TRIO Student Meets with Utah Representatives in D.C.

TRIO programs serve individuals from the lowest income category throughout the county, yet they have been continuously considered for decreases in funding with each budget appropriations process since their inauguration in 1965. On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Kyle Ethelbah, Director of the TRIO programs office along with Elizabeth Morales and Isael Torres, undergraduate and graduate student at the University of Utah, had the opportunity to address Utah’s congressional delegation about the continued funding for TRIO. Kyle, Liz and Isael attended the annual Council for Opportunity in Education’s Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. The Policy Seminar is an annual event where TRIO programs from throughout the country (including Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa) convene on Washington, DC to meet with respective congressional representatives. The meetings with Congressional Representatives are intended to ensure that all representatives are aware and familiar with the impact of TRIO programs in their respective communities and to urge continued support during the budget appropriations process.

This year the university was able to send Elizabeth Morales as the Student Support Services student representative to share her story with Utah’s congressional delegation. Elizabeth shared her experience being the first female in her family to go on to higher education with representatives from Senator’s Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch’s office as well as congressional representatives from the offices of Rob Bishop, Christ Stewart, and Mia Love (reps for Congressman Chaffetz were unavailable). She credits the U’s TRIO program for assisting her through her first year as an undergraduate and she hopes to enter the student affairs profession as a result.

As stated, being a part of discretionary programs, TRIO has undergone continued cuts in funding, the most recent being a decrease in funding eliminating services to 53,000 (Continued on page 2)

Kyle Ethelbah, Director of the TRIO programs office, with Elizabeth Morales and Isael Torres, U undergraduate and graduate students.

Note: The newsletter will not be published over the summer, the next issue will be in September.
students nationwide. As such, the student voice is of the utmost importance as the actions at the federal level have a direct impact to students as they are in the process of completing their education. The Utah offices were grateful to have met a student who receives services from a program they normally hear very little about, share with them the importance of their respective vote in the appropriations process. As a result of these meetings, Senator Mike Lee and Representative Chris Stewart’s office agreed to visit a Utah TRIO program, and have already participated in the recent State TRIO Conference which was hosted by the U of U TRIO Office and held in the U’s Heritage Center. Though no office offered direct support, they all remained open to learning more about the impact of TRIO in educational access and the elimination of poverty in the state of Utah.

*These meetings were made possible through non-federal funds.
Student Affairs Diversity Council
Understanding Diversity Seminar Series

Subject: Challenging Perceptions: Why is North “up’?
Presenter: Franci Taylor
Director, American Indian Resource Center
Date: Wed., May 20, 2015
Time/Location: 12:00-1:30 pm
Pano East, Union (4th floor)

Upcoming University and Community Events

Open until May 17th
Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art,
Utah Museum of Fine Arts [more info]

Tuesday, May 5
Lavender Graduation,
Olpin Student Union Theatre [more info]

Thursday, May 7
Community Circle Dialog: Fair Housing in Utah,
The City Library Auditorium, [more info]

Saturday, May 9
2559th Buddha Jayanti 2015,
3030 South Main Street, Suite 200 [more info]

June 4-7
Utah Pride Festival and Parade,
Washington Square, Downtown [more info]

July 24-25
NACIP Intertribal Powwow & Community Festival,
Liberty Park [more info]

Nepal Earthquake Relief: What Can I Do?
Learn more:
The Diane Rehm Show
Google News
Donate:
Mercy Corps: On The Ground in Nepal
Save The Children

For more information and resources, please visit: sadc.utah.edu

Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women’s Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development
Chris Anderson, Housing & Residential Education
Michael Bard, Registrar’s Office
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Stephanie Charles, Financial Aid
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Kris Fenn, Bennion Center
Marci Healy, Conference & Guest Services
Matt McCarthy, Campus Recreation
Nomani Satuala, Orientation / Leadership Development
Kassy Keen, Center for Student Wellness
Chris Macias, TRIO
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
Kai Medina-Martinez, LGBT Center
Sana Muller, ASUU
Duane Padilla, Housing & Residential Education
Rachana Patel, Office of Admissions
Valery Pozo, Career Services
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Office of Inclusive Excellence
Kegan Walker, HRE, AREC

Note: The newsletter will not be published over the summer, the next issue will be in September.