

DATE: July 11, 2025

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RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Shasta College awarded \$1.7M to support first-generation, low-income, and students with disabilities through TRIO Student Support Services**

**REDDING, CA** – The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Shasta College a federal TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant totaling \$348,514 a year for a total of \$1,742,570 over five years to improve college retention and graduation rates among low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. Shasta College TRIO SSS serves 180 first-generation low-income or disabled students who have the intent to transfer to a four-year college or university.

This award marks the continuation of 20 years of TRIO SSS services at Shasta College. The program has served students, helping them stay in school, earn degrees, and build meaningful careers.

Through individualized services including academic tutoring, financial aid, scholarship guidance, career exploration, personal and academic counseling, and mentoring, TRIO SSS empowers students to overcome barriers to success. These comprehensive supports make it significantly more likely that students will complete their degree or successfully transfer, with the lowest possible debt.

“This grant allows Shasta College to deepen our commitment to ensuring that all students—regardless of background—can thrive academically and personally,” said Dr. Tim Johnston, Vice President of Student Services. “TRIO Student Support Services helps level the playing field and equips our students with the tools and confidence to graduate and lead.”

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Nationally, the TRIO SSS program has had great success. According to a rigorous 2019 evaluation by the U.S. Department of Education, students in TRIO SSS at two-year institutions were 48% more likely to earn an associate's degree or transfer to a four-year school. Students at four-year institutions were 18% more likely to earn a bachelor's degree compared to similar peers not in the program.

"TRIO programs generally and TRIO SSS, in particular, transform students from the least resourced backgrounds into college graduates," said Kimberly Jones, president of the [Council for Opportunity in Education](#) in Washington, D.C. "This vital program makes all the difference for nearly a million students each year across the country."

TRIO SSS is one of eight federal TRIO programs funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Since its inception in 1968, TRIO SSS has helped millions of low-income, first-generation students graduate from college and contribute to their communities and the economy.

For more information about TRIO Student Support Services at Shasta College, please contact Sue Huizinga, TRIO Director, at [shuizinga@shastacollege.edu](mailto:shuizinga@shastacollege.edu) or 530-242-7690.

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Shasta College serves students across Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties in rural far-northern California as one of the 116 campuses in the California Community College system. As the only public post-secondary institution in this 10,132 square mile area, Shasta College offers a wide range of programs including certificates, associate degrees, transfer options, and a fully online Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management. With campuses in Redding, Tehama, Weaverville, and Burney, as well as numerous online courses, Shasta College provides accessible, high-quality education in far-northern California. The college has been recognized with numerous grants for its innovative programs that contribute to the success of students and the broader community.

In November 2016, the passage of Measure H, a \$139 million general obligation bond, enabled significant advancements at Shasta College. These include the construction of an ultra-modern state-of-the-art Computer Information Systems (CIS) instructional center, a Public Safety Training Center for Fire Academy and interagency training, a new Veterans Support and Success Center, completion of the Industrial Technology/Machining center, an Athletic Field House, a new Student Services building at the Tehama Campus, and the Community Leadership Center (CLC) in downtown Redding. Measure H also funded an additional solar array on the Redding campus, which, together with an existing solar array, will meet 80% of the college's energy needs. Additionally, major technology infrastructure upgrades have been implemented, and the college is remodeling its Library, set to reopen in Spring 2025.

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In 2025, Shasta College will proudly celebrate 75 years of service to the community. The college is especially proud of its innovative and community partnerships with industry leaders such as SHIELD, McConnell Foundation, CalFire, Sierra Pacific Industries, and many of our healthcare and dentist offices and providers. With a 337-acre main campus that includes a working farm, cutting-edge Early Childhood Education instructional and childcare center, heavy equipment and logging operations program, Shasta College continues to be a leader in higher education. It offers extensive student support services, including counseling, tutoring, financial aid, and veterans' services. Shasta College remains committed to fostering student success and community enrichment through its comprehensive educational offerings and robust community partnerships.

### **About the Federal TRIO Programs**

TRIO programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program) help students overcome academic, economic, and social barriers to higher education. TRIO services include assistance in choosing a college and tutoring; personal, financial, and career counseling; assistance in applying to college; workplace and college visits; special instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic assistance in high school or assistance to reenter high school or college.

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