



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

Past President: Dalia Hernandez
Co-Chairs: Jesus Maldonado and Horacio Aceves
Report Date: Monday, November 18, 2019

Summary:

The WESTOP SoCal Chapter hosted the 2019 Professional Development Seminar (PDS) at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California on October 14, 2019. The seminar theme was “People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success.” Approximately, eighty-nine (89) members and nineteen (19) guests attended the one-day PDS. However, attendees registered through Cvent was a total of ninety-eight (98). The WESTOP SoCal member registration fee to attend PDS was \$175 (early bird), \$250 (regular) and \$300 (on-site). **Total funds raised (\$18,796.50) minus expenses (\$4,109.22) was \$14,687.28.**

Committee:

We would like to thank all the 2019 PDS committee members for their leadership and outstanding work.

Dalia Hernandez (**Past President**)
Jesus Maldonado (**Co-Chair**)
Horacio Aceves (**Co-Chair**)
Jesus Maldonado (**Keynote**)
Dalia Hernandez (**Workshops and Moderators**)
Angie Alvarez/Caroline Felix (**Registration**)
Valeria Rizo (**Resource Development/Silent Auction**)
Laura Orozco/Cristina Aguirre (**TRIO Alumni**)
Dalia Hernandez/Angie Alvarez/Horacio Aceves (**Awards**)
Dr. Conrad Valdez (**Evaluations**)
Laura Garcia (**Program and PR**)

Conference Highlights:

Professional Development Seminar

The SoCal chapter held its annual Professional Development Seminar (PDS) on Monday, October 14, 2019 at Occidental College. Members and guests participated in a series of selected workshops that provided relevant and practical information and resources. Our PDS workshop titles included: Being a Growth Mindset for Your TRIO Program; Identifying and Addressing Factors that Affect Student Success; How Does TRIO Work? Understanding our History and Future of Educational Access Programs; It’s Time to Learn How to Take Care of Yourself!; Connecting the Dots: TRIO, DoE, WESTOP, COE and You!; Holy Motion-Meetings Gone Wild!; Becoming Culturally Competent: Best Advising Practices for Working with Diverse Communities; Creating Safe



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

and Affirming Spaces for LGBTQ Students; Maximizing the Use of Technology in Your Program; COE Empower Workshop; Working with Your College Community in Developing an Effective Mentoring Program; SSS Program Roundtable; and Climbing the Career Ladder: TRIO/Educational Equity and Beyond.

Keynote Speaker

Our PDS Keynote Speaker was Mr. Jesús Salvador Treviño a writer/director whose body of work encompasses four decades of episodic television directing, dozens of nationally broadcast documentaries and television specials, as well as a memoir and three short story collections. Mr. Treviño was also a former TRIO Upward Bound Counselor. During his keynote address, he spoke on the importance of having a collective voice and telling our stories and that of our students.

Awards Luncheon

The SoCal chapter recognized the efforts and achievements of two outstanding SoCal TRIO professionals during PDS. The Doreen De Los Santos Dynamic Service Award was awarded to Ms. Cristina Aguirre, Senior Director at Barrio Logan College Institute and the Outstanding New Member Service Award was presented to Mr. Oswaldo Lopez Jr. Administrative Coordinator at Occidental College. This year, PDS did not include the professional development scholarships. A call for scholarship applicants and will be made in January 2020 with selection by April 2020.

Plenary Speakers

At PDS we were joined by our WESTOP President, Mr. Bernardo “Ben” Reynoso. He addressed the members in attendance during our Award Luncheon and provided information on the current state of WESTOP as well as other initiatives that the Board and Service Council are working on. During the afternoon session of the PDS, Ms. Patricia Mahomond provided the membership with an update from COE.

Panel Sessions

PDS concluded with a panel conversation with former TRIO Professionals. The panel session was comprised of Dr. Gustavo Ocegüera, Dr. Juan Carlos Astorga, Ms. Heba Griffiths and Dr. Scott Thayer. They responded to the questions provided (What was your professional journey?; How did you know you were ready to move beyond TRIO?; What are some tips/advice you would like others to consider as they are growing in their careers?; What would you have done differently?; and How does our PDS theme "People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success" resonate with your trajectory?) and shared valuable insights about their professional journeys.

