The partisan political climate that has characterized the federal government in Washington has been as stifling and disturbing as the cold and inclement weather that has gripped the nation over the last three months. The ideologues define the nation’s economic existence with 19th Century lenses, exhorting individual capitalism, laissez faire economic policies, diminishing governmental regulations, and heralding unbridled freedom to exploit the earth’s natural and human resources, and extolling the mantra that all Americans can prosper, if they would only work hard. Government, they claim, should have a limited role in controlling the means of production.

There is something inherently disingenuous about the notion that education should be cheap. Does that also mean that educators should be compensated poorly? It is time for us to mount a movement to promote the contention that educators are as valuable as the captains of industry, entertainment superstars, and the CEOs of Fortune 500s, on the athletic gladiators we so speciously adore and value, and that we “ain’t cheap.”

The TRiO movement will lead the nation in its quest to truly value education.

Ronald B. McFadden

From the Director’s Desk

The financial obligations of equality of educational opportunity have become so symbolically burdensome that Americans have become increasingly more supportive of local laissez-faire control of education than they are of national standards. Make no mistake about it, TRiO is a national initiative that seeks to apply standards of equality opportunity all across this nation. As TRiO participants, professionals, and supporters, we must be mindful of the needs to provide access that enables all of Americans disadvantaged to be exposed to the highest levels of educational opportunity. We must resist the dumbing down of educational objectives and embrace the principles of national standards that challenge all students, and elevate all aspirations. Cultural differences should morph into opportunities for learning and standardized measures should inform your teaching pedagogy.

More importantly, we must remain cognizant of the erosion of critical thinking skills that have been the byproduct of the influence of technology in higher educations.
Congratulations to EAP Graduates

We witnessed several highly active EAP participants graduate from the University of Tennessee at the end of the Spring 2014. Charles Walton capped off a five-year journey at UTK studying history and political science, and is at home awaiting graduate admission announcements from Ohio State, Columbia University, and North Carolina Chapel Hill. Ebony Lemons received her BS in Engineering, and is enrolled in the Graduate Engineering program here at UTK. Chandler Wallace, another five-year EAP alumni, is at home in Tampa, Florida, tutoring math at a local community college, while applying for graduate schools in Engineering. Cheyenne Flair completed her studies in Food Science and Technology and is enrolled in University of Kentucky for Pharmacy School. Preston Harris received his BS in BCMB and will be enrolling in Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. Paul Zanoni has graduated from College of Nursing and will enroll in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program at UTK. Rayricus Matthews has graduated from Agriculture Leadership Education and Communication and will enroll to University of Georgia for graduate school.

The following list is all of the current and former EAP participants who graduated from UTK in 2013-2014.

Paul Zanoni  
Lori Cross  
LaKiera Grimes  
Alyce Hart  
Nora Bushnag  
Kaadia Montgomery  

Jamiecia Love  
Hajie Sesay  
Phillip Adams  
Raven Lewis  
Ryane Adeniran  
Johnnye Davis Jr  
Dawong Miller  

Preston Harris  
Sean Ruff  
Jasmine Holmes  
Richard Jones  
Porsha Smith  
Shana Ward  
Treva Miller  

Ebony Lemons  
Chandler Wallace  
Rayricus Matthews  
Clara Davis  
Charles Walton  
Cheyenne Flair

EAP Students Birthday Spotlight for August and September

**AUGUST**

2nd Anum Aslam  
3rd Marko Rice  
4th Kiara Brooks  
7th Kristy Williford  
8th Rayricus Matthews  
10th Preston Harris, Jr.  
Sarah Canady  
11th Jeremy Davis  
12th Danielle Hampton  
13th Alice Kimbrell  
Tamara Mosby  
14th Jo’Darius Twillie  
15th April Manns

19th Ashita Zaveri  
20th Xuyuan Kang  
22nd Hongbin Zhang  
Sophia Jones  
24th Bria Chears  
26th Breyanna Hampton  
Jerica Jackson  
29th Corbin Sharp  
Jacob Reed  
30th Syretta Asberry

**SEPTEMBER**

1st Andreius Bates  
3rd Aliyah Price  
6th Clarise Key  
Samantha Stapleton  
10th Paulette Johnson  
11th Daryl Ray  
Tamara Thomas  
13th Miah Gray  
14th Twyneshia Vaughtn  
17th Jonathan Chaffen  
18th Darby Dickerson  
Rodney Williams  
20th Alyce Hart  
21st Marshall Goins  
23rd Kortney Williams  
24th Kendra Duncan  
Sarah Baumgardner  
25th Kyaira Spivey  
Marisha Allen  
28th Treva Miller

