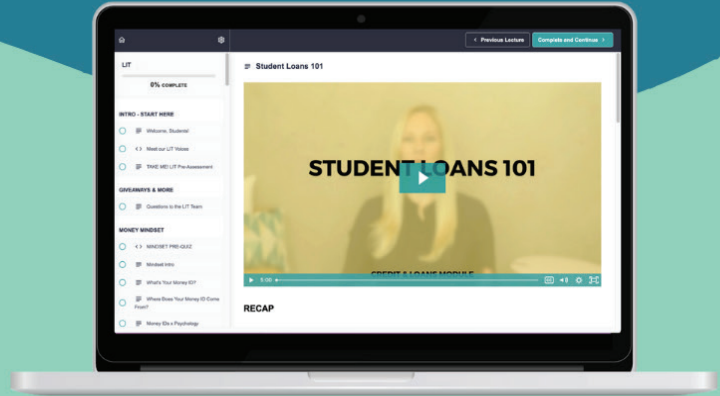


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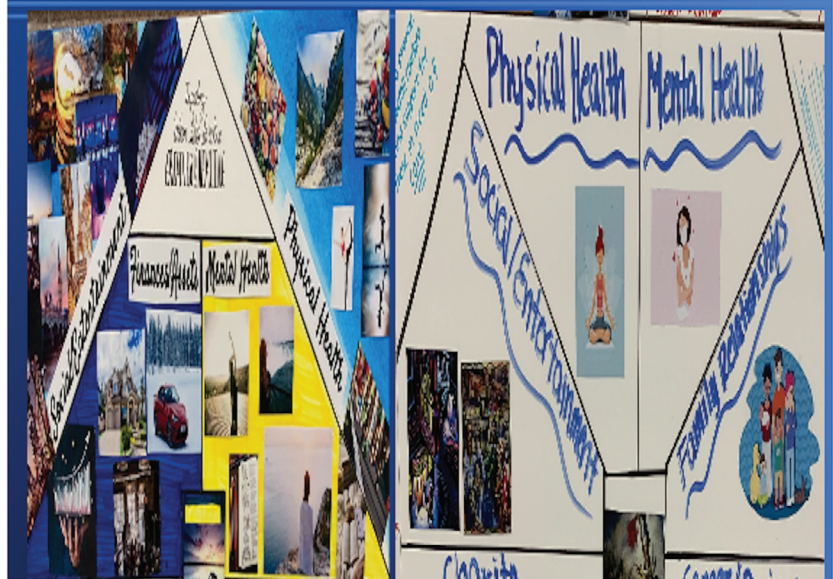
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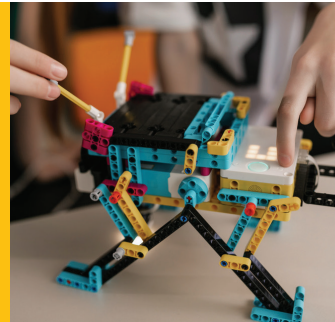


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Upward Bound Program

Upward Bound helps participants in grades 9 through 12 prepare for higher education by providing instruction in mathematics, science, composition, and literature on the UTA campus after school, on Saturdays and during the summer.



Upward Bound Math & Science

Upward Bound Math & Science Program helps students in grades 9 through 12 recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and encourages them to pursue postsecondary degrees in these fields. Services include summer programs, counseling, computer training, and participant-conducted scientific research under the guidance of faculty members.

Veterans Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of post-secondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills. The primary goal is to increase the enrollment and completion of post-secondary education programs.

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Educational Opportunity Center

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a program that helps adults further their education. Whether that means exploring options for Adult Basic Education or High School Equivalency programs or enrolling in college, university or vocational school.



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Upward Bound Math & Science

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Veterans Upward Bound

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Educational Talent Search

Talent Search identifies and selects students who demonstrate the potential for post-secondary enrollment and provides them with the motivation and support to enroll in a program of post-secondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youths from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in postsecondary education institutions of their choice.

Educational Opportunity Center

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a program that helps adults further their education. Whether that means exploring options for Adult Basic Education or High School Equivalency programs or enrolling in college, university or vocational school. The program offers assistance free of charge to economically disadvantaged adults who live in Tarrant or Dallas County. In order to take advantage of the services, you have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident.





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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley congratulates Petra Lopez-Vaquera on her new role as the Texas TRIO Association President-Elect. She is the Director of the UTRGV Upward Bound program that recently celebrated 50 years of service to students in the Rio Grande Valley!

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