LASAP

46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ADVOCATING, EMPOWERING, AND TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN TRIO

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

APRIL 16-19

Hilton Shreveport Convention Center
**Shreveport, Louisiana**, was founded in 1836, by the Shreve Town Company, a corporation established to develop a town at the juncture of the newly navigable Red River and the Texas Trail, an overland route into the newly independent Republic of Texas and, prior to that time, into Mexico.

The Red River had been cleared of the 180 mile long raft of debris that had clogged its channel since time immemorial by Captain Henry Miller Shreve, commanding the US Army Corps of Engineers. In Shreve's honor, the Shreve Town Company and the village of Shreve Town were named. On March 20, 1839, the village of Shreve Town was incorporated as the town of Shreveport.

In 1871 Shreveport was incorporated as a city. Shreveport's original boundaries were contained within a parcel of land sold to the Shreve Town Company by the indigenous Caddo Indians in 1835. In 1838, Caddo Parish (county) was carved out of Natchitoches Parish and Shreve Town became the parish seat; Shreveport remains the parish seat of Caddo Parish, Louisiana today.

The original town site consisted of 64 city blocks divided by eight streets running west from the Red River and eight streets running south from Cross Bayou, a tributary of the Red River. Today, this 64 block area is the city's central business district and is a National Register of Historic Places-listed district.

Shreveport, and its smaller sister city, Bossier City (founded in 1884 and incorporated in 1907) together have six historic districts and many landmarks listed on the National Register. In fact, Shreveport is second only to New Orleans among Louisiana cities with multiple historic landmarks. One of these is the McNeill Street Pumping Station, a waterworks built in 1887 that is still in use and is the unique example of its type in the nation. It is listed on the National Historic Landmarks list, the highest level of national historical designation.

The Red River, opened by Shreve in the 1830s, remained navigable until 1914 when disuse, owing to the rise of the railroad as the preferred means of transporting goods and people, allowed it to begin silting up. Not until the 1990s was navigation of the river again possible to Shreveport. Today the port of Shreveport-Bossier city is being developed once again as a shipping center.

*Information courtesy of [www.shreveportla.gov](http://www.shreveportla.gov)*
OUR MISSION

The mission of LASAP is to promote the development, improvement, and extension of educational opportunities to every student in the state of Louisiana regardless of race, creed, or physical limitation who, because of financial, cultural, or educational factors have not yet developed to her or his fullest potential.
Greetings LASAPians and Guests,

Welcome to Louisiana’s third largest city, Shreveport, and to the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs 46th Annual Conference: *Advocating, Empowering, and Transforming Education in TRIO*.

This year’s conference serves as a launching pad for LASAP’s efforts to give voice to the concerns of the over 19,000 Louisiana TRIO participants. This year, the TRIO community withstood attacks on the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program and the Educational Opportunity Center TRIO Program. Now, more than ever, we must ready ourselves for battle by becoming abreast of the daily business of the federal government, getting armed with the success stories our TRIO participants, and sharing those valuable stories with stakeholders on the local, state, and national levels.

The year, however, did not bring all bad news for the TRIO community. Fiscal Year 2018 saw the Federal TRIO programs reach **$1 Billion in appropriations- its highest funding level to date**! While we celebrate in this momentous achievement, we cannot rest in the accomplishment. We must continue to answer the call to advance the LASAP mission and fight to serve more first-generation and low income students in Louisiana.

Special thanks to the Conference Chair Dr. Shyrlin Davis and the LASAP conference committee, corporate sponsors, exhibitors, presenters and LASAP Board for making this conference possible. Without you, none of this would be possible!

Lastly, please enjoy yourselves during your stay. The conference committee has done a tremendous job to make certain that the conference provides ample opportunity for you to learn the best practices and policies and network with colleagues. The city of Shreveport has a wealth of entertainment and leisure activities for your enjoyment. If there is anything that I can do to make your time with us more comfortable, please let me know.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in TRIO,

Julius M. Turner
LASAP President
A Message from LASAP Past President

Dear LASAP,

All good things must come to an end! Over the last three years serving LASAP has been a blessing. This experience has been very rewarding. I will cherish all of the many leadership opportunities I have received, from networking to advocating for TRIO.

This year’s conference theme is centered on the slogan “Transformers of TRIO”. With many different people, practices and talents, we collectively are “Advocating, Empowering and Transforming Education in TRIO”.

To Dr. Shrylin Davis, Conference Chair, I would like to express my gratitude to you and your committee members. I know that you have planned a conference filled with modernized practices, exceptional peer to peer development, and advanced professional learning. I know that Dr. Julius Turner will be proud of the efforts that have gone into making this conference a success.

To Dr. Turner, it has been a pleasure serving as your mentor over the past year. The commitment and time you have put into LASAP has shown your dedication to the LASAP Organization and members.

As we like to say, “Laissez les bons temps rouler!” in Shreveport.

Sincerely,
Donta Mills
LASAP Past-President
A Message from SWASAP President

Dear LASAP,

On behalf of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs, I welcome you to the 46th annual conference of LASAP. I am impressed with the wonderful line-up of speakers and programing, and I know that you all will return to your programs and students with new ideas and exciting plans.