Resource Development:

The PDS Resources Development/Silent Auction Chair developed a campaign that collected more than 35 items. In addition, an opportunity drawing for a Disneyland Basket/Tickets was also held. The silent auction baskets raised **\$346.50**, T-Shirts/Polos Donations **\$120** and the opportunity drawing raised **\$380**, Miguel Zarate



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

Outreach Specialist for Upward Bound at Riverside Community College won the Disneyland Basket/Tickets. In addition, the PDS Committee was successful in securing sponsorships/contributions from Study Smart Tutors (\$1,000), Pasadena Promos/Crown Promotions Group (\$500) and Occidental College (\$400). The sponsorships/contributions were allocated to help pay for the meals and networking mixer expenses. Total funds raised through sponsorships/contributions was **\$1,900**.

PDS Workshops:

A total of thirteen (13) PDS workshops were offered on Monday, October 14, 2019.

1. Being a Growth Mindset Leader for your TRIO Program

In this workshop sessions, attendees will develop their understanding and work towards the mastery of Growth Mindset practices in an effort to become a better leader and educator. This session will cover the basics of Mindsets before progressing into in-depth programmatic implementation models that attendees can utilize in their programs directly. Attendees will also collaborate with their peers to develop a Growth Mindset action plan tailored to their student population. Participants will evaluate leadership strategies through the lens of Growth Mindset, develop effective methods to encourage lifelong learning, and build skills to more efficiently deliver Growth Mindset concepts to students.

Presenter: Jack Friedman, Founder Study Smart Tutors

2. Identifying and Addressing Factors That Affect Student Success

Workshop participants will be able to identify both academic and non-cognitive factors that affect student success. Factors include; imposter syndrome, social stigma including mental health, student and family socio-economics, and the lack of belonging

Presenter: Cuauhtemoc Solorio, Director, Talent Search, Cal Lutheran University

3. How does TRIO work? Understanding our History and Future of Educational Access Programs

This session will cover a historical background of TRIO programs, the current educational environment, and how TRIO professional can get involved on a meaningful level. We'll also cover how we can prepare and react to educational policy and funding proposals that effect the TRIO community.

Presenter: Horacio Aceves, Assistant Director, Oxy Upward Bound

4. It's Time to Learn How to Take Care of Yourself!!

"Are you feeling you must always do more and try harder? This striving leads to an unsustainable pace, and it's easy for educators to become burned out. Self-care is not a "nice to have" goal for when you have time to pursue it. For an educator, it is the foundation that allows an educator to give their students the focus and energy they deserve. If this is an area that you struggle with, you are not alone. Numerous resources exist to help educators with their physical, emotional, and mental health. Please join us to learn more.

Presenter: Hulya Odabas, Director of Education, Study Smart Tutors



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

5. Connecting the Dots: TRIO, DoE, WESTOP, COE and You!

Find out how your role as a professional/alumni fits in to the larger picture of TRIO. Learn tools how to advocate for your program and contribute on behalf of WESTOP.

Presenter: Miguel Zarate Jr., Outreach Specialist, Riverside City College Upward Bound and Victoria Garcia, Cal Lutheran University Talent Search

6. Holy Motion-Meetings Gone Wild!

Meetings can become quite chaotic if motions are made when they are not allowed or members don't know what motions to make in order to do something. Robert's Rules of Order has a systematic method, called precedence of motions, to determine what motions can be offered and when they are in order. This session will cover the classes of motions, precedence of motions, and an overview of the most popular motions used in a meeting. Participants will learn how to avoid the pitfalls of getting stuck and not knowing how to move ahead.

Presenter: Kevin Baker, Director, Mt. San Jacinto College Talent Search and Ernesto Partida, PCC Pathways

7. Becoming Culturally Competent: Best Advising Practices for Working with Diverse Communities

Cultural competence is about our will and actions to build understanding between people, to be respectful and open to different cultural perspectives, strengthen cultural security and work towards equality in opportunity. Relationship building is fundamental to cultural competence and is based on the foundations of understanding each other's expectations and attitudes, and subsequently building on the strength of each other's knowledge, using a wide range of community members and resources to build on their understandings. As educators and members of TRIO, we continuously work with diverse communities and it's essential for us to be culturally competent because we need to be able to build strong relationship with our participants, in order to provide best services towards their success.

Presenter: Gerardo Lorenzo, Academic Advisor, CSUSB Upward Bound

8. Creating Safe and Affirming Spaces for LGBTQ Students

Participants will learn best practices on how to create safe and affirming spaces for students to thrive academically.

Presenter: Cynthia Gonzalez, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, The Coalition for Family Harmony

9. Working with your College Community in Developing an Effective Mentoring Program

Studies show that first-generation, nontraditional, underserved students need mentors to navigate the post-secondary education process. First-generation college students and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds "often do not know they need help, don't take initiative to seek it out or don't know what questions to ask" (Bettinger & Baker, 2011). However, it is not enough to provide mentoring that focuses solely on general information on the college experience. It is crucial for first-generation, nontraditional, underserve students to receive college information that incorporates their personal experiences and life stories to ensure success in their college transition and beyond.

Presenter: Oswaldo Lopez Jr., Administrative Coordinator, Oxy Upward Bound



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

10. Maximizing the Use of Technology in Your Program

We live in a world where our students (and us) are connected to technology 24/7. As we continue to adapt to an ever-changing technology landscape, let's find ways to work smarter not harder. From program registration to data collect, this workshop will discuss how to better utilize technology to in our programs.

Presenter: Jesus Maldonado, Director, Oxy Upward Bound

11. COE Empower

Come and learn about empower a secure, cloud-based suite of tools using best-in-class technology to help community partners, college coaches, administrators, and other stakeholders access and analyze data.

Presenter: Patricia Mahomond, COE

12. Student Support Services Program Roundtable

The SSS Roundtable will provide an opportunity for conversation regarding program plans/design, the RFP process and any information released by the U.S. Department of education.

Facilitator: Dalia Hernandez, SoCal Past President

13. "Climbing the Career Ladder: TRIO/Educational Equity and Beyond"

Panel conversation will address the following questions and more!

1. What was your professional journey?
 2. How did you know you were ready to move beyond TRIO?
 3. What are some tips/advise you would like others to consider as they are growing in their careers?
 4. What would you have done differently?
 5. How does our PDS theme "People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success" resonate with your trajectory?
- Panelists: Dr. Juan Carlos Astorga, Dean of Student Engagement, Los Angeles Pierce College; Mrs. Heba Griffiths, Director of EOPS/CARE, Rio Hondo College; Dr. Gustavo Ocegüera, Dean of Student Equity, Norco College; and Dr. Scott W. Thayer, Vice President, Student Services, San Bernardino Valley College**

PDS Evaluation:

A comprehensive evaluation using Qualtrics was conducted to gather data and information on the workshops facilitated and the overall PDS. Unfortunately, only approximately 1/3 of the total attendees responded to the evaluation. Attached to this report is an infographic illustrating the evaluation findings.

President's Reception and TRIO Alumni Networking Mixer:

The President's Reception and Alumni Networking Mixer was combined given that PDS was this year was one-



WESTOP SoCal Chapter
Professional Development Seminar
People, Passion and Purpose: Pathway to Success
October 14, 2019
Occidental College
Final Report

day event. This year, the PDS committee was successful in securing sponsorship support from two local businesses, Study Smart Tutors and Pasadena Promos/Crown Promotions Group and from Occidental College. The sponsorships/contributions we allocated to help pay for the meals and the President's Reception and Alumni Networking Mixer expenses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dalia Hernandez
Past President