

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF FIGHTING**  
FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

**COE** COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

1981-2021

## OUR MISSION

Achieve college access and success for low-income students, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

## VISION

Every young person and adult has an equal opportunity to prepare for, attend, and graduate from college. Graduation from any category of postsecondary institution is achievable and not limited by economic status, family background, or disability.

## WHO IS SERVED

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes under \$37,650, where neither parent graduated from college. More than 3,100 TRIO programs currently serve more than 812,000 low-income students. Many programs serve students in grades six through 12.

# FORTY YEARS OF FIGHTING

## FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE



Turning 40 is traditionally a time to take stock, to measure the triumphs and lessons of past years and prepare for the challenges to come. In COE's 40th year, we are grateful for all we have accomplished with the help of allies who have accompanied us on our journey. Together we have made real progress in helping low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities improve their lives by attending and graduating from college.

But for COE, this anniversary is primarily about the future. How do we significantly expand the reach of college access and success programs so that many more young people and adults can realize the promise higher education holds? How do we strengthen services through a network of committed educators innovating and sharing best practices? How do we become a thunderous, far-reaching voice for low-income and first-generation students and the educators who work with them every day? How do we wisely build upon this foundation that is COE at 40?

Each of you will define COE's future—and we are very, very grateful for the part that each of you will play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Hoyler".

**Maureen Hoyler**

PRESIDENT

*Council for Opportunity in Education*

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF COE: A Timeline

### 1981

- National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations (NCEOA) — which later changed its name to the Council for Opportunity in Education — incorporates in Washington, DC in March, replacing the informal coalition of TRIO-based associations known as the National Coordinating Council of Educational Opportunity Associations.
- NCEOA holds its first annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC.
- NCEOA opens a Washington office in June.

### 1982

- In September, NCEOA's First Annual Conference draws 490 participants to Washington.

### 1983

- In response to the Reagan Administration's goal of eliminating any federal role in education, the Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Subcommittee reduced the TRIO appropriation by 1/3 at its mark-up on September 13. By the full Committee markup on September 25, NCEOA organizes TRIO advocates across the country who convince Appropriators to reject this proposal and add an additional \$10 million to the TRIO budget. This became known as the Twelve Day War.

### 1984

- NCEOA launches its first institutional membership drive.

### 1985

- NCEOA organizes the first annual Seminar on Relations with the Department of Education immediately following its Policy Seminar.

### 1986

- National TRIO DAY is proclaimed by Congressional resolution. This annual celebration focuses the nation's attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent wasted if that investment is not made.
- A fifth TRIO program is authorized, the "Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program"—later known as the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program—designed to provide increases in the number of low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students earning doctoral degrees.



## 1988

- NCEOA initiates a job line to advertise employment vacancies in TRIO and other educational opportunity programs.
- NCEOA moves to its new offices at 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW.

## 1990

- The first annual National Student Leadership Congress is held for TRIO high school students in Washington, DC.

## 1991

### The New York Times

- The New York Times identifies NCEOA as a particularly effective advocacy organization.

## 1995

- War on Opportunity: NCEOA defeats the House Budget Committee's recommendation to eliminate TRIO.

## 1996

- Congress appropriates \$500 million to support TRIO students.
- NCEOA establishes the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education.



## 1998

- NCEOA officially changes its name to the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) “to better emphasize its mission and the students it serves.”

## 2000

- The first group of study abroad students go to South Africa and Mexico.

## 2002

- TRIO funding tops \$800 million.

## 2004

- COE organizes the first briefing of the recently organized Congressional TRIO Caucus.

## 2005

- The Council's 24th Annual Conference in Washington, DC celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Higher Education Act.
- COE defeats the Administration's attempt to eliminate Upward Bound, Talent Search, and GEAR UP and transfer their funds to *No Child Left Behind*.

## 2006

- COE defeats a renewed attempt by the Administration to eliminate Upward Bound, Talent Search, and GEAR UP.
- COE establishes the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program to provide opportunities to study abroad for low-income and first-generation students to participate in internships focusing on public policy.

## 2007

- In the budget reconciliation bill, COE secures \$228 million (over four years) to fund nearly 200 additional Upward Bound projects in that year's grant competition.

## 2008

- In the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, COE defeats the unethical evaluation of the Upward Bound program, establishes a formal appeals process, and wins five-year grant terms for all projects.

## 2012

- At COE's Annual Conference in New York City, the Pell Institute celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Pell Grant program.

## 2014

- Upward Bound celebrates 50 years of service.

## 2015

- Talent Search celebrates 50 years of service.



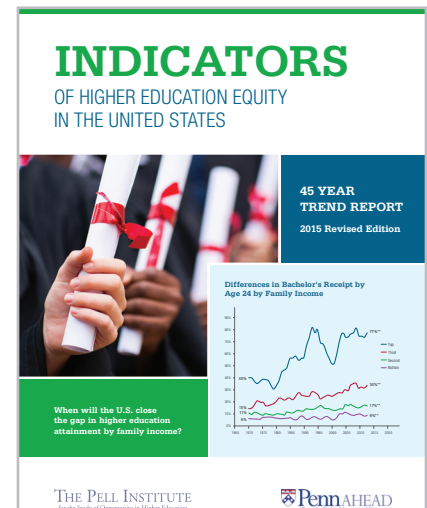
- The Pell Institute publishes the first expanded, annual edition of the *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States* trend report in partnership with the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy of the University of Pennsylvania (PennAHEAD).

## 2017

- COE hosts its first Executive Leadership Institute at Princeton University.
- COE defeats an amendment to remove \$60 million from TRIO by a House floor vote of 153-263.

## 2018

- TRIO funding cracks \$1 billion threshold for the first time in its history.
- Student Support Services celebrates 50 years of service.



- At COE's 37th Annual Conference in New York City, the Council recognizes Academy Award-winning actress Viola Davis, her sisters, and their mother with the first-ever TRIO Family Achievement Award in recognition of the impact of TRIO on their entire family.

## 2019

- COE establishes two endowments for student services and general operating.

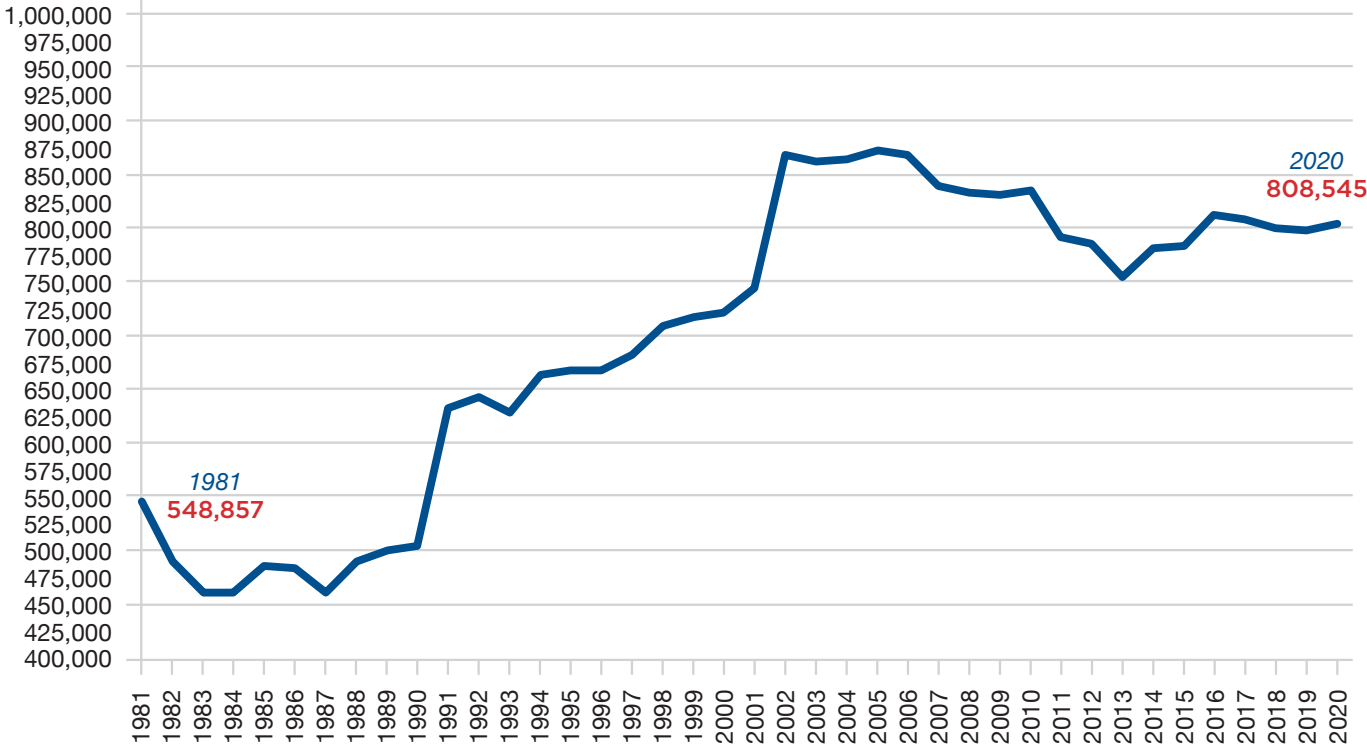
## 2020

- COE launches robust online professional development offerings to respond to student needs during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Both COE's Policy Seminar and Annual Conference take place in virtual formats due to the pandemic.

# Number of Students Served in TRIO Programs

1981 - 2020

Number of Students Served





Make a planned gift. When you make a planned gift to COE, your generosity has an impact far beyond your lifetime. Your gift supports generations of students whose lives will be forever changed by their college experience.

# Join the COE **LEGACY** *Society*

Members | Cheryl Arnold | Joan Becker | Margaret Cahalan | Ann Coles | Barry and Ingrid Cosgrove | Earl Farrow | Roger Grant | Oscar Hernandez and Laura Thompson | Maureen Hoyler | Arnold and Freda Mitchem | Deborah Northcross | Alvin Phillips | Andrea and Archie Reeve | Bruce and Sharyn Schelske | Marilyn and Paul Thayer



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