June 30, 2011

Dear Upward Bound, VUB and UB Math/Science Colleagues:

No one can predict how much TRIO will be cut in budget negotiations for FY 2012, but we do know how much we have to lose. If the Administration and Congress provide a funding level below the President’s request of $920.1 million, it is expected that one in three Upward Bound programs could be defunded in the next competition. This could include Classic Upward Bound, Veterans Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science.

It is important that you contact your Congressional Representatives and Senators via the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 immediately and encourage them to speak to their Leadership (if he or she is a Republican in the House, Speaker Boehner; if he or she is a Democrat in the House, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; if he or she is a Republican in the Senate, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and if he or she is a Democrat in the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid) and demand that Upward Bound and TRIO money not be sacrificed in the spending negotiations. It is also equally important that you email (http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact) and call the White House at (202) 456-1111 and deliver the same message to President Obama: “Take TRIO off the table in the budget negotiations!”

Additionally, Kimberly Jones, COE’s Associate Vice President for Public Policy, will host a conference call for all Upward Bound staff about this matter on Thursday, July 7 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern. To participate in the call, please dial 1-800-747-5150 and use Access Code 4445658.

The TRIO community cannot sit and wait while the government continues to put the futures of TRIO students and jobs in jeopardy. For any questions, please contact Kimberly Jones at the Council at Kimberly.Jones@coenet.us or 202.347.7430.

Sincerely,

Arnold L. Mitchem
President