

# TRIO

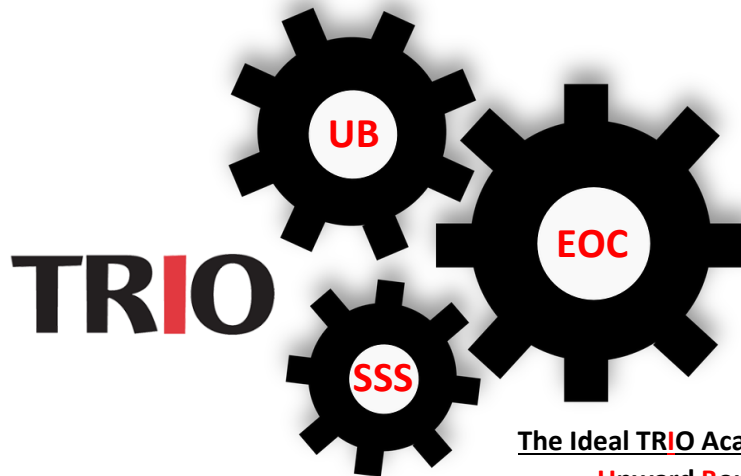
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

We Are Located Inside the EGCC Student Services Center  
 139 E Boardman Street Youngstown OH 44503  
 330-480-0726 Office | 330-480-0817 Fax

**YOUR EDUCATION. *with Perks!***

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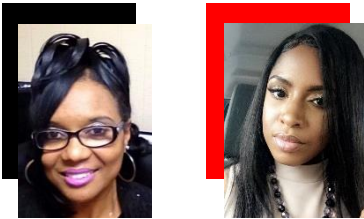
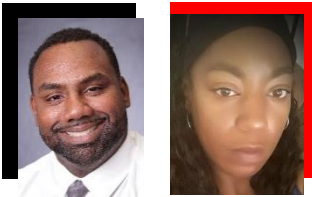


The Ideal TRIO Academic Track

**Upward Bound to**

- ▶ Educational Opportunity Centers to
- ▶ Student Support Services

## STAFF



## TRIO EOC Receives an Increase

by TRIO EOC Team

TRIO EOC at EGCC – Youngstown Campus began the third year of our second 5-year grant cycle on September 1, 2018. For the past seven years, TRIO EOC received \$220,547 in funding from the U.S. Department of Education to serve 1,000 program participants each grant year. Throughout those years TRIO EOC continued to meet the program performance objectives of our Annual Performance Report (APR) despite the changes in staff and space. After submitting the 2017-2018 APR, TRIO EOC received an email informing us that we were receiving a 4.25% program funding increase of \$9,608 to serve 1,043 program participants for the 2018-2019 grant year! Our former TRIO

EOC Director, Ty-Jaun Young-Bright, approved the increase to be divided between Participant Fees and Activities that would allow TRIO EOC to have more funding available to assist eligible participants with transcript fees, admissions application fees, and specialized testing fees for enrollment. The increase to Activities would allow more finances to cover the costs of any activities including cultural trips, meetings, workshops, and more for our program participants. TRIO EOC continues to strive at being an effective and relevant support services program for all residents of Mahoning & Trumbull counties having a desire to achieve post-secondary education credentials.

PICTURED TOP-LEFT TO BOTTOM-RIGHT

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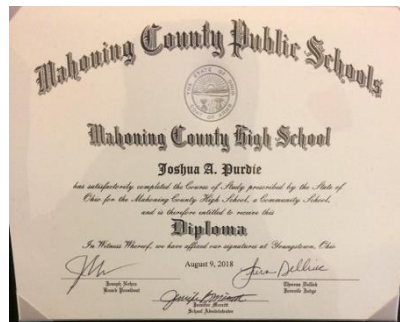
# SUCCESS STORY | "Against The Odds"

by Danielle N. Anderson



**Joshua A. Purdie**; then 26, applied to **TRIO EOC** for the 2016-2017 grant year seeking assistance with obtaining his GED®. We discussed the available options for a GED®, High School Diploma Equivalency, and the Adult 22+ Program (actual high school diploma from local school district). Joshua chose the Adult 22+ Program through Mahoning County High School where he could attend "class" and work towards obtaining his high school diploma online. "I feel so discouraged at times. I have missed out on a lot of employment opportunities and pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse due to not having my diploma. There were times when I wanted to give up because all I wanted to do was live my dream," said Joshua about his experiences. Some time passed; about a year, from the last time **TRIO EOC** Secretary, Danielle, made contact with Joshua until running into one another at Wal-Mart during the Winter of 2017. When asked about the status of his diploma, Joshua responded, "I'm still working on it – I'll keep in touch". Joshua kept his promise to keep in touch and did so though Instagram posts of his heightening football career with The Gladiators; a national

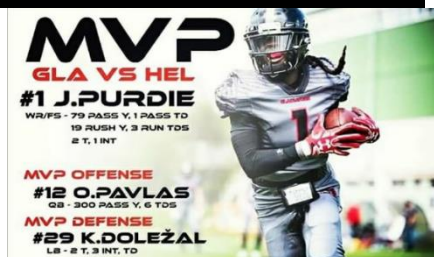
American football competition organized by the Czech American Football Association in the Czech Republic, with whom Joshua received his first professional contract. "I just prayed and stayed focused. I studied and took my online courses," said Joshua. Then it happened – In October of 2018, a photo of Joshua's High School Diploma arrived. "When I found out and got the email that I passed, I literally sat there and cried because I just couldn't believe it," said Joshua of his accomplishment.



"I have plans on going to the Navy and furthering my career. I come back home to Youngstown, Ohio every six months and I plan on living overseas," said Joshua of his future. **TRIO EOC** is honored to have assisted Joshua with his academic goal of achieving his High School Diploma by providing the necessary resources and encouraging him to "Never Give Up". We are proud of Joshua and his accomplishments - We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Read Joshua's entire story: [Josh Purdie, The Gladiator](#)

Images provided by Joshua A. Purdie



TRIO EOC visits Inspiring Minds Program



Cultural Trip: Allegheny Community College



Community Outreach: Toys for Tots

**TRIO EOC** program participants are encouraged to become involved by volunteering for Community Outreach Events and attending **FREE** Cultural Trips!

Follow **TRIO EOC**  
@trioeoc\_egcc



**Have a TRIO EOC Academic Success Story?** We love to acknowledge participants who have overcome barriers to achieving their academic goals! Submit your story to [danderson@egcc.edu](mailto:danderson@egcc.edu) for review to be included in future newsletters!