

# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO PROGRAMS PERFORMANCE BLUEPRINT

## MISSION STATEMENT

To support the University of South Carolina's commitment to high academic standards for a diverse student population, TRIO Programs provide college access and educational opportunity services to individuals who are economically disadvantaged and who are without a family history of four-year college completion.

## VISION STATEMENT

TRIO staff envision programs and services that help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education so that students achieve levels of academic success comparable to that for the general student population.

## UNIT OVERVIEW

### Staff description (numbers and levels of staff)

The TRIO staff includes the **TRIO Director**, lead administrator and principal investigator for each grant. The TRIO Director supervises five coordinators, oversees evaluation activities, completes and submits all required federal reports, and reports to the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. Other staff by program include the following:

- **Upward Bound**, a college preparatory program for students attending select Richland One high schools has a coordinator, placement counselor, administrative assistant, and part-time counselors, teachers and tutors.
- **Talent Search**, a college placement, guidance and information program for students attending select middle and high schools has a coordinator and five counselors.
- **The Educational Opportunity Center**, a college placement, guidance and information program assisting Richland County adults to enroll or re-enroll in postsecondary education has a coordinator and five site managers.
- **The Opportunity Scholars Program**, an academic support program for TRIO-eligible students enrolled at the University of South Carolina has a coordinator, advisor, two graduate assistants, and ten part-time instructors.
- **The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program**, an academic support program for South Carolina TRIO-eligible undergraduates who desire graduate degrees and opportunities to pursue careers as college faculty has a coordinator, graduate assistant and seven part-time faculty advisors.

**Program coordinators** assist with the management of programs and the supervision of staff that includes site managers, advisors, counselors, instructors, graduate assistants, and undergraduate students. In all, TRIO Programs employ over 60 full and part-time professional and student workers during a calendar year.

### Funding source for the unit

TRIO funding includes both state and federal funds that total \$2.1 million. Federal funds for five grants represent 85% of the total budget. State funds support the general operation of the department and the administration of the Gamecock Guarantee program.

## **Aspects of unit history needed to understand current operation**

TRIO Programs started in 1964 as part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. The U.S. Department of Education disburses TRIO funds through discretionary grants under the authority of Title IV of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the same legislation that authorizes the federal financial aid programs. While federal financial aid helps students to overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students to overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. The University of South Carolina has sponsored TRIO Programs since 1966.

## **Analysis of mission fulfillment during reporting period**

TRIO grants include specific goal statements that serve as measurement of program effectiveness. According to these criteria, each of the programs achieved outstanding levels of performance. On-campus programs have been especially effective as the Opportunity Scholars program has retention and graduation results that are at least comparable or better than similar results for the general student population. Both the Opportunity Scholars Program and the Ronald E. McNair Program had significant placement of students in graduate school. Specific achievements include:

- Of the 352 students who have received the Gamecock Guarantee award, 313 (89%) were enrolled at the University spring semester 2011, (78 or 84% of the 2008 cohort, 105 or 84% of the 2009 cohort, and 130 or 97% of the 2010 cohort). These rates are comparable to those for the general student population as reported by Institutional Research.
- Over the past five years, the TRIO Talent Search program has served over 2,500 students from low-income and working class families and achieved a 90% college placement rate.
- Over the past five years, Upward Bound has served 366 individuals with a 90% college placement rate.
- The EOC has served 6,229 Richland County adults and placed 2,341 in postsecondary programs.

## **CONTEXTUAL STATEMENT**

### **Concise statement of core functions**

- 1. Conduct programming and implement services that support the University's efforts to promote access and opportunity for first-generation and low-income college students.**

These functions are met by carrying out the Opportunity Scholars Program and the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program.

- 2. Support University efforts to implement the Gamecock Guarantee**

The Gamecock Guarantee is a need-based financial aid award that provides support to qualified students accepted for enrollment at the Columbia campus. All low-income and first-generation college students entering the University as first-time freshmen are considered for participation in this program. These students must also become participants in either the OSP, Capstone Scholars, or Honors Program. They then receive a minimal grant of \$2,500 and the promise that, if this amount combined with the total of other grants and scholarships in the student's financial aid package does not meet the cost of tuition and technology fees, then the Gamecock Guarantee will increase its support to cover the difference.

### 3. Promote college access for low-income and potential first-generation college individuals residing in Richland County, South Carolina.

