

# Making Education Possible



Photo by Skyler Zuber Photo LLC

## CREATING SUCCESS THROUGH SYNERGY: CONFERENCE RECAP

By: Juan Casas

The April conference really lived up to its theme: Together Towards Tomorrow: Creating Success Through Synergy. After three years since our last in-person conference as a state association, the conference committee wanted it to reflect how together everyone can continue moving forward.

Indiana TRIO members who attended the conference were ready to put the worldwide pandemic behind them and were eager to be together again in-person and connect with fellow colleagues. The committee collaborated as a team and focused heavily on providing attendees with a top-notch conference complete with a variety of useful breakout sessions for veteran and new TRIO professionals. The committee secured inspirational speakers and presenters, such as Odell Bizzell- speaker, author, and entrepreneur- to start the conference with energizing inspiration.

Morgan Torres, Assistant Director of Veterans Success Center and Army Sergeant reservist, shared her inspiring journey as a first-generation college student at the association banquet. Her emphasis on helping service members find their community on campus demonstrates the necessity of TRIO programs for individual success.

Closing the conference with the same high - energy, Dr. Rachel Swinford, Clinical Associate Professor of Kinesiology and President of Inspire Team Building put the attendees to work with team building exercises. Rachel's presentation hit on the mark regarding the conference theme as she led attendees through interactive activities that demonstrated the need to communicate effectively to achieve organizational goals and left everyone with a desire to promote synergy as a TRIO family.

Response from attendees was dominated by positive feedback and encouragement from various Indiana TRIO members on the impact of the conference. One seasoned professional even mentioned that this was the best Indiana TRIO conference they had ever attended.



The biggest win for this year's annual conference was by far our great Indiana TRIO membership which graced us with their presence and made this truly the great conference that it came to be.



- Juan Casas



Barbara Gunn McKee, Ronnell DuBose, Melinda Chen, Dennis Bowling, and Maceo Rainey.

## **POLICY SEMINAR UPDATE**

By: Council for Opportunities in Education & Brooke Dove

Virtually and In Person, Over 700 TRIO Professionals joined the 41st Annual Policy Seminar. TRIO professionals met with over 400 Congressional Offices on Hill Day. Indiana TRIO representatives met with all nine congressional offices and two senate offices. Buschon, Carson, Spartz, and Mrvan all signed on to the TRIO Support letters. Indiana TRIO expresses its gratitude to our team leaders: Melinda Chen, Maceo Rainey, and Nicholas Gray, and our attendees: Dennis Bowling, Ronnell DuBose, Barbara Gunn, Lee Roe, Nick Palmer, Josh VanBibber, Joseph Green, Kristin Noonan, Lyann Neuilieb, and Julia Fererrya.

Though in spring of 2021 President Biden proposed and the House of Representatives passed legislation to provide a 41% increase for The Department of Education, which included a \$200.8 million increase for TRIO, the final funding agreement only included a 3.8% increase for the Department of Education. However, this included a \$40 million increase to TRIO. The spending package included new funding for Ukraine military and humanitarian assistance and additional COVID-19 emergency relief.

For the first time in the Seminar's history Secretary, Dr. Miguel Cardona, joined attendees in person to welcome and provide insight on his priorities.

COE also hosted Dr. Michelle Asha Cooper, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs in the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. A fierce advocate for racial and economic equity, experienced practitioner, demonstrated leader, and long-standing friend of TRIO, Dr. Cooper is one of the nation's most trusted voices in championing access and success for all students in higher education. She fundamentally believes that educational attainment can improve an individual's life and, in doing so, strengthen families, communities, and the workforce. We look forward to working her closely on issues affecting low-income, first-generation and students with disabilities.

COE is asking Members of Congress to support a \$170 million funding increase to allow TRIO to serve 1 million students in FY23.



**COUNCIL for OPPORTUNITY in EDUCATION**

## **POLICY IN ACTION**

Maceo Rainey, PNW ETS Director, Nancy Martinez, Policy Advisor for Sen. Todd Young, Barbara Gunn-McKee, IUN SSS Success Coordinator, and Ronnell DuBose, PNW UB Director & EOA President meet during the Policy Seminar to discuss continued funding for Indiana TRIO programs.



By: Stephanie Smith

## TRIO STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Taylor Talamantes is a Purdue Fort Wayne TRIO alum that currently owns her own business called Sensory Cuts. She helps those who have sensory disorders get a haircut in a professional setting by utilizing a therapeutic approach. Taylor graduated from PFW in 2016 with a degree in psychology and is a licensed barber, as well as a registered behavioral technician. Taylor shares that TRIO was a huge support throughout her college journey. She shared that "TRIO made me feel like I wasn't alone and (TRIO) truly understands being first generation can be difficult so they go far out of their way to ensure you feel heard!" Through the support of TRIO, Taylor was able to volunteer at a Manatee Reservation in Puerto Rico and still has relationships with people she met four years later. Taylor would like to share with incoming freshmen this advice: "Never be afraid to lean on your school, services, and leaders while attending college. Had it not been for the support of leaders, teachers, and services such as TRIO, I wouldn't have been successful". We as TRIO staff are so proud of Taylor and wish her continued success with her business!

## TAYLOR TALAMANTES



*Celebrate our*  
**TRIO** *Family*

Lynann Neulieb has demonstrated the ability to be a reflective practitioner who makes decisions and recommendations that are in the best interests of low income, students with disabilities, and potential first generation college students in her role as Educational Advisor in the TRIO-Educational Talent Search Program located on the campus of Purdue University Northwest-Westville Campus. Lynann is passionate about ensuring that Program Participants are adequately prepared to meet the demands of college and career access. Therefore, it is common to see Lynann meeting with students and reviewing their progress towards completing high school, monitoring the 21st Century Scholar Track obligations, as well as, monitoring college admission deadlines with pre-college students.

Equally as important, Lynann has earned a reputation as "Captain of the fun Police" and can be seen actively engaged with Program Participants doing things like line dancing on a boat in New York City with students, going water rafting on a boat with students at Wisconsin Dells, and performing In-Door Sky Diving with students at the I-Fly location in Chicago, Illinois. Lynann Neulieb is living proof for pre-college students that learning and achievement can be fun!

## LYNANN NEULIEB



## TRIO STAFF HIGHLIGHT

By: Maceo Rainey

# M.I.L.E.S PROFILES



## Marissa Missan

Upward Bound IUPUI

- position: Academic Coordinator
- graduated from University of Delaware
- excited about Summer Academy

**FUN FACT:** I dabbled in several sports including fencing, futsal, trapeze, speed skating, & salsa dancing.



## Skyler Zuber

SSS Ivy Tech Fort Wayne

- position: Program Assistant
- graduated from Ivy Tech Fort Wayne
- excited about opportunities for our students to learn and grow

**FUN FACT:** I have moved 27 times so far in my life. That is more than the years I have been alive...



## Anthony Jackson

SSS Ivy Tech Central Indiana

- position: Assistant Director
- graduated from Jackson State University & Indiana Wesleyan University
- excited about APR & Fall events

**FUN FACT:** I like playing UNO.



## Letise Jenkins

SSS Ivy Tech Lake County

- position: Academic Counselor
- graduated from Ball State University
- excited about working with students that would normally be overlooked

**FUN FACT:** I love to dance and entertain. I'm the hostess with the mostest!!



## Devona Salazar

SSS Indiana University Northwest

- position: Academic Coordinator
- graduated from Indiana University Northwest
- excited about summer cultural events

**FUN FACT:** I was recently on channel 9 WGN Daytime Chicago as Magician Norman Basile's assistant.

The MILES Program is a professional development initiative aimed at targeting and developing leadership within Indiana TRIO.

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July 7-8th

@ Vincennes University

Save <sup>THE</sup> Dates

Mark your calendars for these  
Indiana TRIO upcoming events!

ALL TRIO PROGRAMS:  
PRE-COLLEGE & COLLEGE

PREPARING FOR A  
SITE VISIT 3 HR WEBINAR

PRESENTED BY:  
LUCY JONES  
(TRIO SPECIALIST)

MONDAY  
JULY 25, 2022

12:00 PM EST

REGISTRATION FEE: \$299

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

