

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 6, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Re: South Seattle College TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers Program

Dear Secretary DeVos,

We write to convey our strong support for the TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) program at South Seattle College.

We understand the Department of Education notified South Seattle College last week that funding would be revoked based on interim participant numbers, before giving it until September 8th to provide an updated report. South Seattle College did not receive any communication they needed to provide the Department with updated participant numbers in early August. We think you will be pleased to hear that as of last week, South Seattle College has served 1,032 participants through its EOC.

The TRIO program at South Seattle College provides critical educational services to low-income and first generation adults in Washington state, with a focus on veterans, military families and immigrant populations. It has done so for over 25 years, including the EOC program in its first year. We appreciate that South Seattle College has been given the opportunity to preserve the TRIO EOC funding while providing the Department a progress update to address its concerns. We support the continued funding of the TRIO EOC program at South Seattle College.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator