

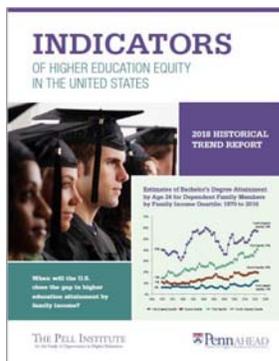
2018 Year in Review



March 2018 – COE hosted its 38th Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. The Policy Seminar featured remarks from House Committee on Education & the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA-3) and a panel of Capitol Hill staffers representing the offices of Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Rep. Glenn Thompson, (R-PA), and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).



March 2018 – The FY18 omnibus appropriations bill signed on March 23, 2018 provided a \$60 million funding increase for Federal TRIO Programs for a total appropriation of \$1.01 billion. This represented the first time in history TRIO topped \$1 billion in funding. More importantly, this legislation allowed for sizeable increases to every TRIO program, helping to erode the loss in students and services in recent years.



May 2018 – COE's research arm, the [Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education](#), released its fourth edition of the [Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States](#) at the National Press Club in conjunction with its May Board Meeting. The Pell Institute also continued the [Equity Indicators Website](#) to provide access to data files used to produce each of the figures included in the 2018 *Indicators Report*. In fall of 2018, COE/Pell Institute was awarded grants from the Lumina Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Travelers Foundation to help support the Equity Indicators project in 2019 and 2020.



**Student Financial Aid
Research Network**

June 2018 – COE's research arm, the [Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education](#), hosted the [35th Annual Student Financial Aid Research Network \(SFARN\) Conference](#) in Austin, TX. Over the two days, research leaders from government, university and higher education organizations presented studies related to student aid.



June 2018 – COE sponsored the 19th Annual Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program. This short-term study abroad opportunity allowed 24 TRIO college students to engage in a month of Spanish language and cultural immersion at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain.



June 2018 – COE brought nearly 200 Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math/Science students to Washington, DC to participate in the 29th Annual National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC) at Georgetown University. While in DC, the students attended workshops on diversity and public speaking and participated in a Mock Congress. The legislative topics considered during the Mock Congress included net neutrality, human cloning, border security, and online privacy. The students also visited the offices of their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.



August 2018 – COE, in partnership with the Waters Foundation, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Pathlight Associates, and Rutgers University, as well as TRIO Upward Bound pilot sites from the University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Kansas, Family Centered Education Agency in Chicago, and the University of Georgia, were awarded a \$1.2 million three-year grant from the National Science Foundation. The project is entitled *iStronG (Inclusive, Strong and Green): A student-centered systems thinking, place-based and technology driven curriculum*. A major goal of this grant is to contribute to research on the potential of a systems thinking, place-based curriculum in out-of-school TRIO college access programs, such as Upward Bound, to increase underrepresented students' STEM interest, self-efficacy, and motivation to pursue STEM degrees/careers.



September 2018 – COE hosted its 37th Annual Conference in New York, NY. The conference had record attendance with more than 2,000 participants. Highlights of the conference included the annual Educational Opportunity Dinner, which honored the 2018 National TRIO Achievers, and the first-ever TRIO Family Achievement Award, which was presented to award-winning actress Viola Davis, her sisters, and her mother.



September 2018 – COE launched its Legacy Society. By becoming a member of the Legacy Society, friends and donors commit to making planned gifts that will transcend their lifetimes and ensure sustained growth for the Council and its work to advance educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. The founding members of the Legacy Society are: **Cherryl Arnold** of Atlanta, GA; **Joan Becker** of Boston, MA; **Ann Coles** of Boston, MA; **Oscar Hernandez** and **Laura Thompson** of San Antonio, TX; **Maureen Hoyler** of Washington, DC; **Arnold and Freda Mitchem** of Chevy Chase, MD; **Deborah Northcross** of Memphis, TN; **Andrea and Archie Reeve** of Fort Collins, CO; **Bruce and Sharyn Schelske** of Burnsville, MN; and **Marilyn and Paul Thayer** of Fort Collins, CO. Additionally, at COE's 37th Annual Conference in New York City, TRIO alumnus **Barry Cosgrove**, founder of DaVita and co-owner of Blackmore Escrow, pledged a \$1 million gift, in part, to establish the **Marian Cosgrove Fund**, in honor of his mother.



September 2018 – During the last week of September, Congress passed an FY 2019 omnibus appropriations bill funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (“LHHS”). This legislation included another \$50 million funding increase for TRIO programs, bringing the overall appropriation to \$1.06 billion. It also included report language chastising the Department of Education’s allocation of TRIO funding in FY 2018, which disregarded previous report language.



October 2018 – Approximately 35 leaders of TRIO state and regional associations gathered at Cornell University for the second annual COE Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals. During the four-day Institute, participants engaged in workshops around state and federal policy, campus inclusivity and institutional transformation, and crucial conversations. Following the Institute, participants engaged in small group case studies focusing on issues relating to campus climate, state policy, or association leadership.



October 2018 – COE's research arm, the [Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education](#), and the [Association for the Study of Higher Education \(ASHE\)](#) published [Reflections on Connecting Research and Practice in College Access and Success Programs](#), a collection of essays by researchers and TRIO professionals. The publication is the outcome of the [ASHE -Pell collaboration](#) started in 2014 to support [ASHE's initiative to improve research-and-practice connection](#).



November 2018 – Stemming from the success of the 2017 event, COE, in partnership with the Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA and The Suder Foundation, continued the First-Generation College Celebration on November 8, 2018. The celebration featured a website to which organizations and institutions could post news of their local campus events. More than 100 celebrations took place on college campuses across the country.



December 2018 – During the Winter Board Meeting in Austin, Texas, COE hosted a TRIO alumni reception at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum. This event held special meaning as TRIO is a product of President Johnson's "Great Society." Board members, alumni, and local TRIO professionals enjoyed docent-led tours of the library followed by a networking reception. Special guests included participants in the very first Upward Bound class hosted at President Johnson's alma mater. Participants left inspired by the legacy of President Johnson and motivated to continue the work of assuring educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation students.