TRIO college access services are administered through the Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) programs. These programs work in Richland County through partnerships with schools, community agencies, and professional organizations to promote college preparation for secondary school students and adults. They target low-income and potential first-generation college students. Together, the three college access programs annually serve over 3,000 individuals with information, guidance, and assistance that promote college attendance.

#### Number and Relevant Demographics

Demographics for the OSP are reflected in **Error! Reference source not found.** The program's enrollment increased dramatically in 2008, corresponding with the start of the Gamecock Guarantee awards. White student participation contributed significantly to this increase. White participation averaged 20% prior to the Gamecock Guarantee award and now averages 40%.

The college access programs (Table 2) show enrollment patterns consistent with the demographic profile of the target community. Each of these programs have 90% African American enrollment. Each year, Upward Bound serves at least 100 participants, Talent Search serves 1,200 participants, and the EOC serves 2,000 participants.

#### Event that Significantly Affected the Work of the Unit

- The Gamecock Guarantee represents an event that significantly impacted TRIO functions. The number of OSP participants more than doubled, as did the number of OSP faculty. The impact on student performance, in terms of retention and graduation, will be determined over the next two years.
- The expansion of the OSP has generated the need for additional space, which has resulted in the relocation of access programs to Byrnes.
- Grant funding has been extending through 2015.

#### Significant Collaborations

- TRIO has entered into a partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence to ensure OSP academic instruction that takes into consideration the unique needs of low-income and first-generation college students. The Center hosts at least three workshops for OSP faculty and staff on topics related to facilitating success for TRIO-eligible students.

	2008	2009	2010	Total
Transfers	6	12	2	20
Dropouts	5	5		10
Enrolled	82	108	132	322
Less than 2.0 GPA	4	4	17	25
2.0 to 2.49 GPA	2	11	12	25
2.5 to 2.00 GPA	12	16	25	53
3.0 to 3.49 GPA	36	44	30	110
3.5 or higher	26	33	48	107

	Talent Search	EOC	UBP
New students	328	1119	25
Continuing students	876	996	78
Low-inc. & First-Gen	837	1679	78
Low-income	109	226	28
First-generation	149	173	18
Other students	109	37	0
Asian	10	9	
Black	1078	1909	103
Hispanic	25	50	
Other	50	33	
White	41	114	
Males	446	494	38
Females	758	1621	65

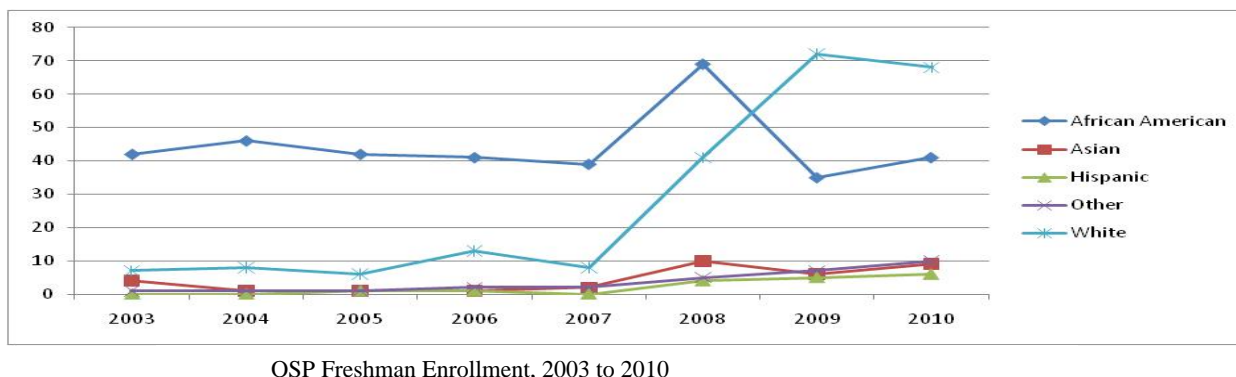
- TRIO access programs work in partnership with various agencies, professional organizations, and colleges to sponsor the annual College Goal South Carolina campaign. TRIO staff (Violette Hunter and Regina Smith) provide leadership for statewide College Goal Sunday efforts.
- TRIO access programs have significant partnerships with local secondary schools to promote college preparation activities.
- TRIO on-campus programs have significant partnerships with Undergraduate Research, Student Success Center, Preston College, and Multicultural Student Affairs.

