

# Upward Bound Students Attend TRiO Day

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Nine Upward Bound students from western Oklahoma schools recently attended TRiO Day activities in Oklahoma City. They are (front from left): Tiffany Morgan, Carnegie; Charla Crotts, Elk City; Jessica Sawyer and Dalton Holdge, both of Fort Cobb. Back row-Aaron Anglin, Clinton; David Garza, Fort Cobb; and Cheyenne Tsotaddle, Lupe Peralta and Amy Ratliff, all of Carnegie.

Nine Upward Bound students from western Oklahoma schools recently attended TRiO Day activities with Southwestern Oklahoma State University officials.

The event took place at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Those who attended this year's TRiO Day activities included: Aaron Anglin, Clinton; Charla Crotts, Elk City; David Garza, Dalton Holdge and Jessica Sawyer, all of Fort Cobb; Tiffany Morgan, Lupe Peralta, Amy Ratliff and Cheyenne Tsotaddle, all of Carnegie.

SWOSU's Upward Bound program serves 76 students from nine area high schools.

In an effort to provide educational opportunity for all Americans and eligible non-citizens, Congress initiated the federal TRiO programs through the Higher Education Act of 1965. TRiO offers seven educational outreach programs that are designed to motivate, support and advocate for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

TRiO Day provides an opportunity to spotlight TRiO and educate Oklahoma state officials, media and others regarding the importance TRiO programs have on the state of Oklahoma. Currently, there are 83 TRiO programs across Oklahoma that provides services to 27,000 students. Nationally, there are over 2,700 programs serving nearly 866,000 individuals.

Over 1,000 individuals attended this year's annual event. Oklahoma Secretary of State M. Susan Savage gave the proclamation and among the guest speakers were Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, State Representatives Lisa Billy, Mike Shelton and T.W. Shannon, Oklahoma Senators Jay Paul Gumm and Susan Paddock, and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

Former TRiO participants also spoke, sharing their stories of how TRiO programs helped them overcome barriers that may have potentially kept them from obtaining a college education.

Each year, TRiO Day attendees participate in a community service activity. This year's activity was to collect 1,000 new or gently used books for children ages 3-9. Over 1,800 books were collected and given to Sooner Start to start a library. Sooner Start is an early intervention public service program to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delays.

At SWOSU, Upward Bound is a college preparatory program designed to assist students who have college potential but often do not recognize or understand their

academic and career options beyond high school. Students who participate in Upward Bound receive academic instruction, tutoring, personal and career counseling, ACT test prep, professional mentoring, exposure to cultural events, and assistance in completing college admission, financial aid and scholarship applications.

Additional information about Upward Bound is available by calling director Jamie Novey at 580./span> 774-7029.