I am especially intrigued by the theme of “Advocating, Empowering and Transforming Education in TRIO”. The TRIO programs were created to bring transformation in the individual students that we serve, but the true aim is much more ambitious, to realize academic institutions that more accurately represent the communities they reside in. The TRIO professionals are the guides that help acclimate the students and their families to the world of academia. They see the students through Saturday sessions, bridge programs, college visits, academic advising, mentorship, and research experiences, and through this guidance, the students are able to master this environment, and reach the summit of their goals. However, we should also see ourselves as experts to help transform the intuitions and communities we reside in. Just as we guide our students to better prepare themselves for the environment of higher education, we should be preparing our administrators, faculty, and policy makers to better serve our students.

We are at a pivotal moment in our movement. For the first time in our half-century of existence, we exceeded the threshold of a billion dollars in funding. This landmark accomplishment was achieved despite several years of austere budgets for education. This victory reminds us that our advocacy is the voice that moves our leaders to provide resources to help our students achieve their dream of higher education. We must remain diligent, because although we have much to celebrate, there are laws and policies working through the channels of Washington DC and in Baton Rouge that threaten the future of our students.

It is my hope that in this moment, in Shreveport, we fellowship, network, and learn together; empowered to be the change we want to see in the world.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Givens
Greetings LASAPians and Guests,

Are you ready to transform TRIO? I would like to personally, welcome each of you to the 46th Annual Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP) Conference “Advocating, Empowering and Transforming Education in TRIO”. It is an exciting time for LASAP as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always motivated to fight for low-income, first-generation college students. TRIO is confronting a time of many changes and we’re meeting these changes with determination to improve education in TRIO.

TRIO has always transformed to continuously improve high school graduation, post-secondary enrollment, and post-secondary graduation. Despite the challenges TRIO faces with the Prosper Act, we did receive a win this year with the $1.3 billion FY18 omnibus appropriations bill. This bill guarantees a $60 million funding increase for Federal TRIO Programs for a total appropriation of $1.01 billion. Since there is no grant competition scheduled for the 2018-19 year, this increase will put a 6% increase in place for each grant award. Although the fight never ends, we could celebrate that TRIOWorks!

I would like to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over the next few days. The conference has been designed for us to share our thought and exchange ideas on how to chart our journey forward to reach new heights through advocating, empowering and transforming education. This year we celebrate 50 years of Student Support Services, we must continue to provide support to students from disadvantage backgrounds to lead them on a successful educational path. Before I close, I would like to thank each of you for attending the conference and bringing your expertise to our gathering. You, as leaders of TRIO, have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to pave the way for the student that we serve. A special THANKS to the conference committees, sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, special guest speakers and the LASAP Board.

The conference committee hopes you have a productive and fun-filled time, meet new colleagues, and gain new innovative ideas to help you shape the future of TRIO.

Dr. Shrylin M. Davis, RSW
LASAP President Elect
CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, April 15, 2018
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  Pre-Conference Registration  PF Terrace 1
10:10 am -11:10a.m  Budget Management  MR 207
11:10 am - 1:00pm  Lunch on your own
1:00 pm - 2:00pm  Regulations McNair/SSS  MR 206
1:00 pm - 2:00pm  Regulations TS/EOC  MR 207
1:00 pm - 2:00pm  Regulations UB/UBMS/VUB  MR 208
2:00 pm  End of Pre-Conference  PF Terrace 1
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  Executive Board Meeting  RRBR Conf. Rm

Monday, April 16, 2018
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.  Executive Board/Conference Committee Chairs Meeting  RRBR Conf Rm
3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  Conference Registration  PF Terrace 1
4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  Moderator’s Meeting  MR 206
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  Newcomer’s Meeting  MR 207
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  Welcome Plenary I (COE Update)  MR 205-204
8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  President’s Reception  RRBR

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  Conference Registration  PF Terrace 1
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  Plenary II – Political Forum  MR 205-204
10:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.  Concurrent Session I  MR206-MR208
11:30 a.m.-12:20 a.m.  Concurrent Session II  MR206-MR208
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  TRIO Achievers Luncheon  MR 201-203
3:00 p.m.-3:50 p.m.  Concurrent Session III  MR206-MR208
4:00p.m.-5:20 p.m.  Plenary III  MR 205-204
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  Dinner on your own
8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  Hospitality  President Suite

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  Plenary IV  MR 205-204
10:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.  Concurrent Session IV  MR 206-MR208
11:30 a.m.-12:20 a.m.  Concurrent Session V  MR 206-MR208
12:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.  Lunch on your own
2:30 p.m-4:30 p.m.  Plenary V/ELI Presentation  MR 205-204
4:30 p.m-5:00 p.m.  Elections  PF Terrace 1
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  LASAP Service Awards  RRBR
9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  Hospitality Suite  President Suite

Thursday, April 19, 2018
9:00 a.m.-10:10 a.m.  Past President Breakfast  RRBR
10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  Closing Plenary VI  RRBR
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  Executive Board Meeting  RRBR
LASAP FOUNDERS

In 1973, under the wisdom and guidance of the late Walter O. Mason Jr., the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs was founded.

Ruth Bradford  
Upward Bound  
Grambling University

James A. Caillier  
Upward Bound  
Univ. of Southwestern LA

Rosetta Days  
Student Support Services  
Grambling University

Fred Harris  
Student Support Services  
Southern Univ. B. R

Carlye Hithe  
Upward Bound Ed.  
Xavier University

Robert MacFarland  
Talent Search  
New Orleans

Jacqueline M. Peters  
Ed. Talent Search  
Southern Univ. B. R.

