

# News Release

**South Seattle Community College**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Youth Seeking College Education May Find Less Support**

Prospective students like Joseph Seia, who went from homelessness to being named a 2002 Seattle Times Outstanding Graduate, might never reach college under the proposed cuts to TRIO programs.

TRIO programs include Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound. The basic mission of each program is to build the tradition of college among students who might never consider it an option. Such populations include students of color, recent immigrants, and the disabled. Through the two programs, South Seattle Community College is currently bringing the educational dreams of 640 area students even closer. The White House's 2006 budget proposes to completely cut funding to the two federally-sponsored programs.

South's Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound programs serve schools throughout the area. In the Seattle school district West Seattle and Cleveland High Schools and Denny Middle School are served, and in the Highline school district Evergreen and Tyee High Schools are served.

"South's TRIO programs are a positive impact on our community," said Karen Foss, Vice President of Student Services. She cited these points:

- Last year 96 percent of Upward Bound graduates went on to attend a four-year college compared to a 63 percent rate for non-participating students. One hundred percent of the Upward Bound seniors have graduated from high school since 2000.
- Last year at Tyee High School, only 9 percent of all graduates enrolled at a four-year university compared with 100 percent of Upward Bound participants at that school.
- Last year 90 percent of TRIO programs participants were successfully promoted to the next grade level while 30 percent of non-TRIO middle and high school students dropped out of local schools before graduation.
- Many area educators are concerned that their students, many of which comprise at-risk populations, are not prepared for the rigors of college. In the fall 2004 quarter, TRIO graduates averaged a 3.2 cumulative GPA (grade point average) at their college of choice.

For more information on TRIO programs, visit <http://www.trioprograms.org>.

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