Sean Ruff Wins Black Congressional Caucus Internship

Sean Ruff, a senior from Memphis majoring in Political Science, won a coveted internship for Spring 2014, working in the offices of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus. Sean, who intends on entering graduate school to pursue a graduate degree in Urban Planning, was assisting Black Caucus leadership with advocacy issues related to education and TRiO programs in Washington D.C.
Travis Liggins Graduated with Master’s Degree

Travis is a former member of The Educational Advancement Program (EAP). EAP allotted him an opportunity to explore and become acclimated with the campus, while providing him with skills for success and financial aid while trying to both adjusted and pay for college at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville as a first generation student. Travis earned his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology with minors in Adolescent Health and Child and Family Studies. Approaching graduation, EAP afforded him an opportunity to make a campus visit at The Ohio State University, which he eventually attended and graduated with his Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Over the last six years, he has worked as a Resident Assistant, Coordinator for Multicultural and pre-collegiate programs (Summer Bridge), as well as taught leadership courses and advised multiple student-led organizations. Travis currently resides as a Student Success and Retention Specialist for InsideTrack, a for-profit organization that works with multiple Universities or increasing retention rate of its students. He is committed to supporting student success for all identities and have future ambitions of pursuing his Doctorate in the near future.

Na'Sha Austin’s Service Learning Experience at Green Magnet Elementary School

“The warm greetings I receive upon entering the doors of Green Magnet Elementary School every Tuesday afternoon always brighten my day. What I appreciate the most is the energy and excitement the kids have as they walk down the hallway when it’s time for tutoring to begin. As I sit in the computer lab waiting for the students to open the door, the joyous feeling of seeing them that excited to learn, is awesome. The student I work with is always prepared and very patient. I noticed that she is a very dedicated young lady because she never gives up when she makes a mistake; and if she forgets something, she always looks up at me, smiles, and tries to figure the problem out before moving on. The times I have spent helping with after-school tutoring, which is organized by the Beta Theta Foundation, Knox County Schools, and the Great City Schools Partnership, have impacted me in ways I would have never imagined. I really appreciate the idea of being a positive influence on someone else's life as well as allowing them to be an inspiration in mine.”

Hajie Sesay Received Fulbright Finalist

Hajie Sesay is a Political Science and African Studies graduates, and have participated in the EAP program since his Freshman Year. He studied in Africa twice in Dakar Senegal during the spring of 2011, and in Uganda summer of 2013. Hajie have a passion for Africa which he discovered during his time at UTK, and one day hope to contribute in strengthening democracy and civil society in the continent. Recently he was a Fulbright Finalist to study in Senegal.
Jack Kang has Internship at Knox County Health Department

“As an intern and shadow student at the KCHD, I had the privilege of observing many interesting dental cases. I started there the beginning of last semester, and I go in every week. Dr. Carol Shipley (DDS), one of the dentists that I spend most of my time with, gave me so much experience in many ways. Because she saw my enthusiasm and deep interest for hands-on projects, she would save teeth extracted from patients for me to practice drilling on, and then I would complete composite fillings. I’ve learned so much through this, especially the different steps in doing it (from drilling to etching with phosphoric acid for cleaning the tubulins of teeth to polishing until perfection). I also got to practice cleaning out roots with dental pins in preparation for root canal treatments on extracted teeth for a week.

The experience that I’ve gained has brought so much valuable knowledge. Being able to witness the joy of patients of receiving affordable dental care from these exceptionally talented dentists motivated me so much. My time at the clinic has sincerely helped affirmed my desire for becoming a dentist, as it approaches closer and closer everyday!”

Dr. Tiffany Dellard Graduates and Moves to California

Tiffany Dellard, the EAP Counselor, received her Ph.D., from the University of Tennessee in May 2014 in Educational Psychology. Dr. Dellard, who began her work with the Educational Advancement Program in 2006 as a graduate student in charge of database management, the Program’s ListServ, and producing the Program’s Annual Performance Report, completed her dissertation last August 2013. She transitioned into the Counselor position in November 2011. Dr. Dellard now serves as a Community Engagement Director for the San Francisco, California, school district.

EAP Graduate Assistants Present Papers

Taotao Long, Ph.D., candidate in Department of educational Psychology and Counseling, and Tam’Ra-Kay Francis, Ph.D., candidate in Department of Theory Practice of Teacher Education, both Graduate Research Assistants with the Educational Advancement Program, have much to be proud of.

Taotao Long received Outstanding Paper Award and presented her paper at International Conference of Society for Informational Technology and Teacher Education, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Tam’Ra-Kay Francis received 2014 Jhumki Basu Equity Scholar Award at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) Annual International Conference.

