

Office of the President

November 21, 2011

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I write on behalf of the undersigned associations to share with you the serious concerns we have heard from campus officials with respect to the new funding criteria for the Upward Bound program. The criteria were laid out in the draft application materials published on Oct. 31, 2011.

Upward Bound is a central TRIO program that has helped millions of college students enroll and succeed in postsecondary education. In recent years, funding for this successful program has been reduced by 23 percent per student in real dollars, placing a severe strain on the program.

The campus administrators we have heard from believe the proposed changes will exacerbate the challenges caused by the funding reductions and make it harder for them to provide high-quality services to Upward Bound students. This, in turn, will seriously undermine efforts to achieve the president's goal that the United States rank first in the world in college attainment by 2020.

A number of campus officials have raised this issue with us and we are writing to indicate we share their concerns that the proposed changes to TRIO will have significant, unanticipated effects. We strongly urge you to carefully review the many comments you have received regarding the new funding criteria and to revise the proposal accordingly.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/lw  
cc: David Bergeron

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On behalf of:

ACT

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Association of American Colleges & Universities

Association of American Universities

Association of Governing Boards

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

College Board

Council of Independent Colleges

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Thurgood Marshall College Fund