

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, National TRIO Day was designated by a concurrent resolution on February 24, 1986 by the 99th Congress and has been celebrated annually since in recognition of the importance of TRIO Programs in preparing non-traditional college bound students to seek, pursue, and excel at educational endeavors beyond the secondary level; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are thirty-five TRIO Programs at eighteen Mississippi institutions of higher education, the MS Department of Education, the MS Band of Choctaw Indians and one Mississippi Municipal School District. These programs are represented jointly by the Mississippi Association of Equal Opportunity Program Personnel [MAEOPP]; and

WHEREAS, More than 5000 low-income and/or first generation college going students from Mississippi schools and colleges, between the ages of 11 and 27, benefit from the pre-college to graduate level services provided by these TRIO Programs; and

WHEREAS, these students represent the highest aspirations and best hope for the American dream and Mississippi's future and by lifting these students to new academic heights, TRIO Programs are helping to raise the academic standards, expectations, and aspirations for all of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, National TRIO Day is being celebrated across the country, the Mississippi Association of Educational Program Personnel (MAEOPP) will host our state celebration entitled "Celebrating TRIO Day: Stepping into the Future." This year's state celebration will bring together TRIO Programs from all corners of the state, at Coahoma Community College, in Clarksdale, Mississippi, to honor and praise TRIO Program Participants who are striving to achieve academic excellence, and a higher quality of life through the pursuit of higher education; and

WHEREAS, TRIO Programs; Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math & Science, Student Support Services, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program and Educational Achievement Centers, were established more than thirty years ago to assist low-income students overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education and provide invaluable services to low-income and/or first generation college goers to heighten their chances of successful matriculation at the post secondary education level; and

WHEREAS, With TRIO Program graduates found in every occupation mentionable: doctor, lawyer, politician, counselor, teacher, business owner, - it is obvious that TRIO Programs have played a major role in decreasing Mississippi's drop out rate by encouraging and supporting high school completion, increasing the number of college graduates by providing needed guidance and support for successful matriculation and reducing defaults in the student loan programs by helping low-income students better understand their financial obligations; and

WHEREAS, as we continue through the millennium, the MAEOPP TRIO Programs plans to continue encouraging its students to seek, pursue, and conquer the challenges of higher education by “*Celebrating TRIO: Stepping into the Future*”; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate National TRIO Day 2002 on Saturday, March 2, 2002, on the campus of Coahoma Community College, the State of Mississippi is encouraged by the achievements of TRIO Program Alumni and we implore MAEOPP to move forward with the National TRIO Day student rally beginning at 10:00 a.m. which will highlight TRIO Achievers and feature words of encouragement to current TRIO Program participants to passionately pursue higher education:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 2, 2002, as

TRIO DAY: Stepping into the Future

and encourage all citizens throughout the state of Mississippi to honor this observance and support the educational dreams and aspirations of all TRIO students throughout our great state.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, February 4, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR