



**Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel
Service Council Committee Report
2020 – 2021
(Friday June 4, 2021)**

Committee Name:	Education and Legislation
Committee Chair/Co-Chairs:	Cuauhtemoc “Temo” Solorio
Committee Members (if any):	
Committee Description: Serves as a liaison to the WESTOP Service Council Legislation & Education Committee and Chapter. Researches and reports on any State and National legislation which has an impact on TRIO Programs and/or first generation, low income students. This position also serves as the liaison between the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), WESTOP, and the SoCal Chapter.	

Committee Goals & Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with WESTOP Leg/Ed Chair in order to align goals with Regional Chapter • Develop plan of action, along with WESTOP Leg/Ed Chair to begin transition with new WESTOP SoCal Leg/Ed Chair • Assist Membership with identifying means of securing funding in order to attend Policy Seminar

Committee Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Seminar Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Records were set as 72 Republicans were among a record 248 U.S. Representatives who publicly signed onto the House TRIO letter requesting a "robust increase" in FY22 funding. Co-led by Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ), and Vicky Hartzler (R-MO). • Government Relations Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biden-Harris Administration released its first budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2022, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$200 million (or 18%) funding increase for TRIO, for a total proposed appropriation of \$1.3 billion. ▪ \$40 million (or 11%) funding increase for GEAR UP, for a total proposed appropriation of \$408 million. ○ President Biden proposed additional education investments in the American Families Plan, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase of max Pell Grants by \$1,400 ▪ New college completion state grant program for low-income students ▪ Tuition free community college



- Two free years of tuition for students who attend HBCU's, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities
- Teacher training
- Universal Pre-K for all 3&4 year olds
- Child care
- Expanding of school-based meal programs
- Education Secretary Miguel Cardona and top Republican Representative Tom Cole praise TRIO at education budget hearing
 - *"When you've got something that works, and it's worked for 50 years ... TRIO produced 5 million college graduates in this country. I wonder how many of those kids that went through TRIO would have graduated from college absent that program, or would have even been there in the first place. And I'd say that's a good program."*
- **Department of Education Updates**
 - Gear UP state and partnership grants competition have been published
 - Proposals are due Monday June 28th

Recommendations

- No recommendations at this time

Action Items

- Follow up with your representatives
 - Invite them to be a part of your programming, including graduations
- Veterans Upward Bound writing workshop for Institutional Members
 - Monday and Tuesday June 10-11 from 11am-4pm EST
 - Critiques will take place on June 10th
- COE Annual Conference
 - Atlanta, GA.
 - September 12-15th

Respectfully Submitted,

Cuauhtemoc "Temo" Solorio

Southern California Chapter