

## ODSA & TRIO Beginnings....

Upward Bound was created by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act and was part of the Great Society's "War on Poverty."

Excerpt below from *"Upward Bound: Portrait of a Poverty Program – 1965-1985,"* William H. James.

*Over twenty years ago, the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime became the Office of Economic Opportunity Task Force chaired by Sargent Shriver. This Task Force was established by President Johnson to create legislation that would be known as the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and was part of the Great Society's "War on Poverty."*

*In August of 1964, the EOA was signed by President Johnson, and shortly thereafter the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was established. The EOA contained a formula dictating that 80 percent of the Community Action Program (CAP) funds were to be allocated to states, while 20 percent could be distributed by Sargent Shriver, the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.*

*The OEO Director eagerly established programs with "national emphasis," first Head Start, then Upward Bound. The Upward Bound Program was considered a part of the Community Action Program but was directed from Washington and received funds from the 20 percent of CAP funds available to Mr. Shriver.*

*At the same time the Federal government was establishing Upward Bound programs, the civil rights movement was having an impact on college campuses. The college students and faculty from the North who were drawn to the South during this era returned to their institutions with a heightened awareness of the low enrollment of low-income and disadvantaged students on colleges campuses both in the North and the South. College students and faculty members expressed concern over the need to increase the representation of disadvantaged high school students on college campuses, a concern that became one of the central features of the Upward Bound program.*

*The Upward Bound programs were spawned by Congressional Legislation in 1964. That is, under the authority of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) funded 18 projects as pilot programs in the summer of 1965. Following the success of the pilot programs, Upward Bound was authorized as a national program under Title 1-A of the Economic Opportunity Act. Thus, the programs were expanded 18 to 220 in 1966.*

TRIO programs first funded in Oklahoma began with six Upward Bound programs, which had their first summer program in the summer of 1966. Those programs included Southeastern Oklahoma State University, East Central University, Bacone College, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Langston University. It is believed that it was largely through Walter O. Mason's connection with the Office of Economic Opportunity that secured the grants for the state. Demonstration projects were in existence at that time; however, the programs in Oklahoma were actual grants.

After meeting together approximately four years informally to discuss Upward Bound problems, the programs had no leadership out of Washington and even met some resistance to organizing from the Department of Education. From the beginning, Walter O. Mason began admonishing directors to get organized so the state would have a voice in Washington. As a result the Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance Programs was

established in 1971 by a handful of TRIO Program directors which included Walter O. Mason and was one of the first to become organized.

In July 1969, the program was transferred to the US Office of Education (USOE) in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW) and the current Upward Bound programs were authorized under section 408 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

In 1964 Talent Search was created by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act and funded by the 1965 Higher Education Act. It was funded through the Office of Education.

At that time Talent Search was a statewide effort and there were counselors placed at various universities across the state. Educational Talent Search programs are designed to encourage middle school, high school and high school dropout students to continue their education. Disadvantaged students who may not be aware of educational opportunities are guided through an exploration of educational and career opportunities including college, technical training programs, business schools and high equivalence programs.

Student Support Services was authorized by the 1968 Higher Education Act Amendment. The SSS programs provide academic support services to eligible college students. These programs are committed to helping college students persist until graduation. Most programs provide individual or small-group tutoring assistance for college course work. Basic skills instruction in reading, writing, math and science is also offered by many Student Support Services programs. Other services include academic and personal counseling, financial aid application assistance, career planning, graduate school advising and exposure to cultural enrichment activities.

Educational Opportunity Centers were authorized by the 1972 Higher Education Act Amendments. These programs promote post-secondary education in communities with large populations of low-income adults who are often unaware of education and career opportunities. Professional career and education counselors help eligible adults select schools or training programs suited to their interests and to complete admissions and financial aid applications. Educational Opportunity Centers also coordinate job and college fairs, public workshops and media promotions which provide education and career information for their communities.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program was authorized in the 1986 Higher Education Act Amendments. These programs increase the number of low-income, minority and first-generation students who pursue doctoral degrees and increase the number of persons from these backgrounds who teach on college faculties. The program provides summer research opportunities for talented undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as special counseling and supplemental activities during the academic year. This program was named in honor of the astronaut that died in the 1986 space-shuttle explosion.

Upward Bound Math/Science was first funded in 1990 and the program was designed to address a critical need for strengthened math and science instruction. These programs, now local as well as regional, typically offer a six week summer program. Students enroll in classes designed to improve and enhance academic skills, help them prepare for college and introduce them to math/science careers.

Veterans Upward Bound programs provide intensive basic skills development and short-term remedial courses for military veterans to help them successfully transition to post-secondary education. Veterans learn how to secure support from available resources

such as the Veterans Administration, veterans associations and various state and local agencies that serve veterans.

The original TRIO program, Upward Bound, identifies promising high school students and assists them with the transition to college. Academic instruction, individual tutoring, study skills development and motivational guidance help eligible students complete their high school curriculum in good standing. Six to eight week on-campus summer residential programs introduce high school students to the college experience through academic instruction and cultural and social activities. Walter O. Mason, Bill Barnett and Bill Watts all assisted with the design of the logo still being used today.

Oklahoma TRIO programs and ODSA members have a rich history of providing assistance to youth and adults who need additional support at many points in their education. With the assistance provided by these programs, many struggling students are motivated and encouraged to reach their educational goals.

Other articles related to TRIO history:

“Upward Bound: In the beginning,” John Groutt and Calvin Hill. Opportunity Outlook, April 2001. (Focus on Upward Bound in Office of Economic Opportunity)

“The History of TRIO: Three decades of success and counting,” Thomas Wolanin, NCEOA Journal, April 1997 (Focuses on legislative history)

“The History of TRIO” Arnold Mitchem, NCEOA Journal, Winter, 1997 (Focus on the state and national organizations)

“A History of the Veterans Upward Bound Program,” Sally Bendixen and Jon Wesby, NCEOA Journal, Fall 1990.

“Association of Special Programs in Region Eight: Historical perspective,” Kathryn Felder, privately printed, March 1987

“The History of WESTOP,” Charles Ratliff, <http://westop.csuchico.edu/resources/Hist.html>, c. 1996.

Major Legislation:

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964

The Higher Education Act of 1965

The Education Amendments of 1968

The Education Amendments of 1972

The Education Amendments of 1976

The Education Amendments of 1980

The Education Amendments of 1986

The Education Amendments of 1992