Summer Research Institute 2014 Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lisa Bilavarn</th>
<th>Samantha Jones</th>
<th>Alesha Nolen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Caston</td>
<td>Gabriela Little</td>
<td>Melissa Quarles</td>
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<td>Mario Goss</td>
<td>Rayricus Matthews</td>
<td>Daryl Ray</td>
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<td>Marcel Holman</td>
<td>Maria Mejia</td>
<td>Shreya Shah</td>
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<td>Larry Iguobadia</td>
<td>Cynthia Nkem</td>
<td>Jasma Turner</td>
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The Case for TRiO Advocacy

In 2013, the TRiO community grappled with the onset of Sequestration, which translated into a devastating funding reduction across TRiO programs, and more importantly, approximately 69,000 less students served. The TRiO community’s stance was that sequestration was absolutely unacceptable.

Galvanized by the leadership efforts of the Council for Opportunity in Education, and the advocacy efforts of TRiO professionals, students, parents and alumni, the TRiO community has survived and rebounded from the imposed cuts through advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels. COE reports that 95% of the funds lost to sequestration last year have been recovered, and a $52 million funding increase is being sought for FY 2015. If we are successful in securing the increase, it would yield a total appropriation of 890 million in FY 2015. During COE’s recent annual Policy Seminar (March 23 – 25, 2014) in Washington, DC, more than 500 TRiO professionals, students and alumni went to Capitol Hill to make the case for this pivotal increase in TRiO funding. To date, COE reports that 133 members of the House of Representatives have signed on to the FY 2015 TRiO Appropriations Request Letter.

With the Student Support Services (EAP) grant competition on the horizon, a funding increase would allow for more SSS programs (additional students served) to be funded, and it would help to restore the number of students served across all TRiO programs.

TRiO students, staff, parents, alumni and supporters are being encouraged to contact their respective Congressman and Senators, to urge them to be supportive of the requested increase. An investment in TRiO is a sound investment the nations’ future. Be vocal, vigorous, and vigilant as you advocate for TRiO!

TRiO’s 50TH Anniversary / EAP’s 35th Anniversary Celebration

2014-2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the 35th anniversary of the first Educational Advancement Program (Student Support Services) grant at the University of Tennessee.

We will join the national celebrations of the Higher Education Act spearheaded by the Department of Education and the Council for Opportunity in Education.

A UT celebration and EAP/McNair participant reunion and UT TRiO Alumni Chapter creation is planned for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.

EAP Tutor Training: Lifting Others to Achieve Academic Excellence

Lifting Others to Achieve Academic Excellence is the heading on the cover of the Educational Advancement Program’s Tutor Handbook, and it is the mantra that guides our efforts to recruit, orient and ultimately train our roster of Tutors.

During the Fall 2013 semester, EAP embarked on its journey toward certification of our Tutorial program by conducting training exercises that encompassed modules on The Tutor’s Role & Helping Relationships, Active Listening, Effective Communication Skills and Positive & Negative Learning Experiences. Training facilitators included Dr. R. Steve McCallum, Professor & Dept. Head, Educ. Psychology and Counseling, Stella Bridgeman – Prince, Assistant Dir., Student Success Center and Dr. Ronald McFadden, EAP Director. Tutor Training continued during the Spring 2014 semester, and it is EAP’s goal to apply for Level 1 Certification of its Tutorial Component through the College Reading & Learning Association International Tutor Training Program.

CRLA’s International Tutor Training Program Certification has a twofold purpose, which is to (a.) provide recognition and positive reinforcement for tutor’s successful work from an international organization, and(b.) to set an internationally accepted standard of skills an training for tutors.
The Educational Advancement Program (EAP) is a federally funded TRiO program that is designed for students with demonstrated academic need who are also first-generation college students, from low income families, or who have physical or learning disabilities. The EAP assists entering students deficient in the basic skills and academic preparation necessary for successful university work.

- Offers special sections of math, biology, and chemistry.
- Offers tutorial assistance free of charge to program members.
- Provides academic coaching and counseling.

EAP Tutor Spotlight

Jonathan Edwards is a sophomore from Smithville, Tennessee, a small town located in Middle Tennessee near Cookeville. He is a student in the College of Business Administration, majoring in Finance with a concentration in International Business.

Jonathan is a member of the undergraduate business honors program and Global Leadership Scholars. He began his tenure with EAP as a tutor for Finite Math 123 and Basic Calculus for the Educational Advancement Program during the Fall 2013 semester.

Currently, Jonathan studied abroad in London, England for the Spring 2014 semester. This study abroad experience is a mandatory portion of the Global Leadership Scholars curriculum, and is one of the motivating factors for his application to the program. The program will run from January thru the end of April 2014. The program will entail taking accelerated honors courses including Management and Statistics for 6 weeks, after which he will spend 7 weeks interning in London with a financial institution.

In spite of the demands of the program, Jonathan shared that he hopes to travel to as many countries as possible while abroad. Some of his proposed travel destinations include Ireland for Saint Patrick’s Day, taking advantage of a hot air balloon festival in Paris, Italy for Spring Break, and climbing in the Alps.