**National TriO Week**

Lake Michigan College Federal TRiO programs will celebrate National TRiO Week, February 18 – 23. LMC currently hosts three of the seven TRiO programs: Educational Opportunity Centers, Student Support Services and Upward Bound. In celebration of TRiO Week, the TRiO programs will begin collecting pennies to donate to the LMC Waverunners Relay for Life Team. Collection bottle will be located at various locations on the Napier Avenue, South Haven, and Bertrand Crossing Campuses.

 **TRiO History\***

The TRiO programs were the first national college access and retention programs to address the social and cultural barriers to education in America. TRiO began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The Educational Opportunity Act of 1964 established a pilot Upward Bound Program. In 1965 Upward Bound programs were established by the Office of Economic Opportunity. In 1965 the Higher Education Act created Educational Talent Search. 1968 Special Services for Disadvantaged Students (later known as Student Support Services) was established in 1968. Together, this “TRiO” of federally-funded programs encouraged access to higher education for low-income, first-generation students.

By 1998, the TRiO programs had become a vital in providing line to opportunity, serving traditional students, displaced workers, and veterans. The original three programs had grown to eight: Educational Opportunity Centers and Veterans Upward Bound (1972), Training Program for Federal TRiO programs (1976), the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program (1986), Upward Bound Math/Science (1990), and the TRiO Dissemination Partnership(1998).

More than 1,000 colleges, universities, community colleges, and agencies now offer TRiO Programs in the United States of America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. TRiO funds are distributed to institutions through competitive grants to provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary to promote college access, retention, and graduation. Nearly 790,000 students from middle school through post-graduate study are currently being served by TRiO programs. TRiO students come from families meeting the federal income eligibility guidelines and/or first generation families in which neither parent has earned a college degree.

**LMC TRiO Programs at a Glance\*\***

**Educational Opportunity Centers**: Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs) target displaced or underemployed workers from low-income families. These centers help students choose colleges and guide them through the often confusing financial aid process. An analysis of EOC participants found that 57% of college-ready students were admitted to institutions of higher learning and 56% of EOC participants who had been college dropouts had re-enrolled.

**Student Support Services**: Student Support Services (SSS) programs help low-income and first generation students to successfully begin and stay in college. Participants receive tutoring,

counseling, and remedial instruction in order to achieve their goals of college completion. Nationally, SSS includes specialized programs to serve students with disabilities, ESL students, and students who desire to enter into teaching, health sciences, or STEM fields. The last evaluation of this program determined that SSS participants were more likely to remain enrolled in higher education, accrue more college credits, and earn higher grade point averages than similar students who did not receive such services.

**Upward Bound Programs:** (Upward Bound (UB) is an intensive intervention program that prepares students for higher education through various enrichment courses. Campus-based UB programs provide students instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, science, and foreign language during the school year and the summer. UB also provides intensive mentoring and support for students as they prepare for college entrance exams and tackle admission applications, financial aid, and scholarship forms. In 2007, 77.2% of all students who participated in UB programs immediately enrolled in college in the fall following high school graduation.

**Other TRiO Programs:** Talent Search, Veterans Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science and Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement program. For more information on TRiO programs, visit www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/**trio**/index.html

\*Excerpt from dfwtrioworks: History

\*\*Council for Opportunity in Education National TRIO Day Packet 2013