Lois F. St. Amant  
Upward Bound  
Southern Univ. B. R.

C. Norman St. Amant  
Student Support Services  
Southern Univ. B. R.

Adrienne Tervalon  
Upward Bound  
Dillard University

Virginia Welch  
Upward Bound  
Xavier University

Willie Zanders  
Upward Bound  
Loyola University

“\textit{It should be the responsibility of every American citizen to develop and promote procedures to assist people to overcome the effects of discrimination of opportunities.}”

Walter O. Mason, Jr.
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<td>Beatrice Wallace</td>
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<td>Joseph Givens</td>
<td>Donald Doffoney</td>
<td>Dr. Marvette Thomas</td>
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<td>Conference Chairperson</td>
<td>Shrylin Davis</td>
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<td>Betty Fagbeyiro, Reta Stewart</td>
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<td>Decorations</td>
<td>Kendria Jones</td>
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<td>TRIO Achievers</td>
<td>Desiree Ephrom, Pamela Bentley</td>
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<td>Jasmine Brown</td>
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<td>New Comers</td>
<td>Lurtisha Simon, Donta Mills</td>
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<td>Publication (Conference Booklet)</td>
<td>Timothy Williams</td>
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<td>Community Service</td>
<td>Whittney Smith, Ciara Reed</td>
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<td>Cheryl Wheeler, Morkeith Phillips, Joseph Hart</td>
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<td>Kimberly Caruso, Jamie Flanagan</td>
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<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Ava Foy, Morkeith Phillips</td>
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<td>Elections/Nominations</td>
<td>Consuella Briggs</td>
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<td>Ads/Exhibits/Vendors</td>
<td>Charcie Robins</td>
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<td>Ava Foy, ELI Class</td>
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<td>Consuella Briggs, Valori Washington</td>
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<td>Fundraiser</td>
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<td>Visitor Hospitality</td>
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FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE...

The Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants.

Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares eligible participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and academic instruction in the core subject areas.

Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs supports training to enhance the skills and expertise of project directors and staff employed in the Federal TRIO Programs.

Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree.

Educational Talent Search identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education.

Student Support Services provide opportunities for academic development; assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

Upward Bound Math and Science is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students with the goal of helping students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in math and science, and ultimately careers in the math and science profession.
2018 SERVICE AWARDS

Thank You for your service

5 years
Jasmine Brown
Ernest Flowers

10 years
Cheryl Ridley
Lataisha Tate
Bessie Whitehurst
Tonja Whitaker-Prudhomme

15 years
Roshanna King
Zenobia Henderson
Jean Ware

20 Years
Craig Winchell
Deborah Hollier

25 years
Ronald Abel
Lynette Bates
EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE

Congratulations!

Desiree Ephrom
Donnetta Flowers
Valori Washington
Title: Budget Management

Abstract: Every TRIO organization needs to run their program on an effective budget. The workshop will help you develop and manage your budget according to TRIO guidelines.

Presenter:
Mr. Ron Abel has been the Director of three Upward Bound and two Upward Bound Math Science programs at Southeastern Louisiana University since 1999. Prior to this appointment, he was the Assistant Director for Veterans Upward Bound at Southeastern. He has served as state president in Louisiana as well as treasurer and finance chair on the regional level. He now serves as President-elect for the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs. He founded and served as Board President for the Tangipahoa Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, a nonprofit agency that provides three Louisiana parishes with drug prevention services. A former Mormon Bishop, he is active in community service with the Church and the Kiwanis organization. Ron graduated with a degree in business from Louisiana State University and received his MBA from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Title: EOC/Talent Search Regulations

Abstract: Mr. Randolph Holly of COPE and Mr. Donald Doffoney of UL Lafayette hope to present to you information on the rules and regulations of the Talent Search and EOC Programs. This information will consist of an overview of the particular program being presented including a definition of each program, eligibility criteria, eligible participants, and services which just and which may be provided. We will also touch on various definitions used for each program and assurances that must be met. We will talk about the why’s and how’s of operating the different programs and other requirements that a grantee must meet. In addition, there will be an open questions period where we will attempt to give you satisfactory answers to the best of our combination of over 70 years of experience.

Presenters:
Mr. Doffoney has earned both a bachelors in Economics and a Master’s in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from UL Lafayette. He began his professional career as the Federal Projects Coordinator for the City of Jeanerette. Since 1979, he has been with the Department of Special Services at UL Lafayette working with various TRIO programs, including Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and primarily Educational Talent Search in which he is Project Director. Mr. Doffoney has provided workshops and seminars all over the US on college preparation and financial aid. He is a member of the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA), member and Past-President of the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP), former Board Member of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP), member of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.
Title: SSS/McNair Regulations

Abstract: This professional development seminar is designed to assist TRIO personnel and institutional representatives with understanding the legislation and regulations governing the SSS and McNair Programs as well as knowledge in the expectations, rights, and responsibilities of institutions and agencies that agree to sponsor TRIO grants.

Presenters:
Mr. Joseph Givens is the Director of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Louisiana State University, a program that he has worked with since 2008. Prior to this appointment, he was the Assistant Director for Educational Talent Search at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. He has served in leadership roles on both state and regional levels, including his current position of President for the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs. He is also an advocate for marginalized artists and specializes in the scholarly investigation of artists and art movements neglected in the historical canon. He teaches courses on Outsider Art, Occulture, and other topics of marginalized art, and has presented papers at the International Comics Art Conference in conjunction with ComicCon International and is a contributing author to Oxford University Art Online.
Frances Welch, originally from Los Angeles, California, has resided in Natchitoches Louisiana for the past 30 years. Mrs. Welch graduated from Dartmouth College with a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a minor in Education. She later earned a Master’s Degree from Northwestern State University (NSU) in Student Personnel Services, with an emphasis in Counseling. She has been employed at NSU in the Student Support Services Program for a total of 16 years: where she has held the positions of Counselor, Advisor/Instructor, Assistant Director, and currently serves as Director.

From 2001 to 2005, Mrs. Welch left TRIO to serve as the Executive Director for the Natchitoches Parish Council on Aging. She also served as corporate secretary/treasurer for Welco International Incorporated and was owner-operator of FASType in Natchitoches. She also worked in the Aerospace industry for Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas Corporation and Northrop Corporation. In January of 2006, Mrs. Welch returned to NSU and Student Support Services, where she continues to pursue her passion of helping students achieve their dreams. Mrs. Welch’s main focus is on teaching students how to clarify and work towards their goals, while pursuing their undergraduate degree in a timely manner.

Mrs. Welch is active in her community, serving as a member on the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Foundation Board and on the Board of Directors for the Cane River Children’s Home. She has been married to Arthur Welch, Jr. for 37 years and they have successfully raised two children and are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren.

Title: VUB/UB/UBMS Regulations

Abstract: This professional development seminar is designed to assist TRIO personnel and institutional representatives with understanding the legislation and regulations governing the Upward Bound programs as well as knowledge in the expectations, rights, and responsibilities of institutions and agencies that agree to sponsor TRIO grants.

Presenters:
Tracie L. Thomas is a TRIO programs consultant with over 10 years professional TRIO experience in the New Orleans area with the Upward Bound and Ronald E. McNair Scholars Programs. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership program (Higher Educational Administration concentration) at the University of New Orleans with a research focus on postsecondary preparation and its impact on the persistence and completion of first-generation, low-income minority students.
Tracie previously served on the LASAP Executive Board as Board Secretary in 2012-2016. Additionally, she is a member of the 2017-2018 COE Priority 1 Training Faculty for the McNair Program Reporting and Performance requirements.

Ms. Riley is the Director of Upward Bound Math and Science, Talent Search Central Connect, and the McNair Scholars programs at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). Her responsibilities include designing, implementing, administering, supervising, evaluating, and project management. She is a proud graduate of UCO where she received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees.

Ms. Riley has over 16 years of experience in college access and success programs in Higher Education. She has held multiple leadership positions within the state of Oklahoma and the Southwest Regional TRIO professional organizations. She is an active member of the UCO African American Faculty Staff Association and the Latino Faculty and Staff Association. Ms. Riley has conducted numerous presentations and trainings related to professional development and management and is a faculty member for UCO TRIO Priority 4 Trainings.
2018 TRIO ACHIEVERS

Raven Jackson
Kenneth Carmouche
Jasmine Spear
Marquis Hall
Darielle Trotter-Williams
Rickela Q. Selmon
Marilyn Hagan-Ugwanyi

Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

Kofi Annan
PLENARY AND GUEST SPEAKERS

**Dr. David Waldherr** founded Cambridge in 1990 with the mission of helping all students, regardless of ability and income level, build core college readiness skills, increase test scores, and gain admission and scholarships to schools of their choice. Over five million students have used Cambridge’s materials and services. As a recognized expert on implementing effective skill-building programs, Dr. Waldherr has presented at over 450 educational events nationwide, sharing best practices in sustaining student growth. Today, Cambridge materials are used by more than 4,000 schools nationwide.

For fifteen years, **Dr. Melva Williams** has worked in Higher Education. Currently, she serves as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at SUSLA, and formerly as Associate Dean of the College at Centenary.

Williams is very active in state and national service and has received numerous commendations commemorating her dedication. She is an alumna of Leadership Louisiana, 40 Under 40, and was named by the Shreveport Chamber as Top Professional of the Year. Most notably, she was one of 61 people selected in America to participate in the Presidential Leadership Scholars program that develops national service projects with three former American Presidents (President George H. W. Bush, President William J. Clinton, and President George W. Bush).

She is a board member for the Robinson Film Center, Caddo Council on Aging, YWCA, Board President for Extensions of Excellence, founding board member for the Higher Education Leadership Foundation and Vice President of the Shreveport Charter Foundation (SCF) that built the first new school, Magnolia School of Excellence, in Caddo Parish in over 30 years.

**Dr. Arnold Mitchem**, President Emeritus of the Council for Opportunity in Education, has been a voice for low-income, first-generation students and individuals with disabilities his entire career. Thanks to his work, the federally funded TRIO Programs have expanded by nearly 400% and now serve more than 872,000 students at 1,200 colleges and universities.

He began his career on the History faculty at Marquette University in Milwaukee and was named the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program in 1969. He relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1986 to serve as President of the Council for Opportunity in Education until October 2013.

Dr. Mitchem has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from eleven universities: CUNY-Lehman College in New York; DePaul University; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; University of Liverpool, England, Marquette University; Marycrest College; University of Massachusetts at Boston; Lewis University; St. Joseph University in Philadelphia; St. Louis University; and SUNY Buffalo State.
Ollie S. Tyler was born and reared in Caddo Parish in Northwest Louisiana. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Grambling State University, Master of Education degree from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, and completed 42 hours of graduate and post baccalaureate work above Master’s Degree at several universities: LSU-Shreveport, Northwestern State University and Southern University-Shreveport. Mayor Tyler received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Centenary College in April, 2017. She has been an educator for more than four decades and was appointed as the first woman and first African American to serve as Superintendent of Schools for Caddo Parish Public School System, which consisted of 44,000 students. She was married to the late Rev. James C. Tyler and is the proud mother of one son, Tony Tyler, one stepdaughter, Wanda Tyler Kimble and two grandchildren, Kayberlyn and Larry Jr.

Mrs. Tyler has devoted her life to education and serving her community. She was named the Louisiana Superintendent of the Year for 2006-2007. She was inducted into the Jr. Achievement Business Hall of Fame in North Louisiana in 2006. She received the 2007 Athena Award for excellence in leadership and service for improving the quality of life for others in her community. Phi Delta Kappa also honored her with the National Citation Award, which is given to one who has made contributions to the welfare of mankind, contributions for education, and one who is a humanitarian. Mrs. Tyler is also a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minority Business Council. In addition, she was selected as one of the 10 Most Influential Women in Northwest Louisiana, New Orleans City Business “Woman of the Year,” as well as a recipient of Women Who Make A Difference Award. Mayor Tyler received the 100 Women of Distinction Leadership Award of the Century in North Louisiana.

Mrs. Tyler served on the Governor’s Education Transition Team in 2004, and she served on the Governor’s Louisiana Women’s Policy and Research Commission from March 2008 to January 2012. On a national level, Mrs. Tyler served on the Deputies Leadership Commission’s Executive Committee for State Deputy Superintendents from March 2008 to June 2011. Her leadership has been recognized in two nationally-published educational journals—Education Week and The Administrator.

Mrs. Tyler led the way in education innovation and reform throughout the state of Louisiana. She was appointed as the State Deputy Superintendent of Education for Louisiana in August 2007 and was the first African American to hold this position. On May 16, 2011, Mrs. Tyler became the Acting State Superintendent of Education for Louisiana. As Acting State Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Tyler managed all staff in the Louisiana Department of Education and worked directly with all 70 local school superintendents, the Governor’s Office, Louisiana legislators, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and other stakeholders to implement statewide programs/initiatives to improve the education of approximately 700,000 students.

On January 19, 2012, Mrs. Tyler retired from the Louisiana Department of Education. She spent 43 years in education, serving the children of Louisiana. She is a member the Upper Zion Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. On Dec. 6, 2014, Shreveport voters elected her as Mayor of Louisiana’s third-largest city – Shreveport. Mayor Tyler’s vision for the city is that Shreveport will be a thriving city where every citizen is afforded a safe environment, economic opportunity, education and training and a great quality of life.
**Patricia Mahomond** is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in Washington, DC. She reports directly to COE President, Maureen Hoyler and her responsibilities include identifying and cultivating opportunities and partnerships to help advance COE’s mission to achieve college access and success for low-income students, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. Patricia is also the staff liaison for the COE board’s Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives committee. She finds COE’s mission personally and professionally meaningful and is interested in finding ways to help ensure that first generation students are afforded the opportunity to succeed professionally. Patricia’s journey at the council began with presenting **EMPOWER**, The College Readiness Analytical Solution at national conferences. This warehouse, intelligence and analytics tool was developed by COE with the assistance of a Department of Education I3 (Investing in Innovation Fund) grant.

Patricia’s background includes over 15 years of experience in business development, outreach, partnerships, and media relations planning. She has provided software and media solutions to organizations and leading companies such as Disney, Bacardi and Burger King and has advised clients in using technology to manage data and media needs. Patricia attended the State University of New York for both her undergraduate and graduate studies in American Studies. She looks forward to continuing to use her skills for the good of the council, TRIO, and first generations students.

**Rhonda Robinson** is currently the Director of the Discovery: Upward Bound Math and Science TRIO Program, and the Enterprise: Classic Upward Bound Program at Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge Louisiana. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from Southern University in 1982, and a Master of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from Southern University in 1987.

Rhonda’s affiliation with Upward Bound began in 1975 when she was admitted as a student from Mckinley Senior High School. That association later transformed into continuous summer employment with Upward Bound while she studied as an undergraduate and graduate student at the University. After college, she worked part-time from 1995-1999 as the Classic Upward Bound Program Coordinator, and in 2000, was hired as the Director of the Classic Upward Bound Program. She was elected President of the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs in 2010 and 2011. Consequently, she served on the Board of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs.

Rhonda is a well-versed individual who lives her life with passion, perseverance, and grace. She is an authority on 60’s and 70’s pop music and artists and appreciates Victorian era literature and movies.

**Victoria McWilliams** is the Coordinator for the Educational Talent Search program at The University of Texas at Arlington. She has been with the Talent Search program for almost four (4) years now and is currently serving as the Secretary for the Texas TRIO Association.

Before working for TRIO, she worked as an Academic Advisor for different departments across The University of Texas at Arlington campus for ten (10) years and prior to that she taught 7th grade regular and Pre-AP Texas history in South Dallas. She received her Master’s Degree in Social Work from Texas Woman’s University in 2008 and is currently working on completing her Ph.D. in Higher Education at The University of North Texas in Denton. Her dissertation is on Former Wards of the State: Factors of Persistence in Undergraduate Education.
Diane Watkins Atkins is the daughter of the late Mr. Kenneth Watkins, Sr. and Mrs. Mamie E. Watkins and the wife of Mr. Robert W. Atkins for the last 23 years. She is a product of the Caddo Parish School System. Mrs. Atkins attended Walnut Hill and is a 1976 graduate of Huntington High School. Mrs. Atkins knows that one can be well-educated in the Caddo System and that education can open many doors of opportunity.

Mrs. Atkins has been blessed to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Grambling State University and Northwestern State University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Speech and English Education and a Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision. Mrs. Atkins has worked as a teacher at Southwood High School, Fair Park High School, and Huntington High School. In addition to teaching, she coached debate, produced plays, and sponsored pep squad, and dance line. She has worked as an assistant principal at Hamilton Terrace Learning Center, Woodlawn High School, Fair Park High School, and Oak Terrace Alternative School; principal at Oak Park Elementary School.

She is currently the Chief Human Resource Officer for Caddo Public Schools and the former Associate Superintendent of Schools for the East Baton Rouge Public School System for 2010-2014. Mrs. Atkins served at Assistant Superintendent of Montgomery Public Schools during the 2008-2009 school years and she served as the Director of the Attendance and Census Department of the Caddo Parish School System for 10 years. Mrs. Atkins worked closely with the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish, Learning to Finish through the Alliance for Education to address truancy in Caddo Parish, the Disproportionality Committee to address the disproportionate number of minority students in Caddo Parish Schools, the State of Louisiana Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program, STEP-Strategies to Empower People, as well as attending training on Legal Issues of Educating Children with Disabilities.

Mrs. Atkins is a lifelong member of the New Hill CME Church where she has taught Sunday School, and she currently serves as vice-president of the Stewardess Department, President of the Missionary Department and on the Board of Christian Education. Soror Atkins holds active memberships in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a Silver Star and one of the chapter’s charter members and former presidents. It is her honor and privilege to serve her community through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Soror Atkins believes that to whom much is given, much is required and with our God all things are possible.

Donald Doffoney has earned both a bachelors in Economics and a Master’s in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from UL Lafayette. He began his professional career as the Federal Projects Coordinator for the City of Jeanerette. Since 1979, he has been with the Department of Special Services at UL Lafayette working with various TRIO programs, including Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and primarily Educational Talent Search in which he is Project Director.

Mr. Doffoney has provided workshops and seminars all over the US on college preparation and financial aid. He is a member of the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA), member and Past-President of the Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP), former Board Member of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP), member of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.
**Ruth Williams Johnson**, native New Orleanian, directs the Southern University at New Orleans Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound Math & Science Programs. Johnson has served as Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs President 2005-2006; South West Association of Student Assistance Programs President 2007-2008; Council for Opportunity in Education Secretary and National Conference Co-chair 2009. Johnson is wife to Dr. Vincent T. Johnson (retiree) and mother of David, Niani, and Henry Price.

**Robert L. Carmouche** currently serves as the TRIO Director for 15 different TRIO Programs at UL Lafayette. He has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Mathematics Education and a Master’s Degree with a major in Administration and Supervision. Robert has been administrating TRIO Programs for 47+ years and has been dealing with COE Fair Share since 1986.

**State Senator Wesley T. Bishop** represents a new generation of political leadership which is focused upon charting a progressive course of action for his community. As such, he has worked across party lines to effectuate positive social and economic change throughout the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. Senator Bishop was elected on October, 2015 to represent the Louisiana’s 4th Senatorial District with 65% of the votes cast in a three person field. In that capacity, he serves as Vice Chair of the Senate & Governmental Affairs committee, as well as a member of the Finance, Labor, Judiciary, Homeland Security, Audit Advisory and Joint Budget committees.

Initially elected in 2011 to represent a district that was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, he was overwhelmingly chosen and received 75% of the votes cast. During his rookie session as a lawmaker he was instrumental in leading the fight to stop the merger of Southern University at New Orleans and the University of New Orleans. In addition, he has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in his district and city by addressing the issues of crime and criminal justice reform, early childhood and higher education, economic development/job creation and increasing affordable housing options.

A native of the lower ninth ward in New Orleans, he currently serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Southern University at New Orleans. In this capacity, he is the youngest senior level administrator in the history of the university. He is also a practicing attorney and serves Of Counsel at the Middleburg Riddle Group and Spears & Spears Law Firms. Senator Bishop holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans, where he served as Student Body President. He earned a Master’s of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi - where he finished first in his class. Additionally, he received a Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University College of Law.

Senator Bishop is married to Judge Shannon Bruno Bishop and they are the proud parents of two sons, John Wesley and Justin. The family attends Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and he is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
**SWASAP President Joseph Givens** is the Director of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Louisiana State University, a program that he has worked with since 2008. Prior to this appointment, he was the Assistant Director for Educational Talent Search at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. He has served in leadership roles on both state and regional levels, including his current position of President for the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs. He is also an advocate for marginalized artists and specializes in the scholarly investigation of artists and art movements neglected in the historical canon. He teaches courses on Outsider Art, Occulture, and other topics of marginalized art, and has presented papers at the International Comics Art Conference in conjunction with ComicCon International and is a contributing author to *Oxford University Art Online*.

The Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) is a non-profit, regional association whose purpose is to advance and defend the ideal of educational opportunity for all TRIO eligible individuals. SWASAP provides to its members the guidance and support needed to foster those activities necessary to enable the target population to persist in achieving their educational goals.

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Many students have situations that some adults would never understand. Imagine going home to an empty house. Imagine being sexually assaulted and constantly looking at the perpetrator because no one believed you. Imagine dealing with constant thoughts of “not being good enough” because you were the only child given up for adoption, while your biological siblings are far away. The list goes on and on. So many students are dealing with true situations, something they probably wish they can change, but they cannot. It is a harsh reality for many. Educators are given the responsibility to realize diversity far beyond color and culture. The objective of this session is for all professionals in educators to understand that the labeled “bad child” may have life issues that cause the behavior and backlash. It’s time to embrace those children, see life from their lenses, and embrace the diversity of life.

General Financial Aid presentation will explore the bases of financial aid; federal aid, state aid, repayment options, institutional aid, packaging of awards by the institution, military aid, and private aid.

In the spirit Advocating, Empowering and Transforming Education in TRIO, we look at how we serve our customers. Participants will review proven practices by one of the nation’s leading organizations and discuss strategies to take customer service to the next level.

Retention and graduation rates among African American male students have received considerable coverage in recent years. Unfortunately, the literature reveals that African American male students, many who are top achievers in high school, go on to enroll in community colleges at a steady pace, yet graduation and retention rates are the lowest among this group. Mentoring programs can sometimes have little, if any, impact, particularly when there is not a clear vision and specific targeted outcomes intended for the mentoring intervention. The ULM TRIO RAMS Mentoring Program does not simply want to provide mentors for young people because they are lacking positive adult role models; instead, we aspire to provide mentors to enable them to successfully make the transition to adulthood.
The ultimate goal is that these young men will become productive engaged adult citizens—law-abiding, connected to meaningful work, in healthy relationships, and living in healthy environments. Since 2014, the University of Louisiana Monroe TRIO Program-Educational Talent Search (ULM TRIO ETS) in partnership with Parks Community Support Services, Inc. has sponsored a Raising Achievement of Male Students (RAMS) mentoring program. The year-round program provides coordinated efforts with area high schools, local businesses, and a cross-section of community leaders.

The mission of the Program is to academically and socially prepare students from first-generation and low-income backgrounds to complete high school, enroll in college, and graduate from college, as well as, to prepare for the ever-changing workforce. The RAMS Mentoring Program provides area high school males with opportunities to excel academically, prepare for college, and develop leadership skills necessary to shape the future around them. Core activities include capacity building, strategic communications, and network building. The ULM TRIO RAMS Program and stakeholders believe that by coordinating our efforts to make this program a success, it will have not only a positive effect on the students, but will also provide a better-educated community; a better prepared workforce; a self-sufficient individual; and a more productive citizen. The TRIO team will provide practical recommendations to effectively implement a mentoring program; summarize the arguments and reemphasize the significance of mentoring program for African American male students.

Title: Louisiana Youth For Excellence (LYFE)  
Presenter: Jamar Ennis

The Louisiana Youth For Excellence (LYFE) program is the Governor’s statewide positive youth development initiative that promotes leadership development, character building, and the awareness of the various consequences of at-risk behaviors, unplanned teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections for Louisiana youth between the ages of 12-19. LYFE provides access to abstinence-centric resources, and access to youth programs to schools, community-based organizations, and parents. LYFE’s programs, events, materials, and curriculums are free. LYFE will present the following information to participants of the LASAP Conference: Parental Involvement “101” Seminar, The LYFE Youth Advisory Committee and Mentorship Program, The “Making A Difference Curriculum!”, and much more.

Title: Empower-Presented by the Council for Opportunity in Education  
Presenter: Ms. Patricia Mahomond, COE Director of Strategic Initiatives

Empower helps you increase college access and change outcomes! The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) developed this secure, cloud-based suite of tools using best-in-class technology to help TRIO staff, community partners, other college access and success professionals, administrators, and other stakeholders’ access and analyze data.

Concurrent Session III: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 (3:00p.m. – 3:50p.m.)

Title: Empowering Students Through Positive Communication  
Presenter: Dr. Joslin Mar-Dai Pickens

According to Winston Churchill, “attitude is the little thing that makes a difference”. Creating a positive attitude and atmosphere for students may take more of a concerted effort than meets the eye. Learning about communication techniques to affirm students that need to create a more positive self-image, as well as those that want to enhance
their positive self-image are equally important. The result of a seemingly small daily gesture, can empower the student with a positive outlook. In addition, using these same communication techniques can motivate the instructor beyond words.

Title: Policy Seminar is over...Now What?  
Presenters: Ms. Darica Simon, Mrs. Stephanie Givens, Dr. Julius Turner, Mr. Robert Carmouche  
Room MR207

The Urgency of Now ....more than ever your voice is needed as a TRIO professional to advocate on behalf of your program and students. Do not fret if you did not attend the 2018 policy seminar in Washington, DC because this session is designed with you in mind. A distinguished group of panelists will update you on the 2018 policy message and share next steps for advocacy on the state and federal level.

