



COUNCIL *for* **OPPORTUNITY** *in* **EDUCATION**

NEWS RELEASE

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**SENATOR REED AND OTHER KEY LEGISLATORS TO SPEAK AT
COE'S 2010 POLICY SEMINAR IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS**

*Representatives Cole, Honda, Payne, and Simpson Present Thoughts on
Education Programs to Support Low-Income, First-Generation, and Disabled Students*

Washington, D.C., March 23, 2010—The Honorable Jack Reed (D-RI) will address hundreds of college opportunity professionals from major U.S. higher education institutions attending the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) 30th Annual Policy Seminar, March 22–24, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. As the event's keynote speaker, Reed will reinforce his support for federal TRIO programs that serve the educational interests of low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities.

Attendees will also hear from other Members of Congress including representatives Tom Cole (R-OK), Mike Honda (D-CA), Donald Payne (D-NJ), and Mike Simpson (R-ID) who will provide an update on their efforts to work with President Obama and his administration on securing a substantial increase in funding for federal TRIO programs. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal TRIO Programs Director Linda Byrd-Johnson will share current departmental policies and priorities such as fiscal and programmatic regulations and reporting requirements, negotiated rulemaking and TRIO regulations developments, HEOA, and much more.

"The high caliber of the Members of Congress scheduled to speak during our policy event confirms the importance and impact of TRIO in the lives of low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities across the nation," said COE President Arnold L. Mitchem. "These policymakers are sure to provide helpful insight and the latest progress concerning TRIO and other education programs while addressing our key issue—a continued commitment to access and success in higher education for all Americans."

With 2010 being a critical election year, the policy seminar allows college opportunity professionals to meet face-to-face with their senators and representatives just as Members of the 111th Congress prepare to take budgetary

action for education programs. Legislators will hear these TRIO practitioners explain the negative impact of President Obama's FY 2011 proposed education budget—similar to previous administrations, this budget includes only level-funding for federal TRIO programs—on low-income, first-generation, and disabled students who need the most help to enter college and graduate. Attendees are set to urge their lawmakers to support a significant increase for federal TRIO programs.

President Obama's FY 2011 proposed education budget includes only \$910.1 million for all federal TRIO programs, which represents level funding for all programs and subsequently proposes the complete elimination of two TRIO programs (Upward Bound and Talent Search). COE is requesting Congress for a \$150 million increase to support all federal TRIO programs.

As one of the longest standing federal programs with proven historical success, TRIO has not received a substantial increase in funding since FY 2002 and as a result serves approximately 40,000 fewer students today. TRIO is the umbrella program for Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans' Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The program serves nearly 840,000 low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities students.

For more information about COE's 30th Annual Policy Seminar, contact COE Vice President of Government Relations Heather Valentine (heather.valentine@coenet.us) or COE Director of Congressional Affairs Kimberly Jones (kimberly.jones@coenet.us) at (202) 347-7430. Also, visit COE's website at www.coenet.us.

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The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is the only national organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of postsecondary opportunities for low-income and first-generation students. Established in 1981, COE serves the interests of college opportunity professionals at major U.S. higher education institutions. Through nearly 3,000 Federal TRIO Programs, these individuals help low-income and first-generation students overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to enter college and graduate. COE provides members with national advocacy on Capitol Hill, educational resources, and networking opportunities as well as offers research and information through the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education and the Louis Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.