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NEVADA'S P-16 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

● WHAT IS NEVADA'S P-16 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM?

Nevada's P-16 Educational Support Program - NESP for short - is a program largely based on the philosophy of the federally funded TRIO programs. Additionally, NESP is based on the very successful Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) operating in the state institutions of California and New York. The EOP programs are state funded initiatives that utilize the TRIO philosophies to expand services to populations that do not meet the federal qualifying guidelines but are nonetheless in need of the valuable services.

● WHAT ARE TRIO PROGRAMS?

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, the United States Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These Programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRIO Programs. TRIO funds are distributed to institutions through competitive grants. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

Over 2,000 TRIO Programs currently serve nearly 850,000 low-income Americans between the ages of 11 and 30. Over 1,200 colleges, universities, community colleges, and agencies now offer TRIO Programs in America.

For the past three decades, TRIO programs have posted an impressive performance record. Students in the TRIO Upward Bound programs are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in TRIO; Students in the TRIO Student Support Services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program.

There are a total of 16 TRIO programs currently operating at four of the institutions of higher education within the State of Nevada. In 2001-2002, the retention rate for participants in the TRIO Student Support Services program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, (95%) was significantly higher than that of the institution's general student body (71.9%). Additionally, the TRIO Upward Bound participants at UNLV graduated at a higher rate (95%) than their peers within the State (70.1%) and the Clark County School District (76%).

From: *DR. TRACY B. COTTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*
C 1/6

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: *3/24/03* ROOM: *3143* EXHIBIT *C*
SUBMITTED BY: *DR. TRACY COTTON*

● WHAT SERVICES WILL NESP PROVIDE?

Using the TRIO infrastructure, NESP will assist more than 15,000 low-income and first-generation-college students with the matriculation processes of secondary and postsecondary education. For example, NESP will provide concentrated support services to high-school students who, due to academic deficiencies, perform poorly on standardized tests (e.g., the SAT, ACT, and Nevada High School Proficiency Examination). Likewise, NESP will focus on assisting high-school students with completing financial aid, scholarship, and admissions applications. Finally, NESP will offer services to support students after they arrive at their respective college or university.

NESP Services will include:

- Outreach
- Center for Academic Assistance and Training
- Summer Bridge Program
- First Contact Program
- Free Tutoring
- Intrusive Academic Advising
- Academic Progress Checks
- Recognition Program
- Student Parent Workgroup

NESP will be staffed by full-time professional counselors/advisors committed and trained to provide disadvantaged students with academic, career and personal counseling. Counselors will be seen by appointment and during walk-in hours.

● NESP OUTREACH

NESP is designed to be a P-16 comprehensive educational support program built on the infrastructure of the highly successful TRIO programs. For this reason, NESP would have an outreach component targeting the elementary, middle, and high schools with the highest concentration of academically at-risk students. Services to these schools would include information sessions, early intervention workshops, academic planning sessions with parents, and tours of college and university campuses.

● NESP CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

NESP would include a Center for Academic Assistance and Training (CAAT). CAAT would offer workshops that would help secondary and post-secondary students successfully meet competency requirements, as well as improve learning skills. CAAT would provide specially trained and highly qualified Academic Assistance Interns to give NESP participants highly specific and individualized support. Through the CAAT, NESP will provide the following services:

Tutoring	Learning Skills Workshops	Test Preparation Activities
• Individual • Small groups • Writing lab/Math lab workshop	• Time management • Test-taking • Note-taking • Final exams • Reading-studying system • Memory skills • Concentration • Motivation • Personal growth • Stress reduction • College Survival Skills • Career Explorations • Assertiveness Training • Interpersonal Communication	• Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) • Competency Exams • Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation Test (GSP) • College-Entrance Examination Preparation

● NESP SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

NESP would include a comprehensive summer bridge program, modeled after the TRIO Bridge programs that prepare students (who come from groups with the lowest retention rates) with the necessary study and assimilation skills. Summer Bridge is an invitational NESP program that assists entering freshman with the transition from high school to college. In this three-week academic residential program, students take summer session courses for credit, receive academic advising, attend seminars, and take part in residential programs.

● NESP FIRST CONTACT

NESP staff would welcome new Nevada college students with the following services:

- Personalized orientation to campus life.
- Priority registration for the first two semesters.
- Academic advising.
- Free tutorial assistance.
- An NESP grant (based on full-time status, financial need, and availability of funds).

Once accepted into the NESP Program, each NESP student would be obligated to attend the NESP *First Contact Orientation Program*, as well as an academic orientation program. Only then could students take full advantage of their NESP privileges and register for classes for the incoming semester.

NESP's First Contact Orientation Program would offer to freshmen and transfer students, on separate dates and times, access to NESP Counselors who could respond

to questions and concerns regarding their adjustment to college or university life. Furthermore, the Orientation Program would familiarize students with the rules, regulations, and requirements that are important to academic success.

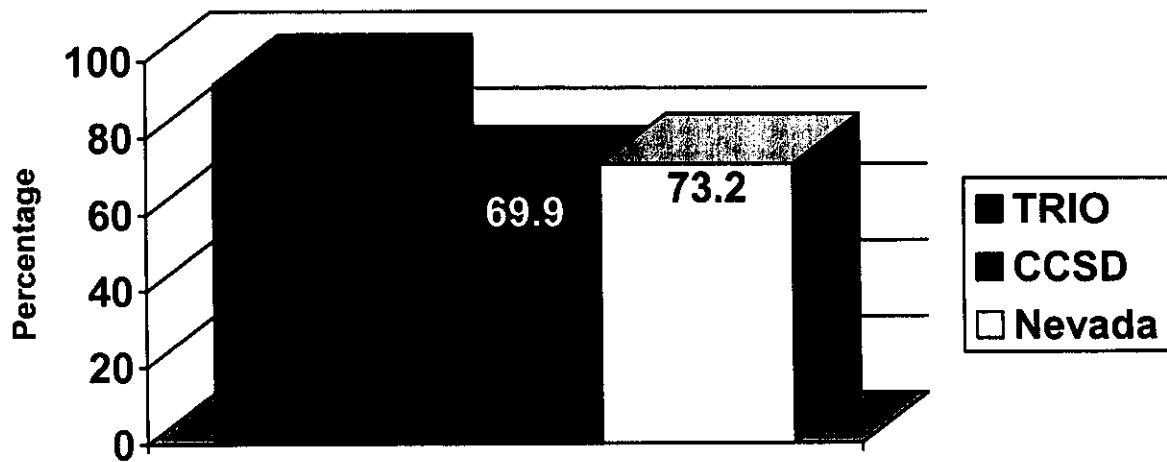
● **NESP MANAGEMENT**

Due to the existing infrastructure for assisting disadvantaged students within the TRIO programs at UNLV, UNR, CCSN and TMCC, the NESP would be housed with the TRIO programs and directed by the TRIO Directors.

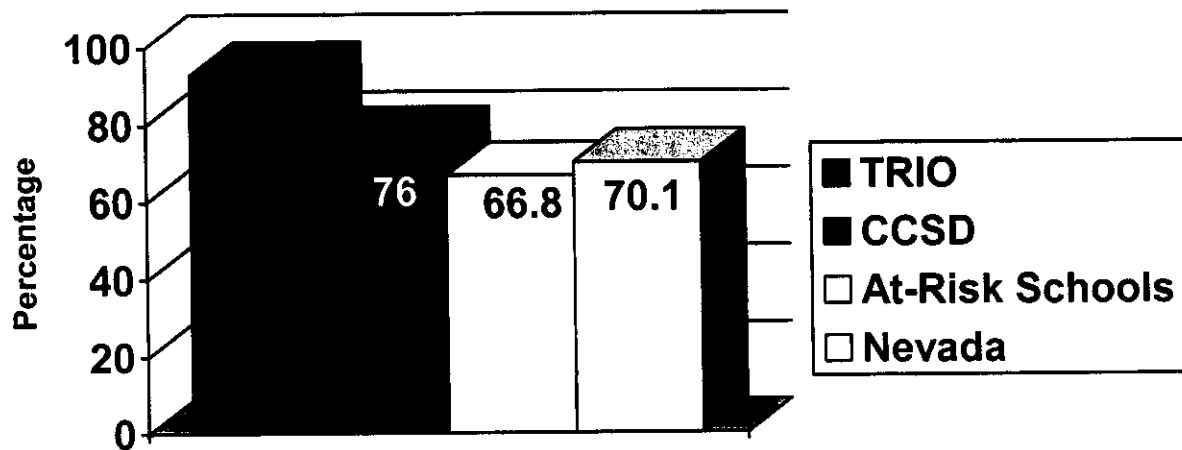
● **NESP FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of the NESP would be \$40 per full-time equivalency (FTE) at each 4-year institution, and \$15 per FTE at each of the 2-year institution, or approximately \$2,080,000. This estimate is based on a 25,000 FTE at UNLV, a 12,000 FTE at UNR, a 30,000 FTE at CCSN and a 10,000 FTE at TMCC.

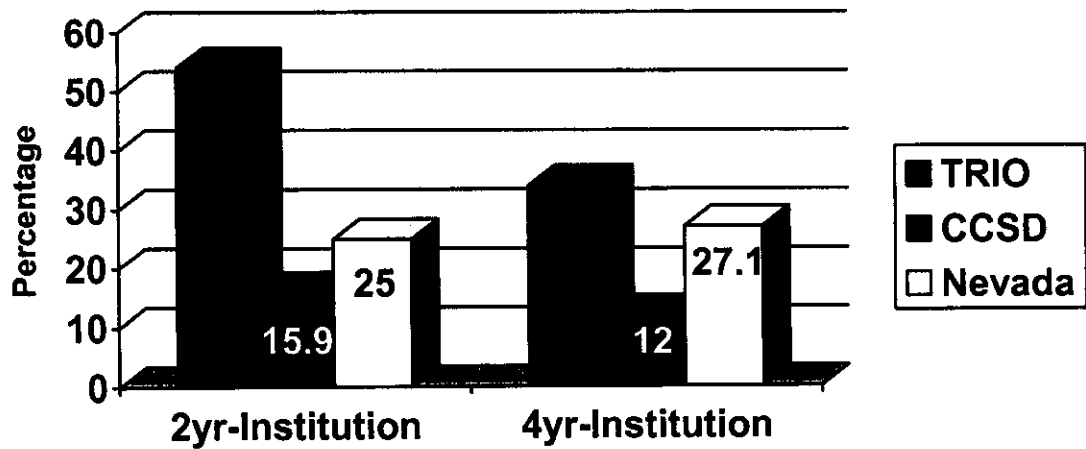
Secondary Retention Rates



Secondary Graduation Rates



Postsecondary Enrollment Percentages 1998 - 2000



Postsecondary Graduation Rates