Title: Ready.....Set...Geaux: What students need to know about college before they arrive on campus!  
Presenter: Deborah Hollier  
Room MR208

The focus in Higher Education - not the focus on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and whether there is going to be enough money to keep funding programs, is all about retention and success. Colleges and Universities are creating new units, applying pressure to old units and demanding that we influence students so that they graduate. The reality is that we all have students who will succeed and those will be our TRIO achievers. However, the conversation needs to focus on the students who are not the achievers. What percentage does not succeed? What are they missing? What are we not providing, doing, etc? What can we do?

Concurrent Session IV: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (10:30a.m. -11:20a.m.)

Title: Statistics Lie: Change the Numbers (for students)  
Presenter: Dr. Marquia V. Whitehead  
Room MR206

According to statistics, I should be a welfare and SNAP benefits recipient, low-income, behind bars, or even deceased. Looking back at my story, I am proud, yet humbled, to say that statistics were wrong. Those numbers presented in studies are only that – numbers. However, I also realize that I changed those numbers and others can do the same. My goals in life were far broader than imagined by those who viewed me as the lesser vessel because of the situations that I faced since birth. The objective of this study is to show students that they have the ability, strength, and capabilities to achieve goals beyond those that are expected according to their socioeconomic standings or community upbringing. Although their circumstances may seem unfair, it is not the end of the road. The question remains: are you willing to change the numbers?

Proposal Title: Redesigning Leadership in the Workplace: “The Superman within - Building Team Talent through Leadership.  
Presenter: Dr. Tuesday Mahoney, Assistant Vice Chancellor for College Access SUSLA  
Co-Presenter: Ms. Sheila Swift, Program Director Radiologic Technology SUSLA  
Room MR207

This presentation will provide an exploration of leadership styles that aim to define leadership, shared methodologies, and employee moral techniques by engaging in an assessment of unique talents that enhance leadership skills.
The presenter will share quality enhancement techniques that explore leadership strategies. The presenters will implement a leadership assessment that will direct the participants to their various leadership styles. Venue for discussion will hold with the participants that guide them through the evidence-based practice to address the issues of leadership in the workplace and equip each with a pathway to understanding how to become successful leaders. Presentation outcomes participant will be able to (1) complete a leadership assessment, (2) understand leadership levels for professional growth and development, and (3) implement success strategies for building team moral through the understanding of their personal leadership styles.

Empowering the TRIO Student Through Business & Public Speaking Etiquette
Presenter: Tonja Whitaker Prudhomme
Room MR208

This session will explore how empowering the Trio Student-Middle school/High school students with Business and Public Speaking Etiquette helping them to become more competitive in the college and job market. The goal is to Conduct etiquette classes, develop curriculum with critical etiquette skills to help with their personal and professional success. Teaching the TRIO Student etiquette is designed to improve the quality of life for the TRIO students (all students) by empowering them with crucial social and professional etiquette skills.

Concurrent Session V: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.)
Title: TRIO Fun with Kahoot
Presenter: Mr. Brian A. Smith
Room MR206

Kahoot is a free game-based learning platform for teachers of awesome, classroom superheroes and all learners. Kahoot makes learning fun for any subject, in any language, on any device, for all ages! Play, learn, have fun and celebrate together! Instructional games are gaining acceptance in the classroom as the eLearning merits of student engagement and immediate feedback are recognized. Within higher education, the use of these tools is often limited due to lack of time, insufficient experience, or doubts regarding the scholarly merits of such activities. Kahoot is a popular eLearning tool that can easily be used to add vitality, student engagement, and meta-cognitive supports to higher education classrooms with limited instructor or student training required. The free online learning platform has gained wide acceptance globally with more than 30 million users worldwide, and it is based on current user-centered and behavioral design methodologies. Student responses and our experiences using Kahoot in graduate and undergraduate classrooms indicate that students welcome the use of this game. The real-time feedback provides opportunities for professors in various disciplines to tailor their instruction based on student understanding on quizzes while the surveys allow for anonymous classroom participation, which further engages all students. BRING YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR LAPTOP...

Title: Green Youth Foundation
Presenter: Eboni Preston
Room MR207

The Greening Youth Foundation’s mission is to work with diverse youth and young adults in an effort to develop environmental stewards, promote environmental education, and provide service opportunities that create pathways to careers in conservation. Through internships, apprenticeships, and service crews, the Greening Youth Foundation (GYF) provides participants with skills, transformative experiences, and support that prepares them as the next generation of global environmental leaders.
Using specialized trainings, marketable certifications, and mentorship, GYF places over 500 youth and young adults in positions each year across the United States, 3 U.S. territories, Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia. GYF hopes to partner with LASAP in an effort to support the TRiO program, and provide students with opportunities for advancement in their academic journeys and professional careers.

Title: LASAP’s 2018 Inaugural Advocacy Seminar: To Educate is to Advocate

Presenters: LASAP 2018 ELI Class (Ms. Desiree Ephrom, Ms. Valori Washington, & Ms. Donnetta Flowers)

The LASAP ELI Class will announce the Inaugural Advocacy Seminar with the emphasized theme “To Educate is to Advocate: TRIO WORKS!” We will breakdown the general purpose and benefit of the advocacy seminar, which is to inform and prepare the membership of the importance of advocacy at the local, state and national level. We intend to prepare STAFF and Alumni to share their TRIO stories with State Representatives that directly and indirectly affect TRIO programs. Advocacy is a method that we must consistently utilize to effectively spread the word of the importance and effectiveness of TRIO!

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-Beth Clemens, Ivy Tech Community College’s Fort Wayne Campus

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