

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

National **TRIO** Clearinghouse

## What is National TRIO Day?

National TRIO Day is a day of celebration, reflection and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students. Federal TRIO Programs help low-income and first-generation students enter college and earn a college degree.

Every year on the last Saturday of February, high school and college students, teachers, Members of Congress, local officials, TRIO Program staff, participants and alumni and many others:

**Celebrate** the positive impact of federal TRIO Programs in our communities throughout the nation.

**Reflect** on the importance of educational opportunity programs in creating a fairer society for all Americans.

**Act** to protect and further access to higher education for low-income and first-generation students.

"In many communities throughout America, the TRIO Programs are the only programs that help low-income Americans to enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life."

-- Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education.

## History

"National TRIO Day," a day on which the nation is asked to turn its attention to the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the investment necessary if they are to become contributing citizens of this country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made.

-- **H. Con. Res. 278**

(Concurrent Resolution designating February 28, 1986 as National TRIO Day)

In 1986, Congress passed a bill called the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act, which reduced funding for all programs in the federal budget, including TRIO. Under the proposed legislation, over 161,900 students and 300 colleges would have been eliminated from participating in TRIO Programs during the 1986 and 1987 fiscal years.

TRIO leaders asked Congress to proclaim February 28, 1986 as "National TRIO Day" to increase awareness and rally support for the programs. The House and Senate declared a concurrent

resolution, which detailed the negative impact of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Act on TRIO Programs. TRIO staff, students and alumni participated in the first National TRIO Day by organizing local political activities that communicated the significance of TRIO Programs to their representatives in Congress and other local politicians.

## Those who celebrate National TRIO Day:

- Hold Special gatherings, campus forums, open houses or award ceremonies.
- Obtain proclamations or resolutions from governors, mayors, councils, institutional presidents, etc.
- Ask Members of Congress to present floor speeches about federal TRIO Programs.
- Give presentations about TRIO to institutional governing boards, churches or local civic groups.

Visit <http://www.trioprograms.org/trioday.html> for more National TRIO Day information and resources.

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