### Anticipated Events that May Significantly Affect TRIO

- The impending renovation of BTW will add to concerns about adequate space.
- Grant funding at the federal level is becoming more cumbersome.
- State budget cuts are expected to limit program activities.
- Federal funding for Talent Search will be announced in June. Talent Search will reduce the number of schools served by the project.
- EOC funding will be decided in the fall of 2011.
- Upward Bound funding expires in December, 2011 with new grants expected to be awarded in May, 2012.

### GOAL STATEMENT EVALUATION

- Conduct programming and implement services that support the University's efforts to promote access and opportunity for first-generation and low-income college students.
  - Key Performance Indicator – increase the number of full Pell recipients that receive assistance from an academic support program.
    - Enrollment in the OSP has more than doubled as the percent of freshman full Pell recipients associated with a support program has increased with the Gamecock Guarantee.
    - Gamecock Guarantee has a total of 23 Capstone Scholars and 20 Honor College students.



### Support University efforts to implement the Gamecock Guarantee

- Key Performance Indicator – student retention will be comparable to that for the general student population.
  - As indicated by Table 3, retention for OSP participants is at least comparable to that for the general student population. Only the 2006 cohort

had a lower retention rate. Each of the other cohorts represented in the table show a significantly higher retention rate for OSP participants compared to the general undergraduate population.

- Key Performance Indicator – Students academic performance.

**Table 3: Student Retention/Graduation Comparison into Fall 2010**

Cohort	U of SC	OSP
2006	74%	68%
2007	74%	84%
2008	80%	87%
2009	86%	87%

- Since 2008, the Opportunity Scholars Program has had 352 participants. Of this number, 322 (91%) are enrolled, 20 (6%) have transferred, and 10 (3%) have dropped out.
- Of the 322 students enrolled at the end of spring semester 2011, 107 (33%) had GPAs of 3.5 or higher, 217 (67%) had GPAs higher than 3.0, and only 25 (8%) had GPAs less than 2.0.

- Promote college access for low-income and potential first-generation college individuals residing in Richland County, South Carolina.

**TRIO met or exceeded each of the following objectives required by federal grants.**

1. 30% of EOC participants not already enrolled in a continuing education program who have not obtained a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate will enroll in a continuing education program during each budget period.
2. 70% of EOC participants not already enrolled in a postsecondary school at time of first service in the budget period who were high school seniors or equivalent in alternative education programs, high school graduates, recipients of high school equivalency credentials, postsecondary dropouts, or potential postsecondary transfers will apply for financial aid during each budget period.
3. 70% of EOC participants not already enrolled in a postsecondary school at time of first service in the budget period who were high school seniors or equivalent in alternative education programs, high school graduates, recipients of high school equivalency credentials, postsecondary dropouts, or potential postsecondary transfers will apply for postsecondary school admission during each budget period.
4. 50% of EOC participants not already enrolled in a postsecondary school at time of first service in the budget period who were high school seniors or equivalent in alternative education programs, high school graduates, recipients of high school equivalency credentials, postsecondary dropouts, or potential postsecondary transfers will enroll in a program of postsecondary education during each budget period.
5. 90% of non-senior secondary school Talent Search participants served during each budget period will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each academic school year.
6. 90% of high school Talent Search seniors (and their equivalents in alternative education programs) will graduate from secondary school or receive a certificate of high school equivalency during each budget period.
7. 90% of "college-ready" Talent Search participants will apply for financial aid during each budget period.
8. 90% of "college-ready" Talent Search participants will apply for postsecondary

- school admission during each budget period.
9. 90% of "college-ready" Talent Search participants will enroll in a program of postsecondary education during each budget period (or during the next fall term)
  10. 70% of all UB participants who at the time of entrance into project had an expected high school graduation date during the school year will have achieved at proficient level during high school on state assessments in reading/language arts and math.
  11. 80% of 9th, 10th, and 11th grade participants served during each school year will continue to participate in the UB project during the next school year.
  12. 80% of all UB participants who at time of entrance into project had an expected high school graduation date during the school year will enroll in postsecondary education by fall term immediately following expected high school graduation date.
  13. 70% of all UB participants who enrolled in postsecondary education during the fall term immediately following high school graduation will be enrolled for the fall term of